

FAMILY UPDATES

Network Family

- Budgeted for week 26 \$237,510
- Accumulated income \$182,846
 - Encourage each other to give with a grateful heart
 - Encourage each other to give regularly

Calendar Updates

- No Sunday teaching time – August 6, 13
- Union Park, Des Moines, Picnic – Aug 13



EXPLORING 2 CORINTHIANS 9

Today, we will continue our focus on Paul's early letters, his letters to the Corinthian churches. All of these letters focused on establishing the churches in the gospel, which should be our intention as well...to be more established in the gospel.

We will focus again on 2 Corinthians 9, where Paul is shaping the churches to contribute financially to the progress of the gospel.

This is especially timely for us.



Especially timely for us to understand because:

- We are at the “stage of life” of sustaining the global network –The conversations with foundations, partners has been centered around building CBTE hubs across the world, to sustain the work.
- We are continuing to work with BILD partners and CityChurches who are support the BILD network. We have left those conversations, asking: What does is mean to build true partnerships?
- As leaders we have asked for you to excel still more in your giving to the BILD team and for the upcoming BILD conference, these are important items.



¹When it comes to the service you are doing for God's people, you see, I don't need to write to you. ²For I know your eagerness, and **indeed I boasted about it to the Macedonians**, saying that Achaëa had been ready since last year. Your **enthusiasm has stimulated most of them** into action. ³I have sent the brothers so that our boasting about you in this respect may turn out to be true— so that you may be ready, just as I said you were. ⁴Otherwise, imagine what it would be like if people from Macedonia came with me and found you weren't ready! **That would bring shame on us in this business, not to say on you.** ⁵So I thought it necessary to exhort the brothers that they should go on to you in advance, and get everything about your gracious gift in order ahead of time. **You've already promised it, after all.** Then it really will appear as a gift of grace, not something that has had to be extorted from you.

2 Corinthians 9:1–5 (N. T. Wright)



¹⁰The one who supplies “seed to be sown and bread to eat” will supply and increase your seed and multiply the yield of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be **enriched in every way** in all single-hearted goodness, which is working through us to produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²The service of this ministry will not only supply what God’s people so badly need, but it will **also overflow** with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through meeting the test of this service you will glorify God in two ways: first because your confession of faith in the Messiah’s gospel has brought you into proper order, and second, because you have entered into **genuine and sincere partnership** with them and with everyone. ¹⁴What’s more, they will then pray for you and long for you because of the surpassing grace God has given to you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his gift, the gift we can never fully describe!

2 Corinthians 9:10-15 (N.T. Wright)



Discussion Questions – 2 Corinthians 9:1-5, 10-15

- What is the “shame” that will be on this business? How is the business that is described different than a Western business model?
- What does it mean to be enriched in every way? How can Paul promise an overflow, when at the moment he is asking for funds? What is sure to overflow?
- What is the test that they are intended to meet? What are the two expected results?
- What does a sincere partnership include for the Corinthians? How can we be confident of this?



It is becoming clear that as Paul encounters problems in the churches, he roots the solution to these problems to a broadening understanding of the kerygma and its implications.

Can the gospel truly solve our world's problems? Is it actually good news? What is so "good" about it?

In other words, as we are more established in the kerygma, we will understand more of its implications and thus we can solve more problems in our world.



2 Corinthians Intention Statement

To give a full understanding and defending his apostolic ministry, writing out of an anguished heart, describing the constant conflicts, explaining his travel plans, while remaining overjoyed about their assigned spheres, reminding them of his return and expectation for the collection.



Background on 2 Corinthians 9 – The Collection

¹Now when it comes to the collection for God's people, you should do the same as I laid down for the churches in Galatia. ²On the first day of each week, every one of you should set aside and store up whatever surplus you have gained, so that when I come I won't have to take an actual collection. ³Then, when I get to you, I will write formal letters to send the people you approve, whoever they are, to Jerusalem with your gift. ⁴If it's appropriate for me to go as well, we can travel together.

