

2 Corinthians 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

Analysis

And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago—Paul offers *gnōmēn* (γνώμη, 'judgment/opinion/advice') rather than *epitagēn* (command), maintaining his non-coercive approach. The word *sympherei* (συμφέρει, 'it is profitable/expedient') indicates completing the collection benefits the Corinthians themselves, not just Jerusalem recipients. They had been *proenēxasthe* (προενήξασθε, 'you began before/were first to begin') a year earlier (circa AD 55), both in *poiēsai* ('the doing') and *thelein* ('the willing')—both action and intention.

Paul's wisdom shines: he reminds them they initiated the project, making completion a matter of integrity, not imposition. The phrase 'a year ago' gently rebukes delay without overt condemnation. The dual emphasis on willing and doing addresses potential Corinthian excuses—they can't claim they intended but couldn't act, since they had done both. Paul frames finishing as self-interest (*sympherei*): incomplete commitments damage character and reputation. Following through demonstrates maturity and proves their earlier enthusiasm genuine.

Historical Context

A year had passed since the Corinthians first committed to the collection—an eternity in ancient communication timelines. The delay likely stemmed from the church conflict addressed in 2 Corinthians 1-7. Now that reconciliation had occurred (7:5-16), Paul tactfully revives the stalled collection. His 'advice' carries apostolic weight without invoking apostolic authority, respecting their agency while guiding their decision.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What spiritual or financial commitments have you begun but not completed?
2. How does recognizing that follow-through benefits you (not just recipients) motivate completion?
3. Why is it important to align 'willing' and 'doing' rather than having good intentions alone?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	γνώμην	ἐν	τούτῳ	δίδωμι·	τοῦτο	γὰρ	ὑμῖν
And	my advice	herein	G5129	I give	this	for	for you
G2532	G1106	G1722		G1325	G5124	G1063	G5213
συμφέρει	οἵτινες	οὐ	μόνον	τὸ	ποιῆσαι	ἀλλὰ	καὶ τὸ
is expedient	who	not	only	G3588	to do	but	And
G4851	G3748	G3756	G3440		G4160	G235	G2532
θέλειν	προενήρξασθε	ἀπὸ	πέρυσι·				
to be forward	have begun before	ago	a year				
G2309	G4278	G575	G4070				

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:16 (Parallel theme): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

1 Corinthians 7:25 (Parallel theme): Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

1 Corinthians 7:40 (Parallel theme): But she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment: and I think also that I have the Spirit of God.

2 Corinthians 9:2 (Parallel theme): For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many.

1 Corinthians 16:2 (Parallel theme): Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

2 Corinthians 8:8 (Parallel theme): I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.

Philippians 4:17 (Parallel theme): Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.