**1 CORINTHIANS 16**

**Let all that you do be done with love**

In Chapter 15 the Apostle spoke of glorious things… Salvation… Crucifixion… Resurrection… Rapture… Our new bodies in heaven… Grace… Victory, and our everlasting hope in Jesus Christ.

I got to share 1 Corinthians 15 three times last week: Once with you… Then with a grieving family who had lost their 28 year old son… And then again at Cheryl Abram’s funeral.

Paul goes from the glorious subject matter of chapter 15 to some practical business matters in chapter 16… Offerings… Travel plans… And some H.R. stuff.

**THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS**

**1 Corinthians 16:1** Now concerning the collection for the saints, **(IE, the persecuted church in Jerusalem)** as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

2 On the first *day* of the week ***(Sunday)*** let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, ***(Freely give)*** that there be no collections when I come.

* IE, take a collection when you meet for church service. We do the same and some of you use Paypal; some of you use the USPS. Paul did not want the visual of him asking for money to be remembered by anyone.
* I agree that it is in bad taste for a preacher to beg for $$
* Paul will tell them HOW to decide how much to give in **2 COR 9:7** - So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
  + It has been my anecdotal observation that the happiest people in the church are the tithers…

3 And when I come, whomever you approve by *your* letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. 4 But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

* **CEV** - Choose some followers to take the money to Jerusalem. I will send them on with the money and with letters which show that you approve of them. 4 If you think I should go along, they can go with me.
* There were, it seems, some hard feelings between the very Jewish church in Jerusalem and the newer Gentile churched throughout Europe and modern day Turkey. The Jewish churches were a bit “Uppity” and the Gentiles knew it… But were supporting them financially anyway. It was LOVE winning out!
* BTW… If you are struggling with someone, a critic, an enemy, an in-law… Blessing them is the best way to win them over…

**PLANS FOR TRAVEL**

5 Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia). **(Northern Greece)**

6 And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go. 7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, **if the Lord permits**. **NLT - This time I don't want to make just a short visit and then go right on. I want to come and stay awhile, if the Lord will let me.**

8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. **JUNE** 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, **and *there are* many adversaries**. **(He called them beasts in CH 15)**

* Both John and Paul were mistreated in Ephesus. However, because of the great amount of people there they both stayed and preached there.

**TIMELY TIM**

10 And if **(WHEN)** Timothy comes, **(Tim delivered THIS letter)** see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also *do.* 11 Therefore let no one despise him. **(1 TIM 4:12)** But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren.

* Timothy’s timidity and youth made him vulnerable to be disrespected… The Corinthian’s pride made them likely to be disrespectful. Paul warns them both.

**FINAL INSTRUCTIONS**

12 Now concerning *our* brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time.

* Apollos was very popular in Corinth… SO much so that people were naming their faith after Apollos… **“We are of Apollos… CH 1”**
* Paul wanted Apollos to go and clear some of that up but Apollos was not willing to get involved with that yet…

13 Watch, **(BOLO)** stand fast in the faith, **(TAKE A STAND)** be brave, **(MATURE)** be strong.

14 Let all *that* you *do* be done with love. (The more excellent way – CH 12)

15 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, (In Greece) and *that* they have devoted **(Addicted)** themselves to the ministry of the saints—16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us.*

* Stephanus was one of the first converts in Corinth.
* His household was one of the few families that the Apostle Paul baptized.
* It sounds like they were there at every opportunity.

17 I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied.

* **THEY WERE GIVERS!**

18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

* **ACKNOWLEDGE THEM FOR GIVING? NO…**
* **For being blessings… For being there when needed… Feeding the poor, Encouraging the discouraged, and emboldening the timid.**

**GREETINGS**

19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

* I love that we keep hearing about Aquila and Priscilla hosting the church in their home. They did this in Corinth, Ephesus and in Rome.
* What a wonderful blessing it is to have church activities in your home.
* Not all of us can do it… I am grateful to all who can!
* Did you know that the early church did not meet in church building until the third century? Until then, they met in any room that would hold them and a lot of houses!

20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. (Morally blameless, sacred, ceremonial kiss)

* American men do NOT kiss one another , and we ARE NOT SORRY!

21 The salutation with my own hand—Paul's.

* Paul had to use a scribe to send letters because of his bad eyesight. So… he takes the pen and signs the letter.

22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. **(IE, being IN the church without the Lord being in you WILL NOT SAVE YOU)** O Lord, come! ***(Maranatha!)***

**BE READY!**

**GRACE & LOVE**

23 The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. 24 My **love** *be* with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.