

Honoring Commitments

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

II Corinthians 9:1-15 ¹Now about the service to the saints, there is no need for me to write to you. ²For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting to the Macedonians that since last year you in Achaia were prepared to give. And your zeal has stirred most of them to do likewise. ³But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove empty, but that you will be prepared, just as I said. ⁴Otherwise, if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—to say nothing of you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. ⁵So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you beforehand and make arrangements for the bountiful gift you had promised. This way, your gift will be prepared generously and not begrudgingly. ⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written: “He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your store of seed and will increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous on every occasion, so that through us your giving will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For this ministry of service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanksgiving to God. ¹³Because of the proof this ministry provides, the saints will glorify God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ, and for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all the others. ¹⁴And their prayers for you will express their affection for you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

I. What are the commitment principles in this passage?

- A.** Christians set the **example** to others of one who honors their commitments. V. 1-4
- B.** Fulfilling our commitments should not be seen as a **burden**. V. 5
- C.** We **get** out of our commitments what we **put** into them. V. 6
- D.** Our **attitude** towards our commitments makes a huge difference. V. 7
- E.** The grace of God is the **beginning** point of commitment. If we include Him in our decisions and rely on His grace to fulfill these commitments, we will prosper in our commitments. V. 8-10
- F.** God ultimately receives the glory when we are **faithful** to our commitments. V. 11-13, 15

G. When we are **known** as people of commitment, others will be more likely to commit themselves to us. V. 14

II. How can we apply these truths?

A. Let's do a quick inventory of our commitments.

- God -
- Family -
- Church -
- Occupation -
- Community -
- Government -

B. What are some small changes that you can make to improve your commitments in these areas?

- God -
- Family -
- Church -
- Occupation -
- Community -
- Government -