

Dr. J. Ayodeji Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 10, 2 Corinthians 9 – More about Giving Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 10, 2 Corinthians 9 – More about Giving, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Ayo Adewuya's session on 2 Corinthians 9 focuses on the crucial topic of giving within the early church. The lecture highlights the sensitivity and importance Paul placed on the proper handling and motivation for financial contributions. **Adewuya emphasizes that generosity is a learned behavior and examines Paul's rhetorical approach to encourage the Corinthians' participation in a collection for believers in Jerusalem.** He explores scholarly debates regarding the connection between chapters 8 and 9, ultimately arguing for their literary and thematic unity. **The session unpacks Paul's use of encouragement, gentle pressure, and theological principles to inspire cheerful and intentional giving, emphasizing the spiritual benefits and honor involved.** Adewuya concludes by summarizing key lessons on giving with the right spirit, God's provision for generosity, and the far-reaching spiritual impact of such acts.

**2. 13 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 10 – Double click icon to
play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → 2 Corinthians).**



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3. Briefing Document: Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 10, 2 Corinthians 9 – More about Giving

Briefing Document: Dr. Ayo Adewuya on 2 Corinthians 9 - More About Giving

Overview:

This briefing document summarizes the main themes and important ideas presented by Dr. Ayo Adewuya in his teaching session on 2 Corinthians chapter 9, titled "More about Giving." Dr. Adewuya emphasizes the sensitivity and importance of handling church finances and motivating believers to give. He argues that chapter 9 is closely linked to chapter 8, continuing Paul's discussion on the collection for the saints in Jerusalem. The session delves into Paul's rhetorical approach, his motivations for sending a delegation ahead, and the theological principles underpinning Christian generosity.

Main Themes and Important Ideas:

1. The Importance and Sensitivity of Handling Church Finances:

- Dr. Adewuya highlights that managing church finances is as delicate today as it was in Paul's time, requiring "utmost sensitivity, graciousness, and dignity."
- He notes the difficulty of motivating people to give, even in favorable circumstances, underscoring the significance of Paul's extended discussion in chapters 8 and 9.
- Paul's detailed treatment demonstrates the crucial role of "planning and administration...to the success of any ministry, particularly given."

1. The Connection Between 2 Corinthians 8 and 9:

- Dr. Adewuya argues against the view that chapter 9 is a separate letter, citing grammatical and contextual links to chapter 8.
- He references Morey Harris's commentary, pointing out that phrases like "now concerning" (peri-de) in Greek do not necessarily introduce a completely new topic but often indicate a close relationship with what precedes.
- He concludes that the literary integrity of these chapters should be respected, as they are "closely connected grammatically" and "connected in thought."

1. **Paul's Rhetorical Strategy: Gentle Urging and Avoiding Shame:**

- Paul uses a rhetorical device called paralysis, pretending to pass over a subject ("it is superfluous for me to write to you about this ministry to the saints") only to address it again. This serves as a subtle reminder to the Corinthians.
- While claiming not to pressure them, Paul indirectly urges them to prepare their promised gift, emphasizing his confidence in their eagerness ("for I know your eagerness").
- He employs "reverse psychology," reminding them that he has boasted about their zeal to the Macedonians, and their unpreparedness would bring shame not only upon themselves but also upon Paul and his delegation ("we, not to speak of you, will be put to shame by this confidence").
- In the "Honored Shame Society" of the ancient Mediterranean, failing to keep one's word resulted in embarrassment and loss of esteem. Paul leverages this cultural context.

1. **The Purpose Clauses in Verse 3:**

- Dr. Adewuya highlights the four purpose clauses in 2 Corinthians 9:3, which provide reasons for Paul sending the brethren ahead. These clauses express both negative (preventing his boasting from being empty, avoiding unpreparedness) and positive (ensuring they are prepared) outcomes.
- Paul's concern is that if the Corinthians are not ready, it could appear that he had manipulated the Macedonians with a false report of their eagerness.

1. **The Importance of Giving with the Right Spirit and Attitude:**

- Paul urges the Corinthians to arrange their "previously promised bountiful gift" so that it will be ready as a "bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness."
- He introduces the principle of sowing and reaping: "he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." This metaphor, familiar in Jewish and Greco-Roman culture, emphasizes the consequences of one's generosity.
- Giving should be a personal decision ("Each one must do just as he has proposed in his heart"), made with resolve ("to choose deliberately"), and not grudgingly or under compulsion ("not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver").

- Dr. Adewuya connects "not reluctantly" to Deuteronomy 15:10, where giving to the poor should not be done with a grieved heart. He emphasizes that God loves a "hilarious giver," highlighting the joyfulness that should accompany Christian giving.

