

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 16

BACKGROUND...

- Acts 15
 - Paul and Barnabas come to Jerusalem about the question of acceptance of the Gentiles without circumcision
 - The apostles command acceptance without circumcision — issue a letter to the churches (vv. 22-29)
 - And in Paul's account of the story in Gal. 2:10 he also reports that the apostles "...only asked us to remember the poor — the very thing I also was eager to do."
- The collection for the poor in Judea was born
 - In 2 Cor. 8:24 Paul seems to reveal that part of his reason was to bind the Jewish and Gentile churches together through this gift

¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 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. ³

HOW TO DO IT...

- As I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also
 - On the first day of every week — why?
 - Each one — why?
 - Put aside and save — why?
 - As he may prosper — why?
- The alternative...collections made, when he came
 - How effective would this have been? (Think about your own budget)

APPLICATION TO TODAY?

- Does this special collection for the saints apply to church budgets today? — how? why?
- So how should we do this?

- On the first day of every week — why?
- Each one — why?
- Put aside and save — why?
- As he may prosper — why?
- The alternative...collections made, when a need arises(?)
 - How effective would this have be? (Think about your own budget)

When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; ⁴ and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

“WHEN I ARRIVE...” 2 COR. 8:21

- Whomever you approve... 1 Cor. 16:3
 - I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem (v. 3) — why?
 - And if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me (v. 4)
 - 2 Corinthians 8:21 “for we have regard for what is honorable, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.”
- What does this teach us about...
 - Does it matter what people think? (Always?)
 - Church finances?
 - Leadership conduct?
 - Male / female interactions?
 - Christian conduct in the world?

⁵ But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia; 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. ⁷ For I do not wish to see you now just in

PAUL’S PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE 1 COR. 16:5-9

- But I will come to after...
 - ...I go through Macedonia (to collect for the poor of Judea)
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1, 2 “Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction

passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.⁸ But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;⁹ for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

¹⁰ 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.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.

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.

¹³ Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love.

their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality."

- Perhaps come and winter with you (longer stay) — why?
 - Why, do you suppose, did Paul want to stay in Corinth a longer time — not just pass through?
- What did Paul mean by "a wide door for effective service has opened to me,"
- ...and there are many adversaries."

DANGER TO TIMOTHY 1 COR. 16:10,11

- See that he is with you without cause to be afraid...
 - Were things that rough? — how so?
 - He is doing the Lord's work, as I also am
 - Let no one despise him; send him in peace; I'm expecting him

ABOUT APOLLOS 1 COR. 16:12

- Not now...
 - Paul had encouraged him on behalf of the Corinthians
 - Why did the Corinthians want Apollos?
 - Why do you suppose he temporarily declined?
 - Lesson for today?
 - He will come when he has opportunity — translation?

A FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT — 1 COR. 16:13-14

- Be on the alert — for what?
- Stand firm in the faith — why?
- Act like men — what does this mean?
- Be strong — in what way?

- Let all be done in love — why?

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),
¹⁶ that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. ¹⁷ I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. ¹⁸ For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. ²⁰ All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ The greeting is in my own hand — Paul. ²² If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PAUL TRIES TO APPOINT SOME LEADERSHIP — 1 COR. 16:15-18

- Stephanas' household
 - First fruits of Achaia
 - Devoted themselves to ministry
- Be in subjection to such men
 - Elders?
 - Including also Fortunatus and Achaicus
 - They were encouragers (refreshed spirits)
 - What is the lesson for modern churches?

GREETINGS FROM OTHERS... — 1 COR. 16:19-24

- Churches of Asia greet you
 - Aquila and Priscilla & their house church
 - All the brethren greet you
- Greet one another with a holy kiss
- This greeting is in my own hand
 - Why would this be important to point out?
 - How is this connected to "if anyone does not love the Lord..."
- Final salutation (something important)
 - Grace
 - Love