

NOW CONCERNING THE COLLECTION  
I COR. 16:1-4

Introduction:

- A. The Bible teaches us to be truthful.
  - 1. When it benefits us.
  - 2. When it wounds us.
  
- B. Paul continues to teach the Corinthian church.
  - 1. He corrects them, he encourages them.
  - 2. About schisms, the work of the ministry, spiritual gifts, the resurrection.
  
- C. At this time he teaches them how they are to aid financially the saints at Jerusalem.
  - 1. There are specific truths.
  - 2. There are helpful principles.
  - 3. Not an example of How to support the church.

I. THE SPECIFIC TRUTHS.

- A. There is to be a collection.
  - 1. collection = logia - a gathering.
  - 2. Not a matter of church vote.
  
- B. It was for people.
  - 1. "for the saints."
  - 2. They lived in Jerusalem.
  
- C. It was a common church practice.
  - 1. "as I have given order in the churches of Galatia, even so do ye."
  - 2. order = diatasso - to arrange throughout
  
- D. It was a simple plan.
  - 1. "upon the first day of the week."
    - a. This was the day of worship.



2. "every one of you."
    - a. There were no exceptions.
  3. "lay by him in store."
    - a. store = thesaurizo - to treasure up.
  4. "as God hath prospered him."
    - a. suodomai - to be led in a good way.
- E. The reason for the plan.
1. "that there be no gatherings when I come."
  2. gathering = logia - a collection as of money.
  3. To avoid, after the fact giving.
- F. The final act of the plan. v3,4
1. liberality = charis - what causes joy; gift.
  2. letter = epistole - anything sent by a messenger, whether verbal or written, usually a letter.
  3. Then on my arrival, I shall give letters of recommendation to the persons you have selected and send them on with your contribution to Jerusalem. And if it seems advisable that I should go also, they shall go with me.

## II. HELPFUL TRUTHS FOR THE CHURCH TODAY.

- A. We should give periodically.
1. "first day of the week."
- B. We should give personally.
1. "let every one of you."
  2. The financial support of any church is not the burden of a few.
- C. We should give with a purpose.
1. "lay by him in store."
  2. This idea emphasizes deliberate thought. It means do it at home and bring it to church.
- D. We should give proportionally.

1. "as God hath prospered him."
2. prospered = led in a good way.
3. Has God been good to you?

E. We should give preventively.

1. "that there be no gatherings when I come."
2. Some members will not give unless there is a crisis.
3. We are to give if there is more than enough to do what is routine.

III. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DON'T GIVE?

[A mean and wicked question]

A. Will God take it anyway?

1. sickness, hospital bills.
2. Increased cost of living.

B. We are to help the poor saints.

1. Not the world's poor.
2. The poor of other churches.

B. Ask yourself, do I serve better prospering or suffering?

1. Therein may be the answer.

IV. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DO GIVE?

[A mean and wicked question!]

V. CHURCHES SHOULD BE WATCHFUL, IN LOVE. V13,14

A. Paul's appeal.

1. "watch ye."
2. "stand fast in the faith."
3. "quit ye like men."
4. "be strong."

- B. All of these things must be done in love.
  - 1. "Let all your things be done with charity."
  - 2. We may do these things in anger.

#### VI. CHURCHES SHOULD FOLLOW GOOD LEADERSHIP. V15-16

- A. Paul had a favor to ask.
  - 1. "I have this favor to ask of you."
  - 2. Not a silly consideration, nor was it wrong!
- B. The objects of his request.
  - 1. "Stephanas and his household."
  - 2. "first to be converted in Greece."
- C. Their devotion to God's work.
  - 1. "they have addicted themselves to supplying the needs of the saints."
  - 2. addicted = tasso - to appoint.
  - 3. self-appointed family to serve God.
- D. Paul's request.
  - 1. I beg you to put yourselves under leaders like these.
  - 2. And to everyone who shares their work and toils hard

#### VII. PREACHERS NEED ONE ANOTHER. V17,18

- A. Paul was glad to see visiting brethren.
  - 1. "I am glad."
  - 2. glad = chairo - to rejoice, to be delighted.
- B. They brought an offering.
  - 1. "they have supplied that which was lacking."
  - 2. lacking = hustereo - to be last, fall short.
- C. Paul was refreshed.
  - 1. "for they have refreshed my spirit and yours."

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2. They have cheered my heart and yours.
3. Recognize the worth of such men as these.

VIII. EARLY CHURCHES WERE NOT LARGE IN NUMBER. V19

- A. House churches were common.
  1. They met in homes for many years.
  2. "church houses" are of late origin.
  
- B. The churches in Wales met from early 1600 to late 1700 before constructing the first house.
  1. Membership from teens to 100 in about a century.
  
- C. The church in Boston had the door nailed shut for 10 years.