1. **God as the Source and Enabler of Generosity:**

- Paul expands on the theological basis of giving, stating, "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed."
- God's grace provides both spiritual and material benefits, enabling believers to have enough for themselves and to give generously to others. "Cheerful givers, not only have the grace to do with less but also they are divinely resourced with more to give others."
- Dr. Adewuya emphasizes that God's grace is a "giving grace," comparing it to the grace of forgiving.

1. **The Benefits and Impact of Generous Giving:**

- Paul quotes Psalm 112:9 ("He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor; his righteousness endures forever") to illustrate that generosity is a righteous act with lasting impact. The righteousness here refers to the "moral character of the Corinthian givers" evidenced by their generosity.
- Giving evokes worship and thanksgiving to God. The ministry of this service not only meets the needs of the saints but also results in "many, many thanksgivings to God."
- Giving honors God. Through their obedience in completing the collection and the liberality of their contribution, the Corinthians will "glorify God."
- Paul refers to giving as "the ministry of this service" (leitourgia), highlighting it as an act of worship and service.
- Generosity fosters mutual recognition and love between believers, demonstrating the solidarity of Jewish and Gentile Christians and contributing to the unification of the church.

1. **The "Indescribable Gift" of God:**

- Paul concludes his appeal with a "liturgical and prayerful outburst": "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift."

- Dr. Adewuya suggests that this gift likely refers to "God's gift of himself in the person of his son," emphasizing that Christ's redemptive work is the ultimate motivation for Christian giving.
- The adjective "indescribable" underscores the supreme nature of God's gift.

1. The Success of Paul's Appeal:

- Dr. Adewuya notes that Paul's impassioned rhetoric was successful, as evidenced by his later statement in Romans 15:26 that Macedonia and Achaia "were pleased to make a contribution to the poor among the saints in Jerusalem."

Key Takeaways:

- Giving in the church requires careful and sensitive handling.
- Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians 9 is a continuation of his discussion on generosity in chapter 8.
- Motivating believers to give involves gentle encouragement, appealing to their honor, and avoiding shame.
- Christian giving should be personal, intentional, joyful, and free from compulsion.
- God is the ultimate source of all grace and empowers believers to give generously.
- Generous giving has significant spiritual implications, leading to thanksgiving, glorifying God, and fostering unity among believers.
- The supreme motivation for giving is God's "indescribable gift" in Jesus Christ.

This briefing document provides a concise overview of Dr. Adewuya's insights into 2 Corinthians 9, highlighting the multifaceted nature of Christian giving as presented by the Apostle Paul.

4. Study Guide: Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 10, 2 Corinthians 9 – More about Giving

Study Guide: 2 Corinthians 9 - More About Giving

Key Concepts:

- **Connection to Chapter 8:** Understand the scholarly debate regarding the separation of chapters 8 and 9 and the arguments for their literary and thematic unity.
- **Paul's Rhetorical Strategy:** Analyze Paul's use of seemingly contradictory statements (paralysis) and indirect encouragement to motivate the Corinthians.
- **Honor and Shame Culture:** Recognize the significance of honor and shame in the ancient Mediterranean context and how Paul leverages these concepts.
- **Purpose Clauses (Verse 3):** Identify and understand the function of the four purpose clauses Paul uses to explain why he sent the delegation.
- **Principles of Giving (Verses 6-7):** Grasp the key principles Paul outlines regarding how and why Christians should give (personal, intentional, cheerful).
- **Theological Basis of Giving (Verses 8-11):** Understand Paul's theological arguments for generosity, including God's grace, the principle of sowing and reaping, and the connection to righteousness.
- **Benefits of Giving (Verses 12-15):** Identify the various benefits of giving beyond meeting material needs, such as evoking thanksgiving, glorifying God, and fostering unity.
- **The "Indescribable Gift":** Reflect on the potential meaning of Paul's concluding statement and its significance for Christian giving.

Quiz:

1. According to Adewuya, what was the sensitive issue regarding the church that Paul addressed in 2 Corinthians 8 and continues in chapter 9?
2. Explain the scholarly debate surrounding the relationship between 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9. What is Adewuya's position on this matter?
3. Describe Paul's rhetorical strategy of "paralysis" as illustrated in 2 Corinthians 9. Provide an example from the text.

