

**Bold, Part 15: “Commendations”**  
**2 Corinthians 8:16-9:5**  
 Pastor Eric Yee

*Be commendable for living according to the gospel.*

### I. Earnest care for others (8:16-17)

<sup>8:16</sup> But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. <sup>17</sup> For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord.

### II. Reputation of gospel service (8:18-19)

<sup>18</sup> With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel.

2 Corinthians 8:18 (NIV) = And we are sending along with him the brother who is praised by all the churches **for his service to the gospel.**

<sup>19</sup> And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will.

### III. Honorability in the sight of God and man (8:20-21)

<sup>20</sup> We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, <sup>21</sup> for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 = Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. **And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.**

### IV. Proven earnestness in many matters (8:22-23)

<sup>22</sup> And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you.

<sup>23</sup> As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

### V. Ready, willing, and generous giving (8:24-9:5)

<sup>8:24</sup> So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

<sup>9:1</sup> Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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.

Romans 15:26 = For Macedonia and **Achaia** have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

### Life Application

Which of the five commendations are most questionable for you?

- I. Earnest care for others (8:16-17)
- II. Reputation of gospel service (8:18-19)
- III. Honorability in the sight of God and man (8:20-21)
- IV. Proven earnestness in many matters (8:22-23)
- V. Ready, willing, and generous giving (8:24-9:5)

How do you need to repent for misrepresenting Christ and his gospel? How do you need to rejoice in what Christ has done for you in the gospel? Who can you share with and invite accountability from in your followership of Christ?