

2 Corinthians 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

Whiles by the experiment of this ministration (διὰ τῆς δοκιμῆς τῆς διακονίας ταύτης)—*dokimē* (δοκιμή, "proof, testing, approved character") indicates this service provides evidence of genuine faith. The Jerusalem believers will see proof of Gentile conversion through tangible generosity. Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26); costly giving validates profession. **Experiment** means "test, proof"—their generosity is examined and found genuine.

They glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ (δοξάζουσιν τὸν θεὸν ἐπὶ τῇ ὑποταγῇ τῆς ὁμολογίας ὑμῶν εἰς τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τοῦ Χριστοῦ)—*hypotag ē* (ὑποταγή, "submission, obedience") joined with **professed** (*homologia*, ὁμολογία, "confession, profession") shows that credible confession requires obedient submission. The gospel isn't merely believed intellectually but obeyed practically. Generosity demonstrates gospel transformation.

And for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men (καὶ ἀπλότῃ τῆς κοινωνίας εἰς αὐτοὺς καὶ εἰς πάντας)—*haplotēs* (ἀπλότης, "generosity, liberality") and *koinōnia* (κοινωνία, "fellowship, sharing, partnership") combine to picture open-handed partnership. Their giving isn't selective favoritism but universal love—"unto all." True gospel faith breaks down ethnic, economic, and social barriers, creating one family in Christ.

Historical Context

Jewish believers struggled to accept uncircumcised Gentiles as full covenant members (Acts 15, Galatians 2). Paul's collection served as visible proof that Spirit-transformed Gentiles truly belonged to Christ. When Jerusalem saw Gentile generosity, it validated their faith and glorified God for including the nations in Abraham's blessing. This gift helped heal the Jewish-Gentile divide threatening to fracture the early church. Theology became tangible in financial solidarity.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does your financial generosity (or lack thereof) provide evidence ('experiment') of your genuine submission to the gospel?
2. In what ways does your giving demonstrate the gospel's power to overcome natural human divisions and create supernatural unity?
3. Who are the 'all men' beyond your natural affinity group that your 'liberal distribution' should include?

Interlinear Text

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Additional Cross-References

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

Matthew 5:16 (Parallel theme): Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 2:12 (References Christ): Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord,

Galatians 1:24 (References God): And they glorified God in me.