

LESSON 15: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-10:17

The Collection (cont'd)

1. Read 9:1-5. Paul is really applying the pressure here! How? In what way?
2. What is suggested about the personal benefits of giving money in 9:6-11? Some people suggest today that if you give, you will receive as much or more in return. How does this fit in with what Paul has to say?
3. What is the principle that Paul sets forth in verses 6-7 (compare Prov. 11:24-25; Luke 6:38; and Gal. 6:7)? And what things does he say about God's faithfulness (vv. 8-11; hint: what's the key word in verse 8!?!)?
4. In addition to meeting their material needs, what other benefits are produced in those who receive (9:12-14)? Why do you think Paul ends this section with the cry of praise, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (v. 15)?

Paul Defends His Ministry

1. In your mind, what qualities are characteristic of successful people? What were seen to be Paul's disadvantages in comparison to his "successful" opponents (see especially vv. 1 and 9)?
2. Paul will not wage war as the world does (v. 3). What are the weapons of the world, and what is Paul's strategy in this spiritual warfare? How does this help you in your stand against the world? What are your weapons?
3. What are the arguments of Paul's opponents in verses 7-10?
4. What kinds of comparisons are being made in Corinth? What does Paul say about comparisons? How does this help you?
5. What measuring stick is being used by the false apostles? What measuring stick did Paul use to evaluate himself? What apportioned limits have been set for you? Are they different from those set for others?
6. How many times is the word "boast" used in this chapter? What is wrong with the boasting of Paul's opponents? What is proper boasting for the Christian?
7. What is the proper measure of *your* ministry?