

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 12TH, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

GIVING (1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4) "NOW ABOUT..."

Paul is answering a question from a previous letter about the collection of money and how it's distributed. He includes the Galatians because he wants them to know we all carry the burden to help others. So, he gives them an expectation to set something aside.

- **He doesn't give an option. The expectation is to give.**

"THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK"

This wasn't to be an afterthought. This was to be an intentional step toward regular giving. In other words, systematic. Paul wanted them to know they bring it as an act of corporate worship. Giving is part of the life of a Christ-follower.

- **Giving not only helps provide for others, it creates in us this reliance on God and His provision.**

GIVING IS ABOUT THE MISSION

Paul gets specific with this little church with instructions on how and why to give. He wants them to be concerned about those in need. There was a famine in Jerusalem, and he wanted the Corinthians to know we all share responsibility for each other.

- **Giving is an opportunity to put others before yourself.**

GIVING WAS PROPORTIONATE

Paul didn't expect everyone to be able to give the same amount. However, he did expect them to participate. **We all participate in the mission.** Everything we have has been given to us. We have the privilege of giving back in proportion to what we've been given.

- **We may not all give the same amount, but we can all give.**

PRACTICAL WISDOM

It's important to handle money with integrity. Paul wants to keep himself and others from accusations, so he asked them to appoint others to take care of it. Trust is so important in the area of finances. There is a great responsibility for what is given, and he wanted to make sure the church's finances would be the best possible testimony to the lost.

ROAD TRIP (1 CORINTHIANS 16:5-12) TRAVEL PLANS

Paul lets them know he longs to be with them; however, he still has the responsibility to spread the gospel. He shared his plans with them to help them keep their eye on the mission of every Believer. He expects them to stay the course even through opposition.

- **No matter where we go or what we do, we need to stay on mission.**

WE NEED EACH OTHER

The whole reason for the collections at the beginning was to help others spread the gospel. Paul needed some encouragement from them and knew they needed the same from him. It's why he wanted to be with them.

- **This is why we gather and support each other. Be in church, get in a Life Group, serve your community.**

THE MISSION COMES WITH ADVERSITY

God was doing a work in Ephesus and Paul saw the success and wanted to continue his work there even though there was opposition. He wasn't quick to make a decision based on his own desires but relied on God to determine his next steps.

- **Too often, we don't wait on the Holy Spirit to help us in our decision-making.**

THE TREATMENT OF GOD'S SERVANTS

Paul was concerned they would look down on Timothy because he was young. So, he assures them Timothy is doing the Lord's work as well. He also puts to rest the belief that there is dissension between him and Apollos.

- **We can't compare one person over another. We need to respect those who do the Lord's work (1 Corinthians 4).**

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION (1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-18) FINAL EXHORTATION

Paul's commands sound like military orders. In other words, they need to pay attention. He gives them five directives of critical importance. "Be alert" is another reminder that Christ is coming again! We are to watch and be ready. So, live a life of holiness and service. Be on guard (1 Peter 5:8)!

- **Live in expectation of Christ's return.**
- He doesn't want them to lose hope, so he tells them to stand firm, be courageous, and strong. They needed to stay vigilant to what he taught them and not allow the evil one to get a foothold (Ephesians 4:27). Do everything in love.
- **In the midst of a hostile world, we need to heed this same instruction.**

UNITY

Finally, Paul mentions many who have served well alongside him, benefiting those who have come after. He wants the church to understand we owe them a spiritual debt. There should be thanksgiving, recognition, and submission to those who have paved the way.

- **We stand on the shoulders of all who have gone before us.**

CONCLUSION (1 CORINTHIANS 16:19-24) THE BIG PICTURE

All the other churches in Asia send greetings. Aquila and Priscilla send greetings along with all the brothers. "Greet one another with a holy kiss" is a reminder that we bear the responsibility of love.

- **Unity and love in a church must supersede all else. We love others because we love God (John 13:35).**

AUTHORITY

Paul signs off proving the authenticity of the letter. There must have been some imposter's writings circulating, so Paul finishes the letter himself with a straightforward reminder. If anyone doesn't love the Lord, let him be cursed because the Lord is coming. Lastly, he assures them that the whole letter is because of his love for them.

A SUMMARY

Paul addressed so many issues to this church about conflict, selfishness, divisions, freedom in worship, the misuse of spiritual gifts, and wrong attitudes about the resurrection. He addressed these issues because he loved them.

- **We have to be willing to address the issues in our lives.**

ADDRESS ISSUES

- Are we just passing through life unaware of our mission?
- How are we making authentic followers of Jesus? **Living on mission isn't an option (Matthew 28:18-20).**
- Most of us plan vacations better than we plan life. **If we fail to live intentionally, we will fail to win the next generation.**

LOVING JESUS

- Love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:29-30).
- To love Him is to know Him. **Read the Word, pray, serve** Jesus out of love, not duty.
- **We cannot love others until we love Jesus.**

LOVING OTHERS

- How are we loving others? Do we love enough to give to those in need?
- How are we living lives of service and submission (Ephesians 5:21)? Is my freedom more important?
- **As a follower of Christ, everything we do must flow from a heart that loves God and loves others (Ch. 13).**