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II Corinthians 9:6-15

6. “Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7. Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8. And 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;

9. as it is written, ‘HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER.’

10. Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

11. you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

12. For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

13. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

14. while they also, by prayer on your behalf, yearn for you because of the surpassing grace of God in you.

15. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

In this passage Paul is writing to the church in Corinth concerning an offering that they were preparing to send to other Christians in need; most probably in the area of Judea, where a famine was occurring. Twice in this passage, in both verse 11 and verse 12, Paul shares that their ministry of giving to the needs of the saints is producing thanksgiving to God.

As we look forward towards Thanksgiving this week, let us all be mindful that our thanks should be directed to the Lord, our God.

In 1863, President Lincoln recognized our need to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us as a nation. Today I'd like to share President Mr. Lincoln's original Thanksgiving Proclamation address.

God bless, and may you have a warm Thanksgiving this year.

“It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their independence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by his divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest of bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.”