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Titus Brings Good News from Corinth 7:5 to 9:15

The location of this section in the structure of the letter should be noted. These verses pick up the personal defense of **his** ministry broken off at **Troas (2:12-13)** to develop **Paul's** lengthy digression of **his** B'rit Chadashah ministry (**to see link click Ar - Paul Reflects on His Ministry**). It is likely that **Paul** delayed the expression of confidence in **his** "severe letter" (see **Bl - The Effects of the Severe Letter**) until **he** had completed the defense of **his** ministry in the extended digression. This section resumes that personal defense from **Macedonia** (see **Aq - Paul's Anxiety in Troas**). It is not merely a review, but serves to lead the reader through the remainder of the letter. In **Chapters 9** through **13**, **Paul** repeatedly speaks of **his** intention to come to **Corinth (9:4, 10:2 and 6, 12:14 and 20-21, 13:1-2 and 10, 11:9)**. The joyous confidence expressed in the positive response to **Paul** and to **Titus** as a result of the "severe letter" laid the pastoral foundation from which to address matters that **the Corinthians** needed to rectify.¹⁷⁵



The first of which was **the collection**. This was not the first time **the Corinthians** had heard of **the collection** for **the poor Jews in Jerusalem** (see the commentary on **First Corinthians Dz - Giving to God's Work**). **Paul** gave **them** certain information and directions about the project they had probably requested in **their** earlier letter. **First Corinthians 16:1** points to a topic discussed in **the Corinthians'** letter to **Paul**. Therefore, when **the apostle** sent **Titus** to deliver and reinforce the effects of the "severe letter," **Paul** probably requested that **he**



attempt to revive **the** languishing **collection** if **the Corinthian** church responded favorably to the letter **(8:6a)**. No significant progress seemed to have been made, although there had been some giving **(8:10)**. Now, with the firm evidence from **Titus** of **the Corinthians'** loyalty to **him, Paul** could discuss the project again and press for its early completion.¹⁷⁶