

¹قَاتَهُ مِنْ جِهَةِ الْخِدْمَةِ لِلْقَدِيسِينَ هُوَ فُضُولٌ مِنِّي أَنْ أَكْتُبَ إِلَيْكُمْ، ²لَأَنِّي أَعْلَمُ تَسَاطُكُمُ الَّذِي أَفْتَحِرُ بِهِ مِنْ جِهَتِكُمْ لَدَى الْمَكْدُونِيِّينَ، أَنَّ أَخَايَةَ مُسْتَعِدَّةً مُنْذُ الْعَامِ الْمَاضِي، وَغَيْرَتُكُمْ قَدْ حَرَّضَتْ الْأَكْثَرِينَ. ³وَلَكِنْ أُرْسَلْتُ الْإِخْوَةَ لئَلَّا يَتَعَطَّلَ افْتِحَارُنَا مِنْ جِهَتِكُمْ مِنْ هَذَا الْقَبِيلِ، كَيْ تَكُونُوا مُسْتَعِدِّينَ، كَمَا فُلْتُ، ⁴حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءَ مَعِيَ مَكْدُونِيُّونَ وَوَجَدُوكُمْ غَيْرَ مُسْتَعِدِّينَ، لَا نُحْجَلَ نَحْنُ، حَتَّى لَا أَقُولُ أَنْتُمْ فِي جَسَارَةِ الْإِفْتِحَارِ هَذِهِ. ⁵فَرَأَيْتُ لَازِمًا أَنْ أَطْلُبَ إِلَى الْإِخْوَةِ أَنْ يَسْتَفِئُوا إِلَيْكُمْ وَهُمْ يَتَوَقَّعُونَ بَرَكَتِكُمْ الَّتِي سَيَتَوَقَّعُ النَّحْبُورُ بِهَا، لِتَكُونَ هِيَ مُعَدَّةً هَكَذَا، كَأَنَّهَا بَرَكَهٌ لَا كَأَنَّهَا بُحْلٌ.

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⁶هَذَا وَإِنَّ مَنْ يَزْرَعُ بِالسَّحَابِ قَبَالِشَحَّ أَيْضًا يَخْصُدُ، وَمَنْ يَزْرَعُ بِالْبَرَكَاتِ قَبَالِبَرَكَاتٍ أَيْضًا يَخْصُدُ. ⁷كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَمَا يَتَوَيَّ بِقَلْبِهِ، لَيْسَ عَنْ حُرْنٍ أَوْ اضْطِرَارٍ، لَأَنَّ الْمُعْطِيَ الْمَسْرُورَ يُجِبُّهُ اللَّهُ، ⁸وَاللَّهُ قَادِرٌ أَنْ يَزِيدَكُمْ كُلَّ نِعْمَةٍ لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا وَلَكُمْ كُلُّ اكْتِفَاءٍ كُلِّ حِينٍ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، تَزْدَادُونَ فِي كُلِّ عَمَلٍ صَالِحٍ، ⁹كَمَا هُوَ مَكْنُوتٌ: "فَرَّقْ، أَعْطِ الْمَسَاكِينَ، بَرُّهُ يَبْقَى إِلَى الْأَبَدِ". ¹⁰وَالَّذِي يُقَدِّمُ يَدَارًا لِلزَّرَاعِ وَخُبْرًا لِلْأَكْلِ، سَيُقَدِّمُ وَيُكَثِّرُ يَدَارَكُمْ وَنِيَمِي غَلَّتْ بِرُّكُمْ، ¹¹مُسْتَعِينِينَ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ لِكُلِّ سَخَاءٍ يُنْشِئُ بِنَا شُكْرًا لِلَّهِ. ¹²لَأَنَّ افْتِعَالَ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ لَيْسَ يَسُدُّ إِغْوَارَ الْقَدِيسِينَ فَقَطْ بَلْ يَزِيدُ بِشُكْرِ كَثِيرٍ لِلَّهِ ¹³إِذْ هُمْ بِاخْتِبَارِ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ يَمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ عَلَى طَاعَةٍ اغْتِرَافِكُمْ لِإِجْلِيلِ الْمَسِيحِ وَسَخَاءِ التَّوَزُّعِ لَهُمْ وَلِلْجَمِيعِ، ¹⁴وَبِدُعَائِهِمْ لِأَجْلِكُمْ مُسْتَفَائِينَ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنْ أَجْلِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الْفَائِقَةِ لَدَيْكُمْ. ¹⁵فَشُكْرًا لِلَّهِ عَلَى عَطِيَّتِهِ الَّتِي لَا يُعْبَرُ عَنْهَا.

¹For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you: ²For 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. ³Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: ⁴Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. ⁵Therefore 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. ⁶But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. ⁷Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: ⁹(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. ¹⁰Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) ¹¹Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the administration of this service

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not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;¹³ Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection into the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men;¹⁴ And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.¹⁵ Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.