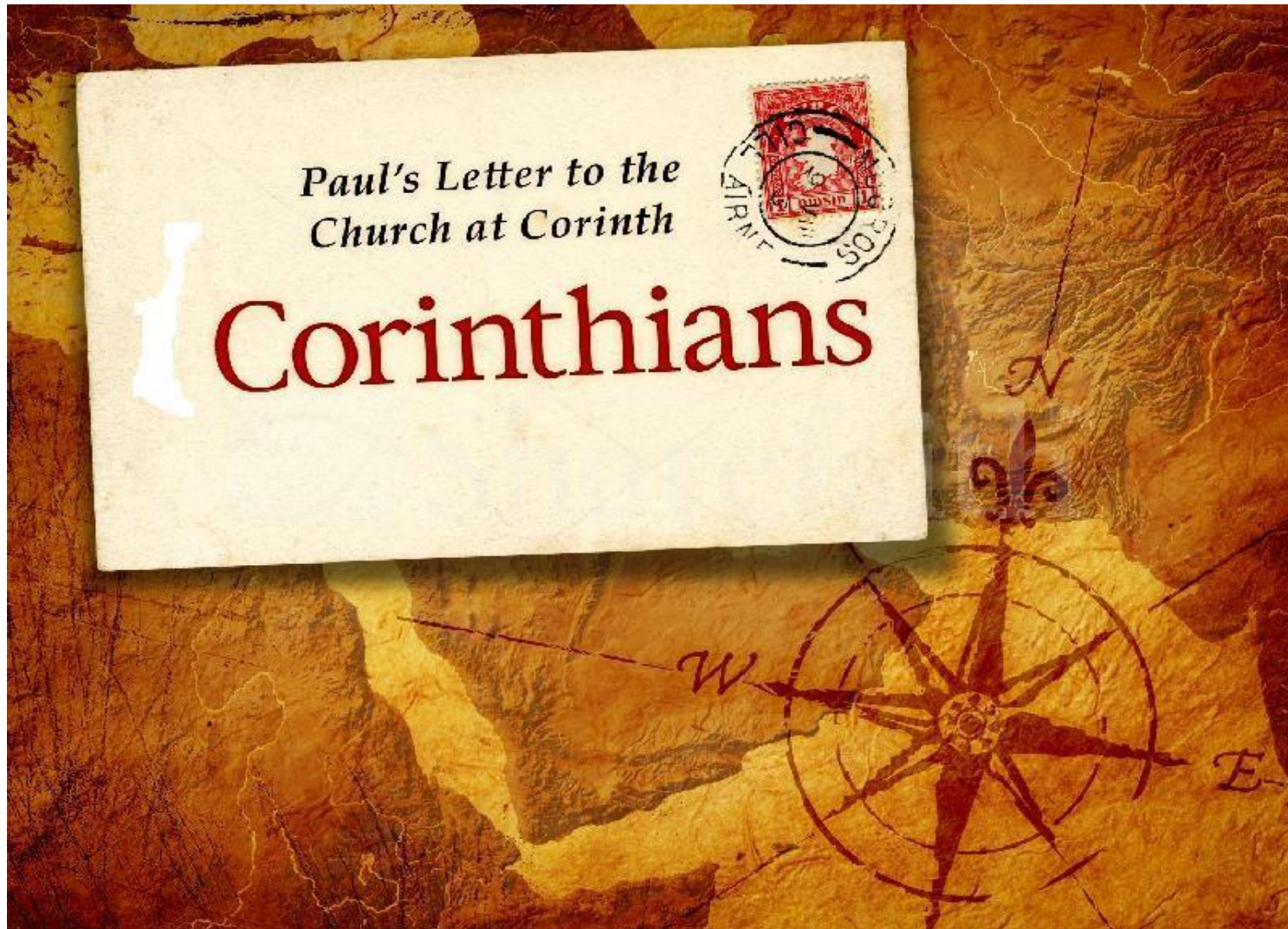


1 Cor.16:1-4 The Collection for the Saints



Outline*

- A. The Collection to Be Made 16:1-4
 - 1. Its Background: The Poor Saints at Jerusalem
 - 2. Its Use: For Saints at Jerusalem 16:1a
 - 3. Its Method: Same As the Churches of Galatia 16:1b
 - 4. Its Plan 16:2-4
 - a. As to Time, Participants and Preparation
 - b. As to Amount, Execution and Honesty
- B. Paul's Personal Plans 16:5-9
 - 1. Plans for Corinth 16:5-7
 - 2. Plans for Ephesus 16:8-9
- C. Paul's Personal Friends 16:10-12

The Poor Saints at Jerusalem

- It seems that the Corinthian Christians had heard about the collection (Gr. *logeias*, extra collection) Paul was getting together for the poor saints in Jerusalem and wanted to make a contribution.
- We are not sure of all the reasons for the saints in Jerusalem being poor.
- The following reasons have been given:
- There had been a famine in that area previously.
- This was a result of the great persecution in Acts 8:1.
- At the Jerusalem conference Paul had been asked to remember the poor, and he promised to do so (Gal 2:10).

