

## 2 Corinthians

### Cracked Pots and Crazy Love

Week Six

Hola! (Bonjour!)

Have you ever studied another language? It's hard! As Steve Martin observed, "It's like those French have a different word for EVERYTHING!" And, it doesn't take long to realize that translating from one language to another is more complicated than just learning an alternate vocabulary. (Hello=Bonjour, Dress=Robe) The grammar is different. If we learn the vocabulary but don't arrange the words in the right order, we get the meaning wrong. (There's the story of someone's German Grandfather who was always saying things like, "Throw the cow over the fence some hay.") Then, there is the whole issue of figures of speech that make sense in one language, but don't necessarily translate well. ("It's raining cats and dogs," or, "I'm dead on my feet," might not make sense in a word-for-word translation.)

All of these challenges and more are true for Bible translation as well. The Bible was not written in English, after all! Some translators take an almost word-for-word approach, while others translate thought for thought. That's one reason we have so many translations to choose from. The great thing for us is that if a passage is confusing or unclear in one translation we can **read it in another translation** that might be easier to follow! That's the third Tool in our Interpretation Toolbelt. When our questions might be better phrased, "Now what in the world does that mean?" looking at another translation is a great way to find an answer.

Many of us own a variety of translations that we've collected over the years. (King James, New American Standard, The New Living Translation, New International Version...) But if you don't have alternate translations sitting around your house—do not go out and buy anything! Websites—like [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org)—provide us a variety of translations at the click of a mouse! Some of those translations are in languages other than English, in case it would help you to read a passage in Spanish, or French, or German...

Adios!



## Week Six Homework

### Observe (What Do I SEE?)

Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List one observation per verse.

#### **2 Corinthians 8:1-9:15 (NIV)**

#### *Observations*

<sup>1</sup> And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup> Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup> they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. <sup>5</sup> And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. <sup>6</sup> So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. <sup>7</sup> But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

<sup>8</sup> I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

<sup>10</sup> And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. <sup>11</sup> Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. <sup>12</sup> For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

<sup>13</sup> Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. <sup>14</sup> At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, <sup>15</sup> as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

<sup>16</sup> I thank God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. <sup>17</sup> For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative. <sup>18</sup> 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> What is more, he was chosen by the churches to accompany us as we carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. <sup>20</sup> We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. <sup>21</sup> For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

<sup>22</sup> In addition, we are sending with them our brother who has often proved to us in many ways that he is zealous, and now even more so because of his great confidence in you. <sup>23</sup> As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.

## **2 Corinthians 9**

<sup>1</sup> There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the saints. <sup>2</sup> For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action. <sup>3</sup> But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be. <sup>4</sup> For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident. <sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap

generously. <sup>7</sup> Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:

“He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

<sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

<sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

"Lump and Label" ...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 "lumps" of content that each express one idea. Give each "lump" a "label." Try to make your labels as brief as possible.

<i>Lump (verses)</i>	<i>Label</i>

List any questions you have about this passage.

### ***Interpret (What Does it MEAN?)***

Use Another Translation to gain insight...if any of your questions involved a phrase or a concept that was confusing or unclear, read the passage in a different translation...or two. Websites like [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) provide many translations at the click of a mouse! Record what you discover.

## ***Apply (How Does it WORK?)***

Make it practical. Now that you have spent some time looking in detail at God's Word, don't stop! Ask yourself, "How does this work...in general...and for ME?" You may find it helpful to look for...

**S**—a SIN to avoid

**P**—a PROMISE to claim

**E**—an EXAMPLE to follow

**C**—a COMMAND to obey

**K**—KNOWLEDGE of God to believe

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the lower half of the page. It is intended for the user to write their answers to the questions posed above.