

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

¹قَائِلُهُ مِنْ جِهَةِ الْخِدْمَةِ لِلْقِدِّيسِينَ هُوَ فُضُولٌ مِنِّي أَنْ أَكْتُبَ إِلَيْكُمْ،² لِأَنِّي أَعْلَمُ تَسَاطُكُكُمْ الَّذِي أَفْتَحُرُ بِهِ مِنْ جِهَتِكُمْ لَدَى الْمَكِدُونِيِّينَ، أَنَّ أَحَايَاةً مُسْتَعِدَّةً مُنْذُ الْعَامِ الْمَاضِي، وَغَيْرُكُمْ قَدْ حَرَّصَتِ الْأَكْثَرِينَ.³ وَلَكِنْ أَرْسَلْتُ الْإِخْوَةَ لِنَلَّا يَتَعَطَّلَ افْتِخَارُنَا مِنْ جِهَتِكُمْ مِنْ هَذَا الْقَبِيلِ، كَيْ تَكُونُوا مُسْتَعِدِّينَ، كَمَا قُلْتُ،⁴ حَتَّى إِذَا جَاءَ مَعِيَ مَكِدُونِيُّونَ وَوَجَدُوكُمْ غَيْرَ مُسْتَعِدِّينَ، لَا تُحْجَلُ تَحْنٌ، حَتَّى لَا أَقُولَ أَنْتُمْ فِي حَسَارَةِ الْإِفْتِخَارِ هَذِهِ.⁵ قَرَأَيْتُمْ لَازِمًا أَنْ أَطْلُبَ إِلَى الْإِخْوَةِ أَنْ يَسْبِقُوا إِلَيْكُمْ وَهُمْ يَهَيِّئُوا قَبْلًا بَرَكَتُكُمْ الَّتِي يَسْبِقُ التَّخْيِيرُ بِهَا، لِتَكُونَ هِيَ مُعَدَّةً هَكَذَا، كَأَنَّهَا بَرَكَةٌ لَا كَأَنَّهَا بُحْلٌ.

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⁶هَذَا وَإِنَّ مَنْ يَزْرَعُ بِالسَّخِّ قِيَالِشَّخِّ أَيْضًا يَحْصُدُ، وَمَنْ يَزْرَعُ بِالْبَرَكَاتِ قِيَالْبَرَكَاتِ أَيْضًا يَحْصُدُ.⁷ كُلُّ وَاحِدٍ كَمَا يَنْوِي بِقَلْبِهِ، لَيْسَ عَنْ حُزْنٍ أَوْ اضْطِرَارٍّ، لِأَنَّ الْمُعْطِيَّ الْمَسْرُورَ يُحِبُّهُ اللَّهُ.⁸ وَاللَّهُ قَادِرٌ أَنْ يَزِيدَكُمْ كُلَّ نِعْمَةٍ لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا وَلَكُمْ كُلُّ اكْتِفَاءٍ كُلِّ جِينٍ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، تَزْدَادُونَ فِي كُلِّ عَمَلٍ صَالِحٍ،⁹ كَمَا هُوَ مَكْتُوبٌ: "قَرِّقْ، أَعْطَى الْمَسَاكِينَ، بَرُّهُ يَبْقَى إِلَى الْأَبَدِ".¹⁰ وَالَّذِي يُقَدِّمُ يَذَارًا لِلزَّرْعِ وَخُبْزًا لِلْأَكْلِ، سَيَقْدِّمُ وَبِكثْرٍ يَذَارُكُمْ وَيُنْمِي غَلَّتِ بَرَكَتُكُمْ،¹¹ مُسْتَعْنِينَ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ لِكُلِّ سَخَاءٍ يُنْشِئُ بِنَا شُكْرًا لِلَّهِ.¹² لِأَنَّ افْتِعَالَ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةِ لَيْسَ بِسُدِّ إِغْوَارِ الْقِدِّيسِينَ فَقَطْ بَلْ يَزِيدُ بِشُكْرِ كَثِيرٍ لِلَّهِ¹³ إِذْ هُمْ يَأْخِذُونَ هَذِهِ الْخِدْمَةَ يُمَجِّدُونَ اللَّهَ عَلَى طَاعَةٍ غَيْرَافُكُمُ لِإِنْجِيلِ الْمَسِيحِ وَسَخَاءِ التَّوَزُّعِ لَهُمْ وَلِلْجَمِيعِ،¹⁴ وَبِدُعَائِهِمْ لِأَجْلِكُمْ مُسْتَقَاتِينَ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنْ أَجْلِ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ الْفَائِقَةِ لَدَيْكُمْ.¹⁵ فَشُكْرًا لِلَّهِ عَلَى عَطِيَّيَتِهِ الَّتِي لَا يُعْبَرُ عَنْهَا.

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.