

1 Corinthians 16

1 Corinthians 1.1-18 – Miscellaneous instructions (as the letter is coming to a close)

1 Corinthians 16.1-4

V1 – The wording of *v 1* refers to a question from the Corinthians

- Why was there a poverty situation then?** A famine (*Acts 11.27-28*) – Prophesied by Agabus; *Galatians 2.10* – Paul promised to take care of the poor
- Why would it have hit Jerusalem especially hard?** Because of the persecution there by the Jews
- What guidelines do we have concerning how much to give?** *2 Cor. 9.1-9* – To give sacrificially and generously and regularly (not haphazard giving)
- Congregations in Galatia: Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe

V2 – Notice: Weekly collections

- What are the advantages of giving on a weekly basis?** It is a good habit to develop
- What happens if we give only once a month?** It begins to look like too much money to give to the church
- Wonder if a person gets paid only once a month?** Then he should divide up that salary into 4 (or 5) parts and give on the first day of every week
- Who is included in "each one of you"?** Every member who has an income
- What about teenagers who are baptized members of the congregation?** If they get an allowance, or cut grass, or shovel snow, etc., they are required to give to help support the congregation and its works
- What should we do if we are out of town over a weekend?** We should leave our contribution with the church treasurer before we leave town – *1 Cor. 16.1-2* is not suspended from the Bible just because we are out of town!
- Read Malachi 3.8-10**
- Read Phil. 4.17** – It is a great honor to give to support the Lord's work, both in its local work and in its mission efforts

V3-4 – *Acts 20.4* – This refers to men from Greece who accompanied Paul back to Jerusalem

- See *2 Corinthians 8.16-21* – Everything is to be done honorably in the sight of all people; this is the reason for Paul's caution in taking the donations back to Jerusalem
- The treasury of the church should be handled very carefully – with several witnesses present for the counting the money each week, a regular financial report, etc.
- 1 Cor. 9.14-18* – Paul preached for free, but said that it was a mistake not to take a salary from the Corinthian church (the only mistake that he ever talked about making after he became a Christian)
- Preachers should always accept payment for their services; it insults the congregation not to accept their gift (whether for a visiting preacher or a preacher who works full-time with the congregation)
- If a visiting preacher, for example, does not need the money, he should still accept it and give it to a mission work or some other work of the church, but he must never reject what the church offers!

1 Corinthians 16.5-9

V 5 – He would go to Macedonia, then to Corinth, so that they could take care of their problems first (See 2 Cor. 1.23-24)

V 6 – Acts 20.2-3 – fulfilled – He stayed in Corinth during the winter months
-*"Send me on my way"* – refers to financial support and their generous gifts

V 7 – To give them time to get their *"house in order"*
-See 1 Cor. 4.21 – He would come either with a rod or with love

V 8-9 – Many adversaries (Demetrius, etc.)

1 Corinthians 16.10-14

V 10 – Read 1 Tim. 4.12 – Timothy = timid, shy, not bold like Apollos or Titus
-Can you imagine sending a shy, young preacher into the mess at the church at Corinth?

V 11 – Why did Paul have to warn them not to despise Timothy? Because they had a long history of arrogance and abuse

V 12 – Apparently, what had the Corinthians requested? To have Apollos sent
-Why was that not a good idea for him to go there? 1 Cor. 1.12 – a group there was named after him

V 13 – This is an abrupt interruption, but common in the last few verses of Paul's letters (same in our letters today) – some final thoughts (we have to get everything in before the end of the letter)
-*"Be on the alert"* – Why? 1 Peter 5.8-9

V 14 – A reference back to 1 Cor. 13

1 Corinthians 16.15-18

V 15-16 – Some mistreatment of the household of Stephanas
-Stephanas – his family was first converted in Greece (maybe an elder now?)

V 17 – Three messengers had arrived from Corinth

V 18 – These messengers had encouraged Paul

1 Corinthians 16.19-24 – Final greetings

V 19 – Asia = The Roman province (now referred to in geography class as Asia Minor – the modern day country of Turkey)

-Remember the Seven Churches of Asia (*Rev. 2-3*)

-Prisca (nickname for Priscilla) and Aquila were with Paul in Ephesus

-Where was the church meeting there? In the house of Priscilla and Aquila

-How does that fact affect the false doctrine that there can be no eating in the church building? It destroys the doctrine

-Remember *Acts 18* – the church in Corinth was started by Aquila, Priscilla, and Paul

V 20 – The holy kiss – a greeting in the first century (even among men)

-*Galatians 2.9* – a reference to the handshake - so the holy kiss is not binding today, but can be used in a particular society, if that is the custom (such as in French-speaking countries today)

-But a handshake is just as Scriptural as a holy kiss

V 21 – *V 21-24* were written in Paul's own hand; the rest of the letter was probably dictated

-This may indicate that Paul's thorn in the flesh had to do with his eyesight (blindness, some other eye disease, etc.); or it may not indicate that

V 22 – Maranatha – See *Phil. 4.5, Rev. 22.20* – **Can we pray that the Lord will come today?**

V 24 – Amen = May it be as it has been asked!

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