

# 2 Corinthians 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**For I know the forwardness of your mind** (οἶδα γὰρ τὴν προθυμίαν ὑμῶν)—The noun *prothymia* (προθυμία) means "eagerness, readiness, willingness" with connotations of premeditated intention. Paul knew their initial enthusiasm when the collection began. **For which I boast of you to them of Macedonia** reveals Paul's strategy: he told impoverished Macedonians (2 Cor 8:1-5) about wealthy Corinth's commitment, and told wealthy Corinthians about poor Macedonia's generosity—holy peer pressure rooted in Christ's example (8:9).

**Achaia was ready a year ago** (Ἀχαΐα παρεσκεύασται ἀπὸ πέρυσι) uses the perfect tense *pareskeuastai*, "has been prepared/stands ready," highlighting sustained readiness despite the year's delay. Their initial **zeal** (*zēlos*, ζῆλος—intense ardor, passionate commitment) **hath provoked very many** demonstrates the contagious nature of genuine generosity. One church's faithfulness inspires others—a principle Paul strategically employed.

Yet this verse contains gentle warning: Paul's public boasting creates accountability. Will Corinth's performance match their promise? Integrity requires completing what we commit.

## Historical Context

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Achaia was the Roman senatorial province encompassing southern Greece, with Corinth as its capital and commercial hub. As a wealthy port city controlling trade routes between Aegean and Adriatic seas, Corinth had significant economic resources compared to rural Macedonian churches (Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea) which gave sacrificially despite "deep poverty" (8:2). The year's delay likely resulted from the church conflict addressed in 2 Corinthians 1-7.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does your generosity (or lack thereof) influence others toward or away from kingdom priorities?
2. What enthusiastic spiritual commitments have you made but failed to complete—and what prevents follow-through?
3. How does Paul's affirmation-with-accountability model inform how you encourage others toward obedience?

## Interlinear Text

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οἶδα	γὰρ	τὴν	προθυμίαν	ὕμῶν	ἣν	ὑπὲρ	ὕμῶν
<b>I know</b>	<b>For</b>		<b>mind</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>for which</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>you</b>
G1492	G1063	G3588	G4288	G5216	G3739	G5228	G5216
καυχῶμαι	Μακεδόσιν	ὅτι	Ἀχαΐα	παρεσκεύασται	ἀπὸ		
<b>I boast</b>	<b>to them of Macedonia</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>Achaia</b>	<b>was ready</b>	<b>ago</b>		
G2744	G3110	G3754	G882	G3903	G575		
πέρυσι	καὶ	ὁ	ἐξ	ὕμῶν	ζῆλος	ἠρέθισεν	τοὺς
<b>a year</b>	<b>and</b>			<b>you</b>	<b>zeal</b>	<b>hath provoked</b>	
G4070	G2532	G3588	G1537	G5216	G2205	G2042	G3588
πλείονας							
<b>very many</b>							
G4119							

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 8:10** (Parallel theme): 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.

**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.

**2 Corinthians 8:24** (Parallel theme): Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.