

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 (Ἄχαΐα 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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

οἶδα γὰρ τὴν προθυμίαν ὑμῶν ἦν ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν
I know For G3588 mind you for which of you
G1492 G1063 G4288 G5216 G3739 G5228 G5216

καυχῶμαι Μακεδόσιν ὅτι Ἀχαΐα παρεσκεύασται ἀπὸ^{τοῦ}
I boast to them of Macedonia that Achaia was ready ago
G2744 G3110 G3754 G882 G3903 G575

πέρυσι καὶ ὁ ἔξ ὑμῶν ζῆλος ἡρέθισεν τοὺς
a year and G3588 G1537 you zeal hath provoked G3588
G4070 G2532 G5216 G2205 G2042

πλείονας
very many
G4119

Additional Cross-References

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.