

# 2 Corinthians 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**For as touching the ministering to the saints** (περὶ τῆς διακονίας τῆς εἰς τοὺς ἀγίους)—Paul's phrase *diakonia* (διακονία, "service/ministry") elevates financial giving to sacred ministry. This isn't mere charity but covenant solidarity with Jerusalem believers suffering poverty (Acts 11:28-30). The phrase **it is superfluous for me to write** employs rhetorical *praeteritio*—saying he won't mention what he immediately proceeds to elaborate across 15 verses, gently motivating completion without harsh command.

Paul's collection for Jerusalem (1 Cor 16:1-4, Rom 15:25-27) served multiple purposes: relieving material need, demonstrating Gentile-Jewish unity in Christ, and fulfilling prophetic images of nations bringing tribute to Zion (Isa 60:5-7). The term **saints** (hagioi, ἀγιοι) reminds Corinthians that Jerusalem believers, despite poverty, share their holy status in Christ.

The delicate tension—"superfluous to write" yet writing extensively—reflects pastoral wisdom. Paul praises their readiness (v. 2) while ensuring follow-through, combining affirmation with accountability.

## Historical Context

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Written circa AD 55-56 during Paul's third missionary journey, probably from Macedonia. The Jerusalem church faced severe poverty due to famine (Acts 11:28), economic marginalization from Jewish communities for confessing Jesus as

Messiah, and the early practice of selling possessions (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37) which created ongoing need. Paul's year-long collection effort (begun "a year ago," v. 2) unified his Gentile churches in tangible love for Jewish believers.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does viewing financial giving as 'ministry to the saints' rather than optional charity change your perspective on generosity?
2. What commitments have you made enthusiastically but left incomplete, like the Corinthians' year-old pledge?
3. How does tangible generosity demonstrate the reality of spiritual unity across cultural and economic divides?

## Interlinear Text

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Περὶ	μὲν	γὰρ	τῆς	διακονίας	τῆς	εἰς	τοὺς	ἀγίους
<b>touching</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>For</b>	G3588	<b>the ministering</b>	G3588	<b>to</b>	G3588	<b>the saints</b>
G4012	G3303	G1063		G1248		G1519		G40

περισσόν	μοί	ἐστιν	τὸ	γράφειν	ὑμῖν·
<b>superfluous</b>	<b>for me</b>	<b>it is</b>	G3588	<b>to write</b>	<b>to you</b>
G4053	G3427	G2076		G1125	G5213

## Additional Cross-References

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**Galatians 6:10** (Parallel theme): As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

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