

# “Quickly, In Conclusion”

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 16

### 1Cr 16:1 1) A Collection vs 1-4

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Cr 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

1Cr 16:3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

1Cr 16:4 and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

- “*Now Concerning*” - Paul used this term 3 other times when he is responding to issues asked of him from either letter or a delegation sent to him (1 Corinthians 7:1; 8:1; and 12:1)
- “*Collection for the saints*” - Paul urged the churches where ever he went to remember the poor.
  - Antioch - Acts 11:27-30 (prophets from Jerusalem came to Paul’s hometown and reported the need)
  - Macedonia - 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 Romans 15:26
  - Corinthians - 2 Corinthians 8:8-15 Romans 15:26
- Paul was obedient to the instruction given to him at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15. He and Barnabas submitted themselves and their message to the Apostles in Jerusalem. The issue was really Paul telling the Gentiles that they did not need to be circumcised. They agreed and told them a few instructions but added
  - Galatians 2:9-10 “*And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we [should go] unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Only [they would] that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.*”
- How should our Giving be done?
  - *1<sup>st</sup> day of EACH Week* - there should be a specific regular interval Need to form a habit of generosity
  - *Each One of you* - Everyone should give. Generosity on compassion needs to be nurtured in everyone. Young, Senior, Husband, Wife
  - *Put it aside and save* - Our offerings should be thought out, prayed out before hand at home and then brought to the church.
  - *As he may prosper* - Giving should be done in proportion to our prosperity. God loves a cheerful giver. If giving makes you grumble because you cannot meet your bills that isn’t you prospering. Keep it. As you prosper then give.
  - *No Collections Made when I come* - Paul places a distance between himself and the offerings, He protects the image of the ministry to be about the message not the money. He even tells them to have messengers (plural for accountability) to handle the money and that he would only be involved if it was necessary.
- Who do we give to?
  - Know that benevolence can be a source of conflict. (Acts 6)
  - It is the obligation of the Church to help the needy. (James 1:27)
  - The Church must discern who the truly needy are
    1. If one CAN work; he is not Truly needy (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; 1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:11)
    2. If family CAN care for them; they are not Truly needy (1 Timothy 5:3-4)
  - The Church should consider the moral conduct of those in need before giving (1 Timothy 5:9-13)
  - Those supported by the Church should provide a return of service to the church (1 Timothy 5:5,10)
  - Church support should be for the most basic needs. (1 Timothy 6:8)
- Paul is telling the Corinthians in closing, **Remember the Poor.**

1Cr 16:5 **2) The Campaign** vs 5-9

But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia;

1Cr 16:6 and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I may go.

1Cr 16:7 For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.

1Cr 16:8 But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;

1Cr 16:9 for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

- Paul makes it clear that there is lot to do.
- What is obvious in this passage is that the Apostle Paul does not have ministry mapped out.
  - He uses words like "Perhaps I Will", "I May Go", "I Hope To", "If the Lord Permits"
  - It is helpful to us to see this driven, bold, "A-Class" Apostle using vague words for his direction in ministry.
  - We do not see the words "The Lord Told Me"
- Paul is clearly the LORD'S SERVANT. Sure he has hopes and desires but he is determined more to follow the leading of the Lord for ministry.
- But he is confident where he is right now. WHY? 3 things about ministry that makes him stay.
  - **Wide Door** - He is in Ephesus as he writes this letter. His ministry will extend either by travel, people visiting from nearby areas, or by letter through the entire region of Asia. (Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Smyrna, Philadelphia, Ephesus, Laodicea)



- **Effective service** - Jesus was Exalted, Repentance & Word was Taught and believed  
Acts 19:17 "the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified"  
Acts 19:18 "Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices"  
Acts 19:20 "the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing"
- **Many Adversaries** - Acts 19:24-34 tells us that a silversmith (who made idols) saw business dropping off and blamed Paul and Christianity. Demetrius, the silversmith incited the crowd (much of the city) to riot chanting Great is Artemus.

