***2 Cor 9:10-15 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. 12For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. 15Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!***

Thanksgiving – this morning, we think of the holiday of Thanksgiving and every day we are thankful, giving thanks to God for all He has done, for His indescribable Gift of Jesus. He has given us an unspeakably wonderful gift that, if we spent now until Christmas in this place trying to thank God for all His blessings, we’d still fall short. Isaiah 9:6 tells us that His name is Wonderful – some think Isaiah calls Jesus wonderful counselor, as though wonderful describes counselor. No. His Name is Wonderful! His Name is Counselor. His Name is Jesus. In this season and all seasons, let’s give Him thanksgiving worthy of our God named Wonderful.

This morning, our verses are referring to an offering for the Judean saints given by the churches around Corinth. Verse 10 says *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.* God supplies the seed, multiplies the seed sown, and increases the fruits. Notice, He multiplies the seed sown… not the seed left in a jar on the shelf. At home, I have an envelope of watermelon seed frozen. I have yet to get one watermelon from that seed… why? I never sowed. In order to reap, we must sow. In order for fruit to appear, seed must first be planted. Paul is offering a prayer for the givers of this offering – May God bless the seed, the offering, the generosity you have sown, multiply it, and increase it. 1 Corinthians 3:7 *So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.* Faithful obedience is our contribution – we take God’s seed, plant God’s seed, tend God’s seed, reap the fruit of God’s seed, and share God’s seed – not hard to understand that all Thanksgiving for everything belongs to God – it all belongs to Him. It’s only through Him we have abundance to share.

Verse 11 *while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.*Enriched in everything – for what reason? To Hoard? To have three houses, nicer cars, gold watches, diamond earrings? No. For all liberality – generosity, giving, sharing – loving others through generous giving. Which causes thanksgiving through us to God. The people have given and the receivers of the gift praise God for this gift.

Verses 12-14 *For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.* The administration of the gift supplies needs physically, but also feeds the receivers spiritually, inspiring much thanksgiving to God. The physical act of obedience, God’s love in action, causes the saints to… not glorify the giver… but to glorify God for the gift and the obedient giver. This is proof of ministry. This is fruit of the Spirit being observed by those receiving. Obedience is Praise. 1 Samuel 5:22 says *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.* Obedience is our confession to the gospel of Christ. We give out of thanksgiving for what we have received. We love because He first loved us. The saints not only thank God for the gift, but for the grace and the Gospel that inspired the gift. The givers are giving thanks for the receivers and the receivers are giving thanks for the givers. May we never forget to praise God when we are given the opportunity and means to help. We will never have less when we give more. God always multiplies faster than we can sow.

Verse 15Paul finishes with - *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!* What is this indescribable gift? Is it the generous offering that Titus is receiving for the saints? No. This indescribable, unspeakably wonderful gift is the Gospel of the very One whose Name is Wonderful! The One we confess daily, not by our words, but by our obedience. John 14:21 *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.* Manifest Myself to him – make Myself abundantly apparent, unmissable, unmistakable.

This week, let’s sing thanksgiving praises to God through the very Name called Wonderful. All seed is from God, all increase is of God, we are obedient workers in the garden. Thanksgiving for what we are given and what we give, for giver and receiver, abundance and need all belong to God. May we find ourselves thankful to the point of tears, sobbing our gratefulness to the Author and Finisher of our faith – the One we call Wonderful – Jesus, our Lord and Savior.