

2 Corinthians 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.

Analysis

Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren—The verb *parakaleō* (παρακαλέω, "exhort/encourage") appears throughout 2 Corinthians (1:4, 6; 2:8; 7:6) describing both divine comfort and apostolic appeal. **That they would go before unto you** (ἴνα προέλθωσιν εἰς ὑμᾶς) uses *proerchomai*, "go ahead/precede," giving Corinthians time to prepare before Paul's arrival with Macedonians.

And make up beforehand your bounty (προκαταρτίσωσιν τὴν προεπηγγελμένην εὐλογίαν ὑμῶν)—*prokatartizō* (προκαταρτίζω) means "prepare in advance, arrange beforehand." The object is **bounty** (*eulogia*, εὐλογία), literally "blessing/good word." Their gift is a "blessing" both to recipients and to God. **Whereof ye had notice before** (τὴν προεπηγγελμένην, "previously promised") reminds them this isn't new but completing prior commitment.

As a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness (ώς εὐλογίαν καὶ μὴ ώς πλεονεξίαν)—*pleonexia* (πλεονεξία, "greed, covetousness") contrasts sharply with *eulogia*. Advance preparation ensures giving flows from generosity, not grudging last-minute compliance extracted by pressure. The manner of giving matters as much as the amount.

Historical Context

Ancient giving often occurred under social compulsion—wealthy patrons expected public recognition, and clients gave tribute to secure favor. Paul transforms this system: Christian giving is blessing-motivated (*eulogia*) rather than greed-motivated (*pleonexia*), whether greed to get (holding back) or greed for recognition (ostentatious display). The advance preparation allows prayerful, proportionate giving rather than impulsive, emotionally manipulated responses.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does advance preparation for giving (budgeting, planning) help ensure it flows from genuine generosity rather than pressure or guilt?
2. What motivates your financial decisions—blessing others and glorifying God, or maintaining/increasing your own security and comfort?
3. How can you structure your giving to reflect covenant generosity rather than cultural compulsion?

Interlinear Text

ἀναγκαῖον	οὖν	ἡγησάμην	παρακαλέσαι	τοὺς	ἀδελφοὺς
it necessary	Therefore	I thought	to exhort	G3588	the brethren
G316	G3767	G2233	G3870		G80
ἵνα	προέλθωσιν	εἰς	ὑμᾶς	καὶ	προκαταρτίσωσιν
that	they would go before	unto	you	and	make up beforehand
G2443	G4281	G1519	G5209	G2532	G3588
προκατηγελμένην	εὐλογίαν	ὑμῶν	ταύτην	έτοίμην	
whereof ye had notice before	a matter of bounty	your	G3778	ready	
G4293	G2129	G5216		G2092	
εἶναι	οὕτως	ώς	εὐλογίαν	καὶ	μὴ
might be	G3779	as	a matter of bounty	and	not
G1511		G5613	G2129	G2532	G3361
ώσπερ					G5618
πλεονεξίαν					
of covetousness					
G4124					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 33:11 (Parallel theme): Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

1 Samuel 25:27 (Parallel theme): And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

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