1 Corinthians 16:1–4 (NT Wright)



- “The collection” refers to financial gifts given to the church in Jerusalem
- Paul asked other networks, churches in Galatia and Corinth to participate in this collection, this was across his network
- They were to collect contribution every week, so that an actual “collection” did not have to be taken up



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2 Corinthians 9:1–5 (N. T. Wright)



Paul's Theology of Giving as Part of Churches Being Established in the Gospel

- Commitments to give in significant collections is contagious and motivates others, more wealthy churches and church networks need to take the lead.
- Paul saw part of his “business” (not a western “for-profit” business), and that of his team, was motivating these more wealthy networks.



¹⁰The one who supplies “seed to be sown and bread to eat” will supply and increase your seed and multiply the yield of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be **enriched in every way** in all single-hearted goodness, which is working through us to produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²The service of this ministry will not only supply what God’s people so badly need, but it will **also overflow** with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through meeting the test of this service you will glorify God in two ways: first because your confession of faith in the Messiah’s gospel has brought you into proper order, and second, because you have entered into **genuine and sincere partnership** with them and with everyone. ¹⁴What’s more, they will then pray for you and long for you because of the surpassing grace God has given to you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his gift, the gift we can never fully describe!

2 Corinthians 9:10-15 (N.T. Wright)



Through meeting the test of supplying the financial needs of the saints/leaders, two things will occur:

1. Will have proper order

- Obedience, submission...to what...to the confession that Jesus is the Christ, to the Messiah's gospel!
- By giving to this collection, Paul is saying, they will have proper order, in line with the gospel!



Through meeting the test, of supplying the financial needs of the saints/leaders, two things will occur:

2. Genuine and sincere partnership

Genuine, sincere, generous, liberality

- *Haplous* – simple, open, no ulterior motive, simple motive

Partnership, sharing, contribution

- *Koinonia* – companion, fellowship, participation, partner

By having a pure motive of giving to the collection, true partnership can and will occur.



Paul's Theology of Giving as Part of Churches Being Established in the Gospel

- Churches need to understand that when we give in this way to the progress of the gospel we are “enriched in every way,” so the actual motivation to major giving by apostolic leadership to the churches is actually for their benefit.
- The true, fullest motivation, though, is really coming to grips with the gift we have received from Jesus—the gospel and all its benefits, an indescribable gift— which is all part of becoming fully established in the gospel through the giving of our own gifts.



As leaders we have asked for you to excel still more in your giving to the BILD team, this is important work.

Giving to BILD team

- We asked for \$150,000
- 2nd Generation benefactors gave \$40k
- Leaders committed to \$48k

We are now asking the entire network to give to the BILD team. When all the committed funds come in, we will have about \$88k, let's excel still more to get to the \$150k.



Implications for our network family

1. Part of our establishment in the gospel is giving of our finances. As we look across all the early letters, it is becoming clear that as Paul encountered all the different problems, he always returns the solutions back to being established in the kerygma and its implications.
2. Wealthy churches and individuals need to take the lead in giving.
 - Our tendency, is to calculate how much we have given in the past and determine that this is quite a lot, therefore this time around a “lesser amount” will be sufficient...this is not leading.



Implications for our network family

3. Part of our “business,” as apostolic leaders, is to motivate individuals, churches and networks to give to the Pauline/BILD team as that is part of your being established in the gospel.
 - This is not a western business model, this is an equipping of your hearts to participate in the global network and kingdom building.



Implications for our network family

4. For the Corinthians to become true partners in the network, they were being asked to participate fully in the collection.
 - This is our desire for CityChurch Ames-Des Moines
 - This is our desire for CityChurches across USA
 - This is our desire for BILD Associate's churches

How can we be more than just a funding source? What does it mean to truly partner?

- By understanding the implications of supporting a Pauline team, being motivated to participate in the global work, which will further establish you in the gospel and bring an enrichment in every way.



Action Items from these Principles

1. Reflect on what you will give, reflect on His indescribable gift.
 2. Following through on your commitments. 2nd Gen and leaders
 3. Give – we would like everyone from the network to give to the BILD team by next week.
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1. For this year's Summit, we would like to pursue churches that have worked with us in the past to contribute toward the conference costs. We need people from our church family to call and communication with a list of potential churches/leaders.
 - Communicate this to your churches. Let me know the individuals or families that are interested and we will discuss more details and get a list.

