

The background of the image shows the ruins of an ancient Greek temple, likely the Temple of Apollo in Corinth. The scene is filled with massive stone columns and intricate carvings, set against a clear blue sky. Overlaid on this background is a complex, symmetrical geometric pattern in a light, shimmering color. This pattern consists of interlocking lines that form a series of pointed, star-like shapes, reminiscent of traditional Islamic or Byzantine architectural motifs. The pattern is centered and extends across the width of the image, framing the central text.

2ND CORINTHIANS

Primed To Minister (Don't Lose Heart)

2 Corinthians 9:1-5

“1 Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you; 2 for I know your willingness, about which I boast of you to the Macedonians, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal has stirred up the majority.”

2 Corinthians 9:1-2 NKJV

“3 Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready;
4 lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.”

2 Corinthians 9:3-4 NKJV

“5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.”

2 Corinthians 9:5 NKJV

Giving Is At The Heart of the Gospel

“32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

Romans 8:32

Giving Is At The Heart of the Gospel

“8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

Giving Is At The Heart of the Gospel

We give in response to what God gave us:

- We give control of our lives to God, entrusting Jesus with every aspect.
- We live as living sacrifices.
- We give knowing it leads to our growth.

Macedonians as Examples

They Gave from:

- a joyful and willing heart.
- out of and despite of their own poverty.
- a place of faith.
- a loose hold on the things of this world.
- a life surrendered to the Kingdom of God.

Living For Our Kingdom or His?

- Building bigger storehouses for ourselves or investing in the Kingdom?
- Seeking the Kingdom of God first or our own kingdom?
- Bullets & Bunkers or Bibles & Benevolence?

See Luke 12:13-14

“1 Now concerning the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you;”

2 Corinthians 9:1 NKJV

Ministry: In The Greek

Diakonia - Original Word: διακονία, ας, ἡ

Phonetic Spelling: (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah)

Definition: service, ministry, done with a willing (voluntary) attitude.

Usage: waiting at table; in a wider sense: service, ministrations.

Ministry: For Us All

We are all called to minister in:

-our love and service to God.

-our love and service in Christ's Church.

-our love and service to our neighbors

through sharing the Gospel with all,

making disciples and doing good to all.

(Matt 28:18-20; Gal 6:9-10; John 14:15; Eph 2:10)

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2 Corinthians 9:2 NKJV

“3 Yet I have sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this respect, that, as I said, you may be ready;
4 lest if some Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.”

2 Corinthians 9:3-4 NKJV

Context for Proper Interpretation:

1. Paul had already spoken to them about a collection for the Saints, to which they were willing and in agreement to give such an offering. 1 Cor 16:1-3

Context for Proper Interpretation:

2. Paul spoke of a testing of their love and sincerity in giving in 2nd Corinthians chapter 8. Which means there must have been some compassion and love in their willingness to take up a collection for the suffering saints.

Context for Proper Interpretation:

3. In chapter 8 verse 10, it indicates that it was indeed “their desire” to give. They were not being forced to give, but their hearts were moved by God to give.

Conclusion on Interpreting VS 2-5:

We can discern from those texts that the Corinthians did have a genuine desire and zeal to give, but they just had not done it yet. Therefore Paul is not shaming or guiltting them into giving, he is reminding them of their former desire.

Stirring Up Love & Good Works

“24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJV

Ministry Effects & Affects

How We Minister Will:

- encourage or discourage others.
- stir up or douse love and good works.
- bless us and others or stumble us and others.
- lead to growth or the lack thereof.

DON'T LOSE HEART!

“9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Galatians 6:9-10 NKJV

“5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.”

2 Corinthians 9:5 NKJV