

Series "Called To Be Saints"
"Giving God's Way"
1 Corinthians 16:1-4
Part-30

The Corinthian Church wrote to the Apostle Paul and asked questions.

Paul first had to deal with their sin of divisions, and worldly wisdom, going to court, immorality, discipline. Then he could address these questions in this letter:

Marriage, singleness, food offered to idols (liberty), Lord's Supper, spiritual gifts, and resurrection from the dead.

The last question asked by the Corinthians was about **"Giving to God."**

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints,

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 "Christian Stewardship" Steward – *"is one that manages, or has oversight over the affairs of another, he does not own that which he has been entrusted with but manages it as if it is his own."* (Believers)

Thought Of Our Passage: "Giving God's Way Is An Act Of Worship Whereby Believers Give Freely And Proportionately Based Upon God's Blessings."

We will look at 7 Principles To "Giving God's Way."

1 Corinthians 16:1 Now

Signals a transition in thought to what Paul has been speaking about. He has spent the entire previous chapter, **1 Corinthians 15**, speaking about the resurrection.

This last chapter has to do with **Verses 1-4 The Collection: Verses 5-24 Closing Words: (Paul's Plans, Serving With Others)** personal concerns for them.

1 Corinthians 15:58 always abounding in the work of the Lord,

concerning the collection

The word **collection** – *"to say something."*

Jesus gave **38 parables**, and **16 deal with our stewardship.**

for the saints,

This was an offering for the suffering saints of Jerusalem.

Acts 11:27-30

collection for the saints - It had a purpose.

The resurrection means life; we should invest in the eternal:

2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 Are concerned with the giving of this offering to the saints at Jerusalem.

1. Giving Is By The Believers Of The Church: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

**Christians are givers, and it marks a changed heart!
Acts 20:35 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**

1 Corinthians 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it;

1 Corinthians 16:2

2. Giving Is An Act Of Worship: On the first day of every week

This is the basis for Christians worshipping on Sunday. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, which was Sunday.

Acts 20:7 And on the first day of the week,

Our Giving Is An Act Of Worship.

Giving was not to be hit and miss, but it was to be consistent to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 9:6; Luke 6:38

2 Corinthians 9:7 for God loves a cheerful giver.

Cheerful is the word we get "*Hilarious.*"

3. Giving Is A Christian Quality: Giving Is A Personal Act: each one of you

Every Christian Should Give: No distinction is given!

2 Corinthians 9:7; 2 Corinthians 8:1-2

Mark 12:41-44

The Application for us is that someday all are going to stand before God to give an account!

4. Giving Should Be Determined Before Hand: is to put aside and save, (KJV lay by him in store – literally, "Let every one of you treasure up a precious thing."

John 12 Mary took some ointment that was worth a year's wages, and she poured it on Jesus.

Luke 16:11

"When God has our heart, He also has our wallet."

5. Giving Should Be Proportionate: as he may prosper, The word prosper – "good journey." The giving was in proportion to God's financial blessings upon their lives. (How has God blessed you on life's journey?)

The NT teaches **"Grace Giving."**

The OT (Israel) was to Tithe 10% along with other offerings.

As much as 37% was given to God.

The heart is what God is concerned about! Actions and Attitudes!

2 Corinthians 8:12

We will never have enough, (That is the deceitfulness of riches!)

1 Timothy 6:17

6. Giving Should Not Be Through Pressure: so that no collections be made when I come.

Don't give just because Paul was there.

Matthew 6:3-4

1 Corinthians 16:3

7. Giving Should Be To A Ministry Of Integrity: When I arrive, whomever you may approve, - That the delivery of this offering was to be carried by proven faithful men.

whomever you may approve,

The world has checks and balances when it comes to finances; should not the church even be above this?

I will send them with letters

correspondence that these faithful men would travel and deliver.

to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

Notice that Paul was not going to be carrying the gift, but it was going to be carried by the other faithful men.

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

That Paul was open to the plan of him traveling with the group and the offering.

Paul did not want anyone to misjudge his true motives of this gift. That people could say that all Paul wanted was the money, that is why he came.

Application:

- 1.** Giving Is Not A One Time Gift, Nor An Occasional Gift, But A Lifestyle:
- 2.** When Giving Is Presented Biblically, No Christian Should Ever Take Offense: If so, it reveals where the heart really is, under the control of money.
- 3.** Tithing Was An Old Testament Teaching For Israel. The Christian Is Under Grace. Because Of Grace, The Believer Is Liberated And Goes Beyond The OT In Our Giving:
- 4.** Am I Giving Back To God What Is Rightfully His? **Matthew 22:21 "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's."**