

1 CORINTHIANS, Chapter 16 – Collection for the Saints; Personal Plans; Final Exhortations; Greetings; Solemn Farewell

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – **Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221**; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Latest Studies” on the right side. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

1 CORINTHIANS, Chapter 16 – Be Wise About . . . Christian Stewardship- flexible with personal plans; Watch, stand fast in the faith; Be Strong and let all be done in love!

In chapter fifteen, Paul talks about the resurrection. He is in sort of the height of glory, the work of Jesus Christ, His resurrection. Of what Jesus did for us through His death and resurrection, removing the sting of death! And ending with that glorious praise to God for the victory that we have in Jesus Christ!

It is said concerning some people that they are so heavenly minded, they are no earthly good. That cannot be said of Paul. He takes you from this glorious height of Spiritual worship and adoration and in chapter sixteen, he sort of just comes, now, to practical matters. He starts dealing in the sixteenth chapter with very practical things.

As a Christian, yes, we are lifted in worship into the heavenly. But the Christian life must be worked out in practical things, day to day living. Thus, Paul is able to turn now to very practical things in chapter sixteen. The first thing is the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

Apparently the believers at Corinth, when they wrote their questions to Paul, they asked him about the collection he was taking for the poor saints in Jerusalem. Paul answered their question and then closed the letter by informing the church of his personal travel plans and the plans for his associates in the ministry.

This chapter may seem unrelated to our needs today, but it actually deals in a very helpful way with three main areas of stewardship:

Money (1Co_16:1-4)

Opportunities (1Co_16:5-9)

People (1Co_16:10-24).

These are probably the greatest resources the church has today, and they must not be wasted.

Key Points – chapter 16

v. 1 **Collection** – giving, thankfulness, unity, duty to share

v. 2 **First day of week** – give as you are prospered – willingly not pressured

v. 3 **Whomever you approve** – above reproach - importance of accountability

v. 4 Willingness to go, **if fitting**

vs.5-6 Personal planning

v. 7 **“If the Lord permits”** Need for flexibility of plans

v. 8 Awareness of ministry priorities

v. 9 **Great and effective open door! Many adversaries!**

vs.10-11 Sensitivity and importance of validating of fellow workers

v. 12 Support for other pastors; not lording over

v. 13 Exhort all to watch, stand fast in the faith, be strong!

v. 14 Imperative that all you do, do it **with love!**

v. 15 Being **devoted** or addicted to the ministry

v. 16 **Submit** to others in ministry

vs.17-18 Importance of beneficial visits; provide what is **lacking**; refreshing one another’s **spirit**

vs.19-20 Greetings to and from all.

v. 21 Personal signature and note

v. 22 Unsaved are accursed, until they are saved!

Oh Lord, come!

v. 23 His **grace** be with you!

v. 24 **Love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen**

More Love to Thee, O Christ - Elizabeth P. Prentiss, William H. Doane, 1832-1915

1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee. This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!

2. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; now thee alone I seek, give what is best. This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!

3. Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise; this be the parting cry my heart shall raise; this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!

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1 CORINTHIANS, Chapter 16 – Collection for the Saints;

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia (Gal 2:9-10 - we should remember the poor, the very thing which I also was eager to do.), so you must do also:

1Co 16:2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

1Co 16:3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.

1Co 16:4 But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

1Co 16:5 Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia).

Personal Plans;

1Co 16:6 And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go.

1Co 16:7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits.

1Co 16:8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

1– After encouraging the church at Corinth to labor faithfully, Paul gives them a practical opportunity to do so in giving financially. Specifically, Paul was collecting money to give to the believers in Jerusalem who were feeling the effects of a famine in the region.

2– In light of this, when you meet together on the first day of the week, a day so suited for the heart to be flowing with love to our poorer brethren, lay something aside proportionate to the Lord's provision for you, so there will be no need of collections when I come.

3– Paul immediately gets into accountability. He wanted a representative from the Church, chosen by the church, to deliver the gift to Jerusalem. Paul seems to be setting a model to be above reproach in all financial matters.

4– If it “is fitting”, Paul declared he would be going with the church representatives to Jerusalem also. Also possibly, “If your collections be large enough to be worth an apostle’s journey.”

5– From Ephesus, where he wrote this letter, he planned to pass through Macedonia. Then he hoped to move south to Corinth. However these plans did not happen

6– He could not be certain what calls the Lord might have to some other places, where his presence would be necessary. Notice his use of the word “may”. It may be that he could stay all winter with them and then be sent on his way.

7– Paul plans to go to Corinth, but only if the Lord permits it. He wants to see them and spend some time with them, not just drop in and pass on by.

8– They but as pointing out the time he intended to stay at Ephesus: and we elsewhere read, that he was greatly desirous of being at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, Act_20:16 not to keep it, but because there would then be abundance of people from all parts there, to whom he should have an opportunity of preaching the Gospel.

