



03 MAY 2026 AM
2 Corinthians 8:9-12
STABLISH
= to make firm; to turn in a certain direction

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

INTRODUCTION

- in this morning's message, we come across yet another word from the Bible that has been labeled *archaic*

last Sunday night, we considered *example* and *ensample*

this morning, we have *establish* and *stablish*

of course, *establish* is the English word in use for us today

but there is a subtle difference between these two words

establish = usually indicates something has been started or built up

The business was established in 1927

stablish = indicates something is strengthened or turned in a particular direction

Colossians 2:6-7

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

- in his second letter to the church at Corinth, Paul is reminding the membership of a decision they had made a year earlier...and in doing so, he wants to *stablish* their hearts and minds towards completing it

2 Corinthians 9:2-3

For 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. Yet 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:

a year earlier, they had been excited and enthusiastic in wanting to contribute to the offering for the church in Jerusalem:

Paul had bragged about them to the churches in Macedonia

their zeal served to challenge other churches

but now, Paul was concerned that their enthusiasm was dying out so he sent others to build them up (to *stablish* them, if you will)

Blaise Pascal, the 17th century Christian and mathematician once observed:

If you take away people's diversions, you will see them dried up with weariness

Psalm 106:13-15

They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

in much the same way today, the aim of this message is to *stablish* you once again...to remind you of your walk with the Lord and challenge you to be restored

1. THE ADVENT OF THE LORD **verse 9**

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

NOTE: we looked at this verse two weeks ago, but it is important to consider it in light of our challenge

advent = the arrival of a notable person

Paul challenged the church with the example of Christ and His willingness to give of Himself

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

in the context Paul used here, *grace* points to the willingness of Jesus Christ to give of Himself so we might be rich

Exodus 19:5

...for all the earth is mine:

Psalms 50:10

For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

Haggai 2:8

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

what a novel concept: as Creator, everything belongs to God and yet, He chooses to share it

how often do we live an entitled life as 'choosy-beggars'???

Psalms 106:24-25

Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word: but murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.

2. THE ADVICE OF THE LEADER **verses 10-12**

in these verses, Paul builds on the example of Christ's unselfish life and gives his advice:

this is Paul's *opinion* as he understands the situation and the mindset of the church members

expedient = profitable; advantageous

STOP TOYING WITH A PROMISE **verse 10**

And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago.

toying = to think about, but not seriously

a year ago, the church had been challenged by the need in Jerusalem and they were excited to jump on board and do their part to help

but now, other needs were more pressing; life got in the way and the fire had cooled

The tragedy of life so often is, not that we have no great impulses, but that we fail to turn them into actions.

~ John Barclay

look, the devil is more than willing to let us make as many emotional promises as we can...just as long as we never carry them out

Deuteronomy 23:21

When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

Ecclesiastes 5:4

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

James 4:17

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

START TAKING ON THE PERFORMANCE vs 11

Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have.

NOW...there was an urgency to this promise... others were waiting for help, etc.

Ephesians 5:16

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

perform = to accomplish; finish

readiness to will

willing mind (verse 12)

prothumia = before + passion

the thing we want most is always set before us

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Paul said there had been a readiness to participate and there needed to be a restoring (or reviving) of that willingness

9:2 there had been a forwardness

Revelation 3:17 the church at Laodicea had become lukewarm

Romans 12:2

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

START TALLYING YOUR PORTFOLIO vs 12

For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

this takes all the excuses out of the way:

That's not my gift

I'm not very good at...

I just don't think I can

God's challenge for your life is based on what you already have...not what might happen later

In **Exodus 4**, Moses had so many excuses for why he couldn't follow God's call:

Who am I?

I am not eloquent?

What if they don't believe me?

I have a speech impediment.

1 Corinthians 16:2

...let every one of you lay by him in store,
as God hath prospered him...

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ezekiel 36:26

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.