

# "TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



## 1 CORINTHIANS 16

### BACKGROUND...

- Acts 15
  - Paul and Barnabas come to Jerusalem about the question of acceptance of the Gentiles without circumcision
  - The apostles command acceptance without circumcision — issue a letter to the churches (vv. 22-29)
  - And in Paul's account of the story in Gal. 2:10 he also reports that the apostles "...only asked us to remember the poor — the very thing I also was eager to do."
- The collection for the poor in Judea was born
  - In 2 Cor. 8:24 Paul seems to reveal that part of his reason was to bind the Jewish and Gentile churches together through this gift

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. <sup>2</sup> 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

### HOW TO DO IT...

- As I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also
  - On the first day of every week — why?
  - Each one — why?
  - Put aside and save — why?
  - As he may prosper — why?
- The alternative...collections made, when he came
  - How effective would this have been? (Think about your own budget)

### APPLICATION TO TODAY?

- Does this special collection for the saints apply to church budget today? — how? why?
- So how should we do this?

- On the first day of every week — why?
- Each one — why?
- Put aside and save — why?
- As he may prosper — why?
- The alternative...collections made, when a need arises(?)
- How effective would this have be? (Think about your own budget)

**“WHEN I ARRIVE...” — 2 COR. 8:21**

.<sup>3</sup> When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; <sup>4</sup> and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

- Whomever you \_\_\_\_\_... 1 Cor. 16:3
  - I will send them with \_\_\_\_\_ to carry your gift to Jerusalem (v. 3) — why?
  - And if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4)
  - 2 Corinthians 8:21 “for we have regard for what is \_\_\_\_\_, not only in the sight of the \_\_\_\_\_, but also in the sight of \_\_\_\_\_.”
- What does this teach us about...
  - Does it matter what people think? (Always?)
  - Church finances?
  - Leadership conduct?
  - Male / female interactions?
  - Christian conduct in the world?

<sup>5</sup> But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia; <sup>6</sup> and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I may go. <sup>7</sup> For I do

**PAUL’S PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE 1 COR. 16:5-9**

- But I will come to after...
  - ...I go through \_\_\_\_\_ (to collect for the poor of Judea)
  - 2 Corinthians 8:1, 2 “Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches

passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.<sup>8</sup> But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;<sup>9</sup> for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.”

- Perhaps come and winter with you (longer stay) — why?
- Why, do you suppose, did Paul want to stay in Corinth a longer time — not just pass through?
- What did Paul mean by “a wide \_\_\_\_\_ for effective service has opened to me,
- ...and there are many \_\_\_\_\_.”

#### **DANGER TO TIMOTHY — 1 COR. 16:10,11**

<sup>10</sup> Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he is doing the Lord’s work, as I also am. <sup>11</sup> So let no one despise him. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brethren.

- See that he is with you without cause to be afraid...
  - Were things that rough? — how so?
  - He is doing the Lord’s \_\_\_\_\_, as I also am
  - Let no one \_\_\_\_\_ him; send him in \_\_\_\_\_; I’m \_\_\_\_\_ him

#### **ABOUT APOLLOS — 1 COR. 16:12**

<sup>12</sup> But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity.

- Not now...
  - Paul had encouraged him on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_
    - Why did the Corinthians want Apollos?
    - Why do you suppose he temporarily declined?
    - Lesson for today?
  - He will come when he has opportunity — translation?

#### **A FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT — 1 COR. 16:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. <sup>14</sup> Let all that you do be done in love.

- Be on the alert — for what?
- Stand firm in the faith — why?
- Act like men — what does this mean?

- Be strong — in what way?
- Let all be done in love — why?

<sup>15</sup> Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), <sup>16</sup> that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. <sup>17</sup> I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. <sup>18</sup> For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

<sup>19</sup> The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. <sup>20</sup> All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

<sup>21</sup> The greeting is in my own hand — Paul. <sup>22</sup> If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha. <sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. <sup>24</sup> My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

**PAUL TRIES TO APPOINT SOME LEADERSHIP — 1 COR. 16:15-18**

- \_\_\_\_\_' household
  - First fruits of \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to ministry
- Be in \_\_\_\_\_ to such men
  - Elders?
  - Including also \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - They were \_\_\_\_\_ (refreshed spirits)
  - What is the lesson for modern churches?

**GREETINGS FROM OTHERS... — 1 COR. 16:19-24**

- Churches of \_\_\_\_\_ greet you
  - \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ & their house church
  - All the brethren greet you
- Greet one another with a holy \_\_\_\_\_
- This greeting is in my own \_\_\_\_\_
  - Why would this be important to point out?
  - How is this connected to "if anyone does not love the Lord..."
- Final salutation (something important)
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_