1– *collection* - Stressing the need for Christian sharing, to take a collection for the needs in the Jerusalem area churches/famine, also persecuted believing Jews, remembering the poor. **Do you have a heart for the poor among you? That God supports His church through giving because every time we give, we “give away” a little part of our selfishness, taking a bigger view of the body of Christ?**

2– Notice the meeting day of the early church - on the “*first day of the week*”, cf. Acts 20:7). Giving is such an important and necessary part of the church. The importance of **everyone giving willingly** as they had prospered week by week. Cf. 1 Cor. 9:6-7. He didn’t want his presence when he came to be the motivating factor, but rather their desire and to share with those in need. **Do you see the blessing of tithing?**

Vs. 3-4 – The importance of accountability with regard to the handling of funds is apparent here. Paul wanted the church to **choose whomever they wanted** to take their gift or if is fitting, accompany him in bearing their gift to Jerusalem. **Do you insist on always having more than just the leader alone of being accountable?**

5– Paul states his plans here rather clearly, however, we will note that the Lord changes his plans more than once. **Do you go through the day with your schedule set in stone or will flexibility expecting changes? How flexible are you in your plans, when the Lord changes them?**

6– Paul’s desire to spend time with them, possible the whole winter, if it works out.

7– Now the real fact appears, “*if the Lord permits*”, **our personal plans must be subject to the Lord’s changing them as He wills. Are your plans made under the banner, “if the Lord wills”?**

8– There was a great revival (an “open door”) going on in Ephesus. Paul is saying that he is planning on staying and waiting in Ephesus at least another 50 days, until Pentecost.

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1Co 16:9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries (opposers).

1Co 16:10 And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.

1Co 16:11 Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren.

1Co 16:12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time.

Final Exhortations:

1Co 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

1Co 16:14 Let all that you do be done with love.

1Co 16:15 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—

1Co 16:16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

9 – I will tarry in Ephesus . . . **for a great and effective door has opened to me.** Why didn't Paul go to Corinth immediately? Because **he sees that God had given opportunity now** in Ephesus. Paul **wisely relied** not only on his own desires, but also **on God's open doors**. Paul knew the secret of directed service. His realistic appraisal of the situation is a true sign of maturity.

Vs. 10-11 – Paul had trouble with the Corinthians not respecting his authority as an apostle and as a minister of the gospel. What might they do to a young man like Timothy? Paul asks them to respect Timothy when he comes. *Let no one despise him:* This echoes Paul's later words to Timothy in *1Tim. 4:12*, who may have had both a lack of confidence and a lack of respect. It was important for God's people to not take advantage of Timothy and for Timothy to never give others an occasion to despise him.

12 – Paul did not rule over Apollos, who is mentioned among the apostles (1Co_1:12; 1Co_3:22). This gives a rare insight about how the early church leaders related to each other. It was not a hierarchical relationship and **Paul did not dictate his will to Apollos.**

13 – These essentially mean the same thing, said in a different way. Christians are to be like strong soldiers, on guard, watching for their Lord's return. These are two general rules that should govern any relationship with others: Be careful, and be loving

14 – How can **we watch out and stand fast, be brave and be strong—and at the same time be loving? We can't in our own strength. This can only happen as the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, lives His life through us day by day.**

Vs. 15-16 – You know that Stephanas and his family have devoted (addicted) themselves to helping the followers of Christ. They have been the chief instruments of supporting the work of God in Achaia, of which work they themselves have been the first fruits. These were the three men who brought the questions of the Corinthian Christians to Paul. Paul asks that as they are sent back by him with his letter, **they be received as devoted servants of the Lord. Submit to them and to all who works and labors with us.**

9 – God has made a grand opening to Paul in Ephesus. He perceives it will require much labor; and besides, he knows it is likely that there shall be many adversaries in oppositions. **Are we aware of how precious those times are when God opens a door for us? Do we exhibit maturity as Paul does here. How do you view “many adversaries”?**

Vs. 10-11 – Paul, who was older and an apostle, had trouble with the Corinthians not respecting his authority as an apostle and as a minister of the gospel. What might they do to a young man like Timothy? So, Paul asks them to show respect to Timothy, not despising him, when he comes. How do you treat younger, less experienced ministers? **Can you see the loving and caring for Timothy by Paul – a younger, less experienced teacher than Paul?**

12 – We have a rare insight about how the early church leaders related to each other. It was not a hierarchical relationship and Paul did not dictate his will to Apollos. **Is this this typical to your relationship with fellow and junior co-workers?**

13 – **We Christians are to be like strong soldiers, on guard, watching for their Lord's return.**

14 – All the watching, the standing fast, the bravery, and all the strength the Corinthians might show meant nothing without love. They were called to do all those things in a meek, humble spirit of love. **Are we doing everything in love?**

Vs. 15-16 – To what extent are addicted to the ministry of the saints? **Are we submitting to all those who work and labor with us in the ministry?**

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*1Co 16:17 I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied.
1Co 16:18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.*

Greetings and a Solemn Farewell

1Co 16:19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

1Co 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

1Co 16:21 The salutation with my own hand—Paul's.

