

GENEROSITY AND GRATITUDE

1 Corinthians 16:1-24





13

Daily Readings

- 01 1 Corinthians 16:1-12
- 02 1 Corinthians 16:13-24
- 03 Acts 18:1-17
- 04 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- 05 1 Timothy 6:18-19
- 06 Ephesians 6:10-17
- 07 2 Timothy 1:13-14

THE COLLECTION FOR THE LORD'S PEOPLE

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

PERSONAL REQUESTS


⁵ After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia. ⁶ Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷ For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

¹⁰ When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am. ¹¹ No one, then, should treat him with contempt. Send him on his way in peace so that he may return to me. I am expecting him along with the brothers.

¹² Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

¹³ Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

¹⁴ Do everything in love.



¹⁵ You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the Lord's people. I urge you, brothers and sisters, ¹⁶ to submit to such people and to everyone who joins in the work and labors at it. ¹⁷ I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. ¹⁸ For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

FINAL GREETINGS

¹⁹ The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. ²⁰ All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.

²² If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord!

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

²⁴ My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

WARM UP

Have you ever received an unexpected gift of money that came just at the right time? Have you ever “paid it forward” and blessed someone unexpectedly? Do you have a “pay it forward” story you can share with the group?

In reflecting on the study of 1 Corinthians, what is an applicable truth you have learned this year?

EXPLORING 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-24

As Paul begins his final exhortation to the Corinthians, he responds to an inquiry about giving. Paul encourages them to “lay aside” funds to be used for ministry purposes. When and how did you learn the importance of giving tithes and offerings to God?

What does Paul mean in verse 2, “in keeping with your income?” How might the following phrase be aligned with Paul’s encouragement: not equal giving, but equal sacrifice.

After Paul highlights the importance of men who would steward gifts to the church with integrity (verse 3), he shifts his focus to future plans and the care of his disciple, Timothy. Why do you think Paul was concerned for Timothy’s well-being in Corinth (verses 10-11)?

What is the significance of Paul's five commands in 13 and 14? Consider and discuss the distinctions and reasons for each (read Acts 18:1-17 for context):

- Be on your guard –
- Stand firm in the faith –
- Be courageous –
- Be strong –
- Do everything in love –

How does this last chapter differ from the body of Paul's letter? Why do you think his tone is softer at the end? How does this relate to the beginning of the letter?

APPLICATION

In verse 15, Paul describes how the household of Stephanas has “devoted themselves to the service of the Lord's people.” What are practical ways we can follow their example? Could these words be used to describe your service to the Lord?

THINK

“Generosity isn't an act. It's a way of life.”

- Chip Ingram

PRAYER

List one or two prayer concerns to share with your group. Make time to pray for one another and thank God for His Word.