

## 1 Corinthians 16 and the Collection 05-01-22 AM

*Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. 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. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2*

The Apostle Paul gave a direction to the church of Christ in Corinth that they were to take up a collection (of money) on the first day of every week. Paul tells them that this was a command made to all churches. He tells them in this passage that the collection was to consist of people contributing what they thought appropriate, in accordance to their prosperity. Finally, Paul told the Corinthians and us when this collection would take place. We still follow this pattern in regards to a collection, as well as the pattern of the use of that collection.

We might consider that our giving is now dedicated to the Lord, and is to be used for the work of the church. We sometimes use the word “treasury” to describe the collected amount. In Acts 11:28 the collection was made before the need had arisen, showing us that we are to collect even before a need arises (hence the “*first day of every week*” command). Paul told the Corinthians to hold in collection the money for his arrival in 1 Corinthians 16:3. Thus storing that contribution is the scriptural method of collecting it.

Sometimes we wonder about the true purpose and intent of the collection. Is it meant to enrich the giver by increasing his faith and his involvement in the church, or is it meant to be a practice means to accomplishing church purposes? There seems to be a statement that it should be viewed as both. In 2 Corinthians 9:12 Paul says “*the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God*”. This “*not only...but*” seems to point to two views of the service; one is practical, meeting the needs, but one is spiritual, bringing us closer to God. For the giver, it is a reminder that HE supplied the blessing. For the receiver, we thank HIM for the support and the promise made in Matthew 6 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you”. Finally, we praise HIM for each other, and are brought more tightly together in our relationship.