

# This Way Up

Pembroke Bible Chapel  
D Axford – Jan 17, 2010  
Series No. DA-2COR-23

## Preparations for Giving 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Paul established churches in ancient Greece in the provinces of Macedonia in the north and in Achaia in the south.

The Macedonian churches were located in smaller cities and the believers there were in great poverty (*2 Cor .8:2*).

The main church in Achaia was in Corinth, a large cosmopolitan city. The believers there were apparently quite prosperous (*1 Cor .6, 16; 8:14*).

### **I. The Desire**

The Corinthian church had been the first to indicate their readiness to participate in the collection for the needy believers in Jerusalem. Their preparations had been a great encouragement to the Macedonian churches (*vs. 1,2; 8:10,11*).

### **II. The Delay**

However, they had failed to follow through on their promise due to materialism. Paul encouraged them to complete their gift by this letter and by sending three trusted servants to them. (*vs.3-5; 8:16-23*).

### **III. The Danger**

Paul was concerned that this failure would bring shame on both he and the Corinthian church in the eyes of the Macedonians (*vs.4*).

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## **Application**

We often have great intentions for the things we would like to do. But we often fail to follow through with our intentions or plans. The result can easily reflect negatively on us and on the Church. And it can bring discredit to the Lord from non believers who know of our plans and failure to follow through.

Why do we do this? How do we correct this problem?

The Corinthian's failure can be traced to a couple of causes.

- They did not have anyone to champion the task - Paul had to send Titus and two others to organize this work.
- They had allowed a covetous spirit to enter their minds.

How can we learn from the failure of the Corinthians?

1. Before making rash promises or commitments, carefully count the cost ahead of time. Why do I wish to do this thing? Am I truly motivated and led by the Lord through the indwelling Holy Spirit? Or is the source of this desire coming from my natural instinct?
2. Evaluate carefully how you intend to carry out your desire. How am I going to do this? Is it by my own wisdom and strength? We need to recognize that we in and of ourselves are incapable of doing anything of value for the Lord. Do you really believe this? Where is the source of your ability? If it is your natural self you will fail. The true source of strength is only through the indwelling power of Christ.
3. If you are indeed led by the Holy Spirit follow through as directed by the Lord. Do not let a spirit of covetousness or lack of faith creep in and discourage you.