Constable

McCalley

The Poor Saints at Jerusalem

Some related verses:

- Acts 8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him [Stephen] to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.
- Acts 11:29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.³⁰ And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

Today's Verses

- 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 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.

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

Now concerning the collection for the saints

collection - *logía* - to gather, collect; a collection, usually of money

- This section will now give Paul's direction to the church at Corinth for the collection of money.

for the saints - for [the relief of] the saints (God's people)

Amplified

- The money is to be used for the saints, which points to a church cause, not a social cause. McCalley

as I directed the churches of Galatia

directed - *diatassō* - to appoint, arrange, charge, give orders to

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

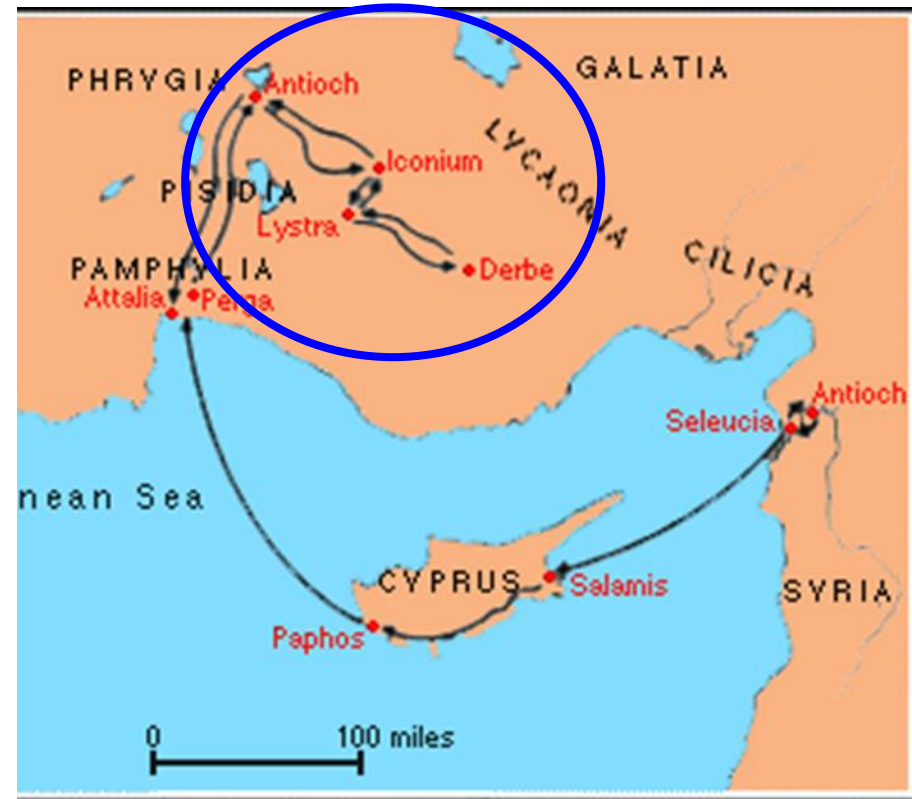
the churches of Galatia:

- The churches of Galatia evidently were those in southern Galatia including Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. Constable

so do you also

lit: so you [Corinthians] do also

- Paul will next give his instruction on giving!



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.

On the first day of every week

- The words first day of the week could be rendered “Sunday-by-Sunday.” McCalley
- From the earliest day of the church's existence Christians assembled on Sundays to worship in commemoration of the Lord's resurrection. Constable
- Acts 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

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.

each of you set [something] aside by/with himself [at home]

Interlinear

subject: each of you – of the church at Corinth

- All are to give, though all cannot give the same amounts.
- The responsibility to give was equal. McCalley

verb: set aside – *títhēmi* - to set in the proper place, assign a place

modifier: with himself - *para* – after verbs implying rest or remaining in a place - with himself, meaning at home

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.

more on “**set aside with himself**”

- This phrase would indicate that their gift was under their control. McCalley

storing up whatever he may have prospered in Interlinear

storing up - *thēsaurizō* - to lay up, store up

he may have prospered in - *euodoō* – to prosper, be prospered (present, passive)

- The continuous tense suggests the successive circumstances of varying prosperity as week follows week. Vine

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.

so that – with a purpose that

no collections be made when I [may] come

- The “may come” indicates the uncertainty of date and time of Pau’s arrival.
- They were not to wait until the last moment (Paul’s arrival) to decide how much to give. McCalley
- Paul did not want pressure put on believers when he arrived. McCalley

³ When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

when I arrive – again the uncertainty of Paul's arrival

whomever you may approve

approve - *dokimazō* – a test with a view to approval

- The church at Corinth should only approve ones who would pass the test of honesty.

