



Today's Message

Date: July 7, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Integrity, Encouragement, and Blessing***

Text: 2 Corinthians 9:1–5 (ESV)

¹ Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, ² for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. ³ But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. ⁴ Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. ⁵ So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction.

Introduction: In 2 Corinthians 8-9, Paul addressed the subject of the Corinthian church's participation in a collection being gathered to 1) provide relief for Jewish Christians suffering in Jerusalem and 2) unify the church by minimizing ethnic differences. Today's sermon text is the fourth of five sermons from these two chapters. It focuses on issues of integrity (the Corinthians must follow through on what they had promised to do), encouragement (renewed zeal for the project would encourage others in their own participation), and blessing (generosity for the cause of Christ brings God's blessing to both recipients and givers).

Today's take-home truth: Christ intends for us to support His mission as faithful stewards.

- I. Faithful stewards zealously support the church's cause. 1**

- II. Faithful stewards encourage faithfulness in others. 2**

- III. Faithful stewards submit to the church's leadership. 3**

- IV. Faithful stewards protect the church's reputation. 4**

- V. Faithful stewards give willingly to be a blessing to others. 5**