4. How does Paul utilize the cultural values of honor and shame in his appeal to the Corinthians regarding the collection?
5. Identify three of the four "purpose clauses" Paul uses in 2 Corinthians 9:3 and explain their intended effect on the Corinthians.
6. According to Paul (as explained by Adewuya), what are the three important guidelines for giving outlined in 2 Corinthians 9:7?
7. Explain the significance of the agricultural proverb Paul uses in 2 Corinthians 9:6 in the context of Christian giving.
8. How does Paul connect the act of generous giving with God's grace and the concept of having "all sufficiency in everything" (2 Corinthians 9:8)?
9. What are two ways in which the ministry of giving, as described in 2 Corinthians 9:12-15, has an impact beyond simply providing material assistance?
10. What does Adewuya suggest is the likely meaning of Paul's phrase "his indescribable gift" in 2 Corinthians 9:15, and why is it significant?

Answer Key:

1. The sensitive issue was the handling of money and how to motivate people to give in a way that is characterized by utmost sensitivity, graciousness, and dignity. This was as relevant in Paul's time as it is today.
2. Some scholars argue that chapter 9 was originally an independent letter due to the phrase "now concerning." However, Adewuya supports the view that chapters 8 and 9 are closely connected grammatically and in thought, forming a unified discussion on giving.
3. Paralysis is a rhetorical device where a speaker or writer seemingly passes over a subject only to mention it again. Paul uses this when he says it is not necessary for him to write about the ministry to the saints but then proceeds to remind them of their commitment.
4. Paul reminds the Corinthians that their failure to complete the collection would bring shame not only upon themselves but also upon him and his boasting to the Macedonians. Conversely, completing the collection would bring honor to both.
5. Three purpose clauses from verse 3 are: "in order that our boasting about you may not be made empty," "so that, as I was saying, you may be prepared," and

implicitly, to avoid the shame Paul and the Macedonians would face if the Corinthians were unprepared.

6. The three guidelines are: giving is a personal matter ("Each one must do just as he has proposed in his heart"), giving requires resolve ("as one has purposed in his or her heart"), and God loves a cheerful giver ("not grudgingly or under compulsion").
7. The proverb "he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully" illustrates the principle that generosity in giving will result in a corresponding blessing or return, both spiritually and potentially materially.
8. Paul states that God is able to make all grace abound toward believers, ensuring they always have enough for themselves and an abundance for every good deed, including generous giving. God's grace is the source and the enabling power for this generosity.
9. Two ways are that it produces thanksgiving to God from those who receive the help, and it leads to the glorification of God as the recipients recognize the obedience and generosity of the givers, fostering fellowship and unity within the broader church.
10. Adewuya suggests it likely refers to God's gift of himself in the person of his son, Jesus Christ. This supreme act of generosity serves as the ultimate motivation for Paul's appeal to the Corinthians to be generous in their giving.

Essay Format Questions:

1. Analyze Paul's multifaceted approach to motivating the Corinthians to complete the collection in 2 Corinthians 9. Discuss the various rhetorical strategies and appeals he employs.
2. Explore the significance of the cultural context of honor and shame in understanding Paul's arguments for generosity in 2 Corinthians 9. How does this cultural backdrop shape his appeal?
3. Discuss the theological principles that underpin Paul's teaching on giving in 2 Corinthians 9. How does he connect the act of giving to God's grace, righteousness, and the concept of sowing and reaping?

4. Examine the broader impact and benefits of Christian giving as presented in 2 Corinthians 9, moving beyond the immediate material needs that are met.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of Paul's persuasive techniques in 2 Corinthians 9, considering the historical context and the ultimate outcome of his appeal as mentioned in the source material.

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Canon:** The collection of books recognized as authoritative scripture by a religious community.
- **Extant:** Still in existence; surviving.
- **Grammatical Links:** Connections between words, phrases, and clauses in a text based on their structure and function.
- **Contextual Links:** Connections between different parts of a text based on shared themes, ideas, or situations.
- **Delegation:** A group of people chosen to represent others.
- **Superfluous:** Unnecessary; more than enough.
- **Rhetorical Device:** A technique used by a speaker or writer to persuade or influence an audience.
- **Paralysis:** A rhetorical device where a speaker pretends to pass over a topic but actually mentions it.
- **Reverse Psychology:** A technique involving advocating the opposite of what is desired to persuade someone.
- **Purpose Clauses:** Subordinate clauses that express the reason or intention behind the action of the main clause (often introduced by words like "in order that," "so that," or "lest").
- **Bountiful Gift:** A generous and plentiful contribution.
- **Covetousness:** Excessive desire for wealth or possessions; greed.
- **Liberality:** Generosity; willingness to give freely.
- **Benevolence:** Kindness; generosity; disposition to do good.
- **Axiom:** A statement or principle that is generally accepted as true.

