

Giving

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

2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

3 And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem.

4 If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Intro

A. Parting Instructions: fully inspired - very important

(Paul's life was in danger - he did not know if this was the last time he would see them - so he made every word count. The instructions to the Corinthians are the longest letter to any church)

It certainly deals with the most problems from a truly doctrinal perspective

B. Money and Giving is left to the end after doctrinal matters - heart matters are discussed. vs. 58

Therefore my beloved brothers....be immovably and steadfastly and always abounding in the work of the Lord

A Word On Giving in Our Fellowship - we don't need a special word on giving much...because most get it here - hallelujah - but in the course of our study the Holy Spirit has it in our path.

Outline of Giving

I. How to Give is Most Important -

a. "I directed" "directs" in Greek - give orders, arrange thoroughly, to charge to appoint) God's Word Directs This Aspect of the Spirit-filled Life - (Paul opposed fleshly worldly wisdom in this very letter - a non-spirit filled person cannot discern the 1 Corinthians 2:14 the natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God)

1. Paul's arrangement was under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

2. The Spirit's (through Paul) arrangement included the larger picture of the church - in Galatia

b. "on the first day of the week" - this was the practice of the early church Acts 20:7 **Slide**

c. "each of you" - there is a corporate church wide appeal but it comes through individuals who are spirit filled - so mass emotional hype is un-needed and a disgrace and was unheard of in the New Testament church. This is not worldly wisdom - because "conviction is always better than compulsion." 2 Corinthians 9:7 **slide** - "ananke = pressure or distress = compulsion

part of the reason it is not a pressure thing is because in the NT economy each individual is to give!

d. store it up -

e. as he may prosper

Note: Malachi 3:10 slide - store house - in the temple - NT - we are individually the temples of the H.S. - so first collect in your heart a storehouse - a treasure house of good things given to you by the LORD Himself!!!!

Note 2: Matthew 13:51-52 Slide - out of his treasure - God calls you a treasure before you are saved - God found you Matthew 13:44 **44** "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

God calls you a treasure - though with out Him - it is corrupted and is bent on using itself for self-glorification and becomes a snare - many millions of men and women have used the abundance of treasure - their mind or their emotional bent or their personality to bend others into the most heinous of circumstances. But God bought the whole field - because some would believe and the treasure was valuable because that's how God created us in the garden - good!!! That image is salvageable until the very second of our death. Otherwise how could God say - "for God so loved the world" = God does not buy junk - He salvages treasure.

God takes you and begins to teach you - and out of that heart of treasure - your earthly treasures of money are now leveraged to be a help in the worldwide enterprise that is the church...and God's program to be a Pawn Star - He goes into the self storage garages that have been abandoned - left for dead - and He raises them from the dead - He says - it is worth the life of my Son - the son whom I love - as Abraham put it - isn't that enough value to place on the head of every human being alive right now?

Then after salvation - God gives you the treasure of His Word - with it's vast riches - and implants them into our hearts - that's why it says James 1:21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Meekly the implanted Word - meek because it is humbling to have such a great weight of treasure deposited into our very soul by the God of the universe - whenever you are blessed don't you just feel like...so amazingly humbled - it just is!

g. **"no collecting when I come"** - giving is to be thought out and worked out so that it is not last minute - think meekly - God you have blessed us this much - and we offer it to you and store it up just like you have stored up in me these great treasures of life and godliness - knowledge and understanding - hope and joy and peace and fellowship and abounding love - this tithe - this offering - no big deal!!!!

II. Who to Handle it is Equally Important

a. **"those whom you accredit by letter"**

Illustration - a deacon in a large church in the Sac Valley - was responsible for taking the offerings - this large church allowed one man to have access to the offering - little by little he took the cash and put it in his own pocket. Somewhere over 10,000 went missing.

1. individual autonomous churches know each other - not outside controlling interests in some hierarchy denomination.

2. God has a variety of gifts - to keep us accountable.

3. Letters of commendation were used to commend believers in that day - we have commended people from here - to do missions work - churches send people. Though they might not always get it right - they are not a guarantee - people from Bethel sent me an envelope - Bruce Holding read it - I read it and we 86'd it.

But a good reputation - the Proverbs says is a great thing - God is about taking the treasure He has made - performing CPR on it to bring it back to life through the Gospel - then making something beautiful even if it has been burnt to ashes by the world - and then taking it and saying "I commend to you our sister Phoebe a servant of the church that you

may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints -

God takes His creation - redeems it - and calls it worthy of the saints....

Wow -

These folks - commended - set apart to handle the Lord's work - are to be honored - and blessed and helped in their tasks. They hold the purse.

III. Giving is a Matter of the Heart "I should go also" - maybe they would need Paul's help - because Paul loved being a missionary - "missionary class" "outreach to missionaries"
Galatians 2:10 **slide**

10 Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Paul loved to help Christians who were poor and in need...

Acts 11:29-30 **29** So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. **30** And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Helping the poor - James 1:27 - this is pure and undefiled religion - helping widows and orphans in their distress.

Application: Store it up --
(just do it)

Thesauridzo

to gather and lay up, to heap up, store up

to accumulate riches

to keep in store, store up, reserve - to treasure

metaph. so to live from day to day as to increase either the bitterness or the happiness of one's consequent lot

Etymology of Thesaurus

Origin

late 16th century: via Latin from Greek thēsauros 'storehouse, treasure.' The original sense 'dictionary or encyclopedia' was narrowed to the current meaning by the publication of Roget's Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases (1852).