



Daily Reflections

June 21, 2017

Scripture

2 Corinthians 9: 6-11

Brothers and sisters, consider this:

whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.

Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you,
so that in all things, always having all you need,
you may have an abundance for every good work.

As it is written:

He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.

The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food
will supply and multiply your seed
and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

You are being enriched in every way for all generosity,
which through us produces thanksgiving to God.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's text contains Paul's thinking on Stewardship. For Paul, Stewardship is an expression of gratitude by a believer who is keenly aware that he or she has been richly blessed by God. Paul made it clear that God will never be outdone in generosity.

Food for your Journey

Clare Boothe Luce was once our ambassador to Italy. While she was living in a beautiful 17th-century Italian villa, she began to notice that she was always tired. She lost weight, and seemed to have less and less energy.

She sought medical care, and after a period of intense testing it was discovered that she was suffering from arsenic poisoning.

Everyone on her staff was given a security check, but it was soon established that none of her staff was trying to poison her. Which left the question: Where was the poisoning coming from?

Finally, they found the cause: It was the ceiling of the bedroom. There were beautiful designs of roses, ornately done in plaster relief, and they were painted with an old paint that contained arsenic lead. A fine dust fell from the roses, and Mrs. Luce was slowly being poisoned in her bed by the dust from the ornate roses.

“Similarly,” writes Bill Phillippe in *A Stewardship Scrapbook*, “we are in danger of being poisoned by the ornate culture and society in which we live. Our attitudes, concepts, values, can be eroded or poisoned by the materialistic values of those around us without our ever becoming aware of it until it is too late.”

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, May I always be aware of how blessed I have been by You. May I show my gratitude by giving of myself to You and Your people. Amen.