- **Eulogy (Eulogias):** A speech or piece of writing that praises someone highly, typically someone who has just died; in this context, associated with generous giving.
- **Charis:** Greek word often translated as "grace," referring to God's unmerited favor and gift.
- **Resolve:** Firm determination to do something.
- **Reluctantly:** Unwillingly; hesitantly.
- **Compulsion:** The action or state of being forced or obliged to do something.
- **Grace (in theological context):** God's unmerited favor, love, and enabling power.
- **Sufficiency:** Having enough to meet needs.
- **Righteousness:** Moral virtue; being in right standing with God and others.
- **Liturgical (Liturgias):** Relating to public worship or a liturgy; here, referring to giving as an act of service and worship.
- **Diakonia:** Greek word meaning "service" or "ministry."
- **Koinonia:** Greek word meaning "fellowship," "sharing," or "communion."
- **Solidarity:** Unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest; mutual support within a group.
- **Intercession:** The act of pleading or praying to God on behalf of others.
- **Indescribable:** Too extraordinary or extreme to be expressed in words.
- **Thematic Word:** A word that recurs frequently and carries significant meaning throughout a text.
- **Redemptive Work:** The act of saving or delivering from sin, error, or evil, often referring to the work of Christ.

5. FAQs on Adewuya, 2 Corinthians, Session 10, 2 Corinthians 9 – More about Giving, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions on Giving Based on 2 Corinthians 9

1. Why does Paul spend so much time discussing the collection for the saints in

Jerusalem in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9? Paul dedicates significant attention to this matter because the handling of money within the church is a sensitive issue, both then and now. He emphasizes the need for fiscal responsibility, graciousness, and dignity in such matters. Furthermore, motivating people to give requires careful planning and administration, highlighting the importance of these chapters for ministry success.

2. How are 2 Corinthians chapter 8 and chapter 9 related to each other according to

this source? While some scholars suggest that chapter 9 was originally a separate letter, this source argues that the two chapters are closely connected both grammatically and in thought. Contextual and grammatical links, such as the use of "now concerning" (*peride*), indicate a continuation of the same topic rather than the introduction of a new one. The flow of Paul's argument and his continued expression of confidence in the Corinthians also support their literary integrity as a unified discussion on giving.

3. What was Paul's approach in encouraging the Corinthians to complete their

promised contribution? Paul employed a subtle yet persuasive approach. He initially states that it is not necessary for him to write further about the ministry to the saints, yet he proceeds to do so, using a rhetorical device to gently remind them of their commitment. He appeals to their eagerness, which he had boasted about to the Macedonians, creating a sense of anticipation and potential shame if they were unprepared. This can be seen as a form of reverse psychology, where he affirms their enthusiasm while highlighting the negative consequences of inaction on their honor and his own.

4. Why does Paul emphasize the concept of "honor and shame" in the context of the

Corinthians' giving? In the ancient Mediterranean "Honor and Shame Society," one's word was highly valued. Failure to keep a promise, such as the Corinthians' pledge to contribute, would result in embarrassment and a loss of esteem in the eyes of others. Paul highlights this cultural context to underscore the importance of the Corinthians following through with their commitment, not only for their own honor but also for his, as he had boasted of their eagerness to others.

5. What key principles does Paul outline regarding the manner in which Christians should give? Paul provides several important guidelines for giving. Firstly, giving should be a personal decision made in one's heart. Secondly, it requires resolve and intentionality, a deliberate choice. Thirdly, giving should not be done grudgingly or under compulsion but cheerfully and willingly, as "God loves a cheerful giver." This attitude of joyful generosity is crucial.

6. How does Paul connect the act of giving to the idea of sowing and reaping? Paul uses the agricultural proverb, "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously," to illustrate a fundamental principle of giving. This isn't necessarily a promise of material wealth, but rather a broader principle that reflects God's response to our generosity. Giving generously aligns with the principle of blessings, and God rewards according to one's liberality.

7. What are some of the spiritual benefits and outcomes of generous giving according to this passage? Beyond meeting the material needs of the recipients, generous giving has significant spiritual implications. It leads to an overflow of thanksgiving to God from those who receive the aid. It also glorifies God through the Corinthians' obedience to the gospel and their generosity, demonstrating the sincerity of their faith. Furthermore, it fosters mutual recognition, love, and solidarity between different groups of believers, contributing to the unification of the church.

8. What is the ultimate motivation for Christian giving highlighted at the end of this discussion? Paul concludes his appeal with a profound expression of gratitude to God for his "indescribable gift," which likely refers to God's gift of himself in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ, and the entire work of redemption. This supreme act of grace serves as the ultimate motivation for believers to respond with generosity in all areas of life, including their material giving.