I will send them with letters

- Paul planned to send a representative from each of the contributing churches, or possibly groups of churches, to Jerusalem with the gift. Constable

³ When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

I will send them with letters (cont.)

- The letters he spoke of may have been letters of introduction from himself since it appears that at this time he did not plan to make this trip himself.
Constable
- Perhaps the letters detailed how much money was being sent and who was bringing it.
McCalley
- Such a procedure would guarantee that the money would arrive safely and that people would perceive the whole project as honest.
Constable

3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

to carry your gift to Jerusalem

lit: to carry the gift of you

gift - *charis* – grace; a proof thereof in practical effects,
deeds of "grace," Vine

to carry the “grace of you” to Jerusalem [expanded]

- a financial gift is a grace gift - out from God's grace

Molloy

2 Cor 8:7 But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also.

[you] in this grace also be superabounding Wuest

3 When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

a financial gift is a grace gift - out from God's grace - cont.

Principles of giving under grace:*

1st – True giving to the Lord is a grace

- It is out from the new man who is created in Christ and led by the Holy Spirit. Molloy
- The believer under grace understands that whatever he has, God has allowed him to have only for a time.
- He is a steward of God's blessing.

2nd – True giving is always with forethought.

- It is not pressured.
- It is not emotional [not grudgingly out from the old man].
- It is to be planned [see verse 2]. * Merryman

³ When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem;

Principles of giving under grace:*

3rd – True giving is a stewardship that begins with yourself.

- 2 Cor 8:5 and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

4th – True giving is the privilege of everyone in the body of Christ (i.e. rich or poor).

- 2 Cor 8:3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord,
⁴ begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints. * Merryman

³ When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

Principles of giving under grace:

5th – True giving is a love [*agape*] giving.*

- You can give without being grateful [grudgingly].*
- But you cannot be grateful to the Lord without giving.*
- God loves a cheerful (hilarious) giver 2 Cor 9:7
- Giving is the fruit of abiding in Christ and being led by the Holy Spirit. Molloy

* Merryman

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

fitting - *áxios* - worthy, suitable

- The apostle was open to the possibility of going to Jerusalem as part of the group if this seemed best.*
 - After he wrote this letter he decided to go:*
 - Rom 15:25 but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.
 - And indeed went:*
- Acts 24:17 "Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings.

* Constable

Words used for giving in the New Testament *

1. **collection** - *logía* - to gather, collect; a collection, usually of money
 - 1 Cor 16:1a Now concerning the collection for the saints

2. **gift** - *charis* – the freedom to give, no pressure
 - 1 Cor 16:3b I will send them with letters to carry your gift [grace] to Jerusalem.

3. **contribution** – *koinonia* – fellowship, joint participation
 - giving is a joint participation in the Lord's work
 - we fellowship in that which we give to
 - Rom 15:26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

Words used for giving in the New Testament *

4. **ministry** – *diakonia* – from the word for deacon;
service [or giving] on behalf of saints

2 Cor 9:12 For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.

5. **service** - *leitourgia* – the idea is that of worship;
giving is a part of worship also
in verse 2 Cor 9:12

6. **generous gift** – *hadrotes* – abundance, lavish
2 Cor 8:20 taking precaution so that no one will discredit us in our administration of this generous gift
- this word shows us how big the gift was

Words used for giving in the New Testament *

7. **bountiful gift** – *eulogia* – lit: a blessing
2 Cor 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brethren that they would go on ahead to you and arrange beforehand your previously promised bountiful gift, so that the same would be ready as a bountiful gift and not affected by covetousness.
 - so a gift of money can be called a blessing
 - a blessing to the one who receives it and to the one who gives it
8. **alms** – *eleemosyne* – merciful, responding to a need
9. **offerings** – *proforah* – a bringing to,
Acts 24:17 "Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings."

Final Thoughts



The giving of finances is only a portion of the totality of giving:

1. Giving ourselves to the Lord.
 - Making ourselves and everything that he has graciously given us available to Him.
 - Seeking wisdom & guidance from Him on how we should allocate all that is His.
2. Giving ourselves to the ministry of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Exercising our spiritual gifts in the local church for the edification (building up in the faith) of the body.
 - Participating in God's ministries in the defense & confirmation (establishment) of the gospel of Christ.
3. Giving financially.

Molloy