

“Stewardship Of God”
1 Corinthians 16:1-4
Sunday August 10, 2014

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

There are at least **2,350 passages** in the Bible dealing with money and material possessions. That’s more than on any other subject.
Of 38 parables of Jesus, 12 have to do with money.

In the 4 Gospels, 1 out of every 8 verses speaks of money.

The epistle to the Philippians is a thank you note for giving an offering.
2 Corinthians has 2 chapters dedicated to giving: 2 Corinthians 8-9.

Stewardship – “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.”

7 Principles Of Stewardship Of God:

1 Corinthians 16:1

“Now” – Signals a transition in thought to which Paul has been speaking. He has spent the entire previous chapter, 1 Cor 15, speaking about the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:58

“collection” – means “to say something”

“for the saints,” – This was an offering for the suffering saints of Jerusalem.

Acts 11:29-30

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

2 Corinthians 8-9 and 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 are passages dealing with the giving of this offering to the saints at Jerusalem.

1. Giving Is By The Believers To 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

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.

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

Our giving is an act of worship.

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Cheerful" – is the word we get "hilarious" from.

3. Giving Is A Christian Trait: "let each one of you"

Every Christian is to give. No matter how poor you may be!

2 Corinthians 9:7

2 Corinthians 8:1-2

Mark 12:41-44

4. Giving Should Be Determined Beforehand: "put aside and save," – (KJV, "lay by him in store") Literally, "let everyone 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"

2 Corinthians 9:7

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 us on life's journey?)

2 Corinthians 9:6

Luke 6:38

I believe that the NT teaches **"Grace Giving"**; The OT (Israel) was to Tithe – 10% along with other offerings. As much as 30% – 35% was given to God.

God is concerned about Actions and Attitudes! The heart!

2 Corinthians 8:12

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

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

Don't give because Paul was there; This goes against this practice of taking multiple offerings.

Matt 6:3-4

1 Corinthians 16:3

7. Giving Should Be To A Ministry Of Integrity: "And 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 shall send them with letters" – These letters were some type of correspondence that these faithful men would travel and deliver.

1 Corinthians 16:4

Application:

1. If Instruction On Giving Is Presented Biblically, No Christian Should Ever Have A Bad Attitude About It.
2. Giving Is Not A One-Time Gift, Nor An Occasional Gift, But A Lifestyle.
3. Tithing Is An Old Testament Teaching For Israel. The Christian Is Under Grace. Because Of Grace, The Believer Is Liberated And Goes Beyond The OT In Their 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."