17 – They probably were those of the household of Chloe, (*1Co 1:11*), who came either of their own accord, or were sent as messengers from the church. Paul was glad to see them, one of them being baptized by him, possibly all converted under his ministry. *lacking on your part* ...Either of their presence which supplied the want of theirs, or by giving him an in-depth account of their church affairs.

18 – By their coming and presence; the very sight of them gave him joy and pleasure, and more so their Christian discourse and conversation, and especially the account they brought of this. Church.

19 – The Churches in Asia Minor salute you. *Aquila and Priscilla* - Of these eminent persons we have heard of this special couple before. (*Acts 18:2, 8, 26; and Rom. 16:3*). *Church... in their house* - That is, the company of believers who generally worshipped there. Apparently Aquila and Priscilla devoted their house to this purpose. House churches were where many of these people came to know about Christ.

20 – It's a beautiful thing, to greet fellow believers with that affection, showing affection.

21 – In (*Gal. 4:15*), he said, I testify of your love for me that you have actually given me your eyes if you could. Also, as he signed the letter to the Galatians, he said, you notice with what large letters I written unto you. Paul was accustomed to using a copyist in penning his epistles (see the note on *Rom 16:22*), though he signed his own name, and expressed his Christian salutation in every epistle. (*2Th 3:17; Col 4:18*.) This gave proof that it was his own, and was a valuable token of his affectionate regard.

Vs. 17-18 – Paul was especially grateful for their coming, because they ministered to Paul's needs, refreshing his spirit and doing what the Corinthian church should have, but did not. Give thanks to those who minister to you! **Do our visits and assistances offer help and refresh the spirits of those we minister to?**

19 – Every Christian family should in some respects be a Christian church. Wherever two or three are gathered together, and Christ is among them, there is a church. **Is your family in some respect a church?**

20 – Probably our hug has sort of replaced the holy kiss these days. **Do your regularly greet believers appropriately?**

21 – **Do you generally personalize your message to other believers in some way?**

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1Co 16:22 *If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed (anathema). O Lord, come (Maranatha)!*

1Co 16:23 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

1Co 16:24 *My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

22 – "Whoever doesn't love Jesus, let him be accursed." If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. It is true that if a person doesn't love the Lord Jesus Christ, he is accursed. Sin is a terrible curse. Sin had disastrous effect in the life of the person that is sinning. Paul said, Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law. This probably is not a word of harshness, but rather a plead with the Corinthians, saying, "If you don't love the One who is altogether lovely, the One who died for you, the One who cares about you, the One who gave everything that He might be with you in this life and in the ages to come; **if you don't love this One who is all-wise and all-knowing yet all-loving and all-forgiving, then you curse yourself. Maranatha. The Lord is coming! You need to make your decision.**" The Jews, when they intended to express somewhat more than ordinarily severe, to say, let him be **anathema maranatha**, that is, **let the Lord determine His punishment, for we cannot, his crime is so great and heavy.** However in present times, in this the New Covenant, **because of the grace of Jesus Christ, even present believers may come to the Lord before they take their last breath!**

23 – The grace of our Lord Jesus - May the favor, influence, mercy, and salvation procured by Jesus Christ, be with you - prevail among you, rule in you, and be exhibited by you, in your life and conversation! Amen.

24 – Paul's final words, written with his own hand, do much to reveal his heart of love, even though he had to rebuke these Corinthians strongly. It was Paul's love, for both Jesus and His church, which made him such a great apostle. Paul had been stern with the Corinthian believers, but he closed his letter by assuring them of his love. After all, *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend"* (Pro_27:6). Paul has shared a great deal of spiritual wisdom with us. May we receive it with meekness and put it into practice to the glory of God!

22 – We have in these last three verses, with which the Apostle is ending this first Epistle, an expression which we meet with in no other part of the word of God, but which Paul delivers in a kind of denunciation which demands our attention. ***If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed (anathema). O Lord, come (Maranatha)!- A common greeting among the early church believers.***

Vs. 23-24 – *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all:* The letter ends with a desire for grace and love towards the Corinthians. And Paul's **final word** (before the Amen) **is Jesus**. He has been **emphasizing Jesus from beginning to end** in this letter.

Supposing we see and know any one person or persons living and dying in hatred to Christ, and supposing this person is near and dear to us, while full of hostility, in respect to the doctrines of grace; can we join the Apostle? Can we say of such as Paul did: ***If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed (anathema). O Lord, come (Maranatha)!*** Here is the trial of faith and love! **Sweetly** the Apostle concludes his Epistle, as **we have cause to conclude every day and night, every deed, prayer, ordinance and service; the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Lord Christ Jesus be with all His people. Amen.**

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