- Paul is telling the Corinthians in closing, **Do the Lord's Will Not Your Own**

1Cr 16:10 **3) Co-Laborers in Christ** vs 10-12

Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am.

1Cr 16:11 So let no one despise him. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brethren.

1Cr 16:12 But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity.

- Paul Bring up two co-laborers.
  - **Timothy**  
He was on his way to be with Paul and probably will be passing through Corinth.
    1. Paul had a difficulty with Corinth respecting his apostolic authority. Paul

know they probably would not regard young Timothy highly either. Paul urges them NOT TO DESPISE HIM. That he was doing the Lord work.

2. In 1 Timothy 4:12 Paul urges Timothy to NO ALLOW people to DISPISE HIM. *"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."*

- Apollos

In 1 Corinthians 1:12 & 3:22 he is implied to be a teacher at the level of an apostle.

1. Paul URGED HIM but he was UNWILLING.
  2. Apollos couldn't go there immediately but would when the opportunity arose.
  3. Paul did not have authority over Apollos. He could only offer suggestions.
- Paul is telling the Corinthians in closing, **There are Other Great Ministers Out There. Bless Them as They Do Their Work**

1Cr 16:13 **4) Closing Comments** vs 13-24

**Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.**

1Cr 16:14 **Let all that you do be done in love.**

- Paul Reviews the Christian's Walk (the terms used are military terms. We are to be as soldiers)
- 2 Timothy 2:3-4 *"Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier"*
  1. ALERT - Watchful - Alert of what is going on around us.
  2. STAND FIRM - Immovable, Not Backing up even in an Attack
  3. ACT LIKE MEN - Brave, not wimps showing confidence and courage in difficulty
  4. STRONG - Able to defend, attack, press forward at the command of God
  5. LOVE - Above all and in all

1Cr 16:15 Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints),

1Cr 16:16 that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.

1Cr 16:17 I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part.

1Cr 16:18 For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

- Paul acknowledges our need and his need of the Body of Christ
- Paul lists some soldiers in the Body of Christ that: (These possibly brought the issues to Paul)
  - Devoted Work and labor for the saints
    - a. **Devoted** - their primary activity above other things. It is different than just working a ministry. Devoted means to be committed fully time, money, sweat and tears
    - b. **To the Saints** - The focus is the people not our activity or the glory we receive as ministers. The Saints are the glory received.
    - c. **We are to be in Subjection to Them** - If they are truly devoted and their focus is us it is much easier to be in subjection to them.
  - Refreshed My Spirit
    - a. Paul also receives ministry from the lesser mentioned, less noticed people in the body.
    - b. We too can receive from those around us other than those ministers with the title or positions.

1Cr 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

1Cr 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1Cr 16:21 The greeting is in my own hand—Paul.

- Greetings, Kisses and Signature
- Greetings - Aquila and Prisca originally met Paul in Corinth. They travelled with Paul to Ephesus and now had the Ephesian Church in their house. The Corinthians would know them as they send

their greetings.

- Kisses - a typical mid-eastern greeting. Holy meant to be genuine not shallow without sincerity.
- Signature - The letter was dictated and Paul would sign or write a brief note at the end. Galatians 6:11 implies his hand writing was not very good.

1Cr 16:22 **If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha.**

- Love is stressed again. Loving the Lord
- If not they are to be ACCURSED.  
The word is "*anathema*" This was the third level of punishment for a Jew. The first was a separation for a period of time to repent and to be cleansed. The second is an additional warning and a little more time. The third is "*anathema*" to be cut off, not allowed into the temple grounds and even not allowed to call oneself a Jew.
- MARANATHA - Lord Come Quickly! AMEN!

- And Again, Grace and Love of Christ to the Saints.

1Cr 16:23 **The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.**

1Cr 16:24 **My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

- Paul is telling the Corinthians in closing, **Be Men, Love the Lord and Love Each Other**

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