

Lesson VII.

THE GRACE OF GIVING

August 13, 1916

2 Corinthians, ch. 9. *Scripture Memory Verses, Luke 10 : 33-35.

Golden Text—In all things I gave you an example, how that so labouring ye ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how that he himself said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.—Acts 20 : 35 (Rev. Ver.).



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1 For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you :

2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedo'nia, that Achai'a was ready a year ago ; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

3 Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf ; that, as I said, ye may be ready :

4 Lest haply if they of Macedo'nia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting.

5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly ; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give : not grudgingly, or of necessity : for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you ; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work :

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad ; he hath given to the poor : his righteousness remaineth for ever.

10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness :)

11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God :

13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men :

14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you the exceeding grace of God in you.

15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Our last two lessons were from a letter which Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth. To-day's lesson is from another letter which Paul wrote to the same people. In this second letter he speaks of some followers of Jesus in the city of Jerusalem who were very poor and sorely needed help. There were amongst them many mothers and little children who, sometimes, could scarcely get enough to eat. Paul felt very sorry for these people, and was anxious to do all he could to help them.

As Paul went about on his missionary journeys, he asked the new followers of Jesus everywhere to take up a collection for the poor people of the church at Jerusalem. He asked them to lay aside, every Sunday, as

much money as they could afford, and some one would be sent to collect this money and take it to the apostles in Jerusalem, to be used for the poor people there. Paul, in his second letter to the Christians in Corinth, asked them to help in this work. He wanted them to be a good example for the other churches to follow. He wanted them to give as much as they possibly could.

Paul described two ways of sowing. The first way was like that of a farmer who has some bags of wheat, but he wants to keep the grain where he can look at it. He wants to scatter as little as possible in his field, so he just sows a few handfuls. When the harvest time comes, of course he finds only a very small crop of wheat. The other way

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