

# Studies In First Corinthians

## (I Corinthians 16:1-11)

1. Were the instructions concerning the collection for the saints only given to the church in Corinth?

No: *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye" (I Corinthians 16:1).*

- The same things are to be taught in every congregation (**I Corinthians 4:17**).
- A treasury is needed when there are things to financial support that are a work of the church (i.e. **Romans 15:25-27** and **I Corinthians 9:4-14**).
- The purpose of the funds here is to help poor saints, which they will later be called upon to carry out (**II Corinthians 8:1-9:13**).
- It is clear, in the Scriptures, that there is a difference between the work of the church and that of an individual Christian even in regards to "benevolence" (**I Timothy 5:3-16**).
- The "ye" are not non-Christians. Remember, this epistle is addressed to saints (**I Corinthians 1:2**).

2. When is the collection to be taken?

First day of the week: *"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (I Corinthians 16:2).*

- While we may assemble any day of the week for spiritual things (**Acts 2:46**), Christians are to meet on the first day of the week at minimum (**Acts 20:7**).
- We give as we purpose in our hearts (**II Corinthians 9:7**).
- When we prosper and do not give to God, we are robbing Him (**Malachi 3:8-10**).
- That being said, our giving is not based upon a certain % of income. The principle is not to just give our leftovers (**Luke 21:1-4**).
- How we invest, not just our money either, is a telling sign of where our hearts are (**Matthew 6:19-21**).

3. Was Paul going to come to Corinth and take the funds collected and do whatever he wanted with those funds?

No: *"(3) And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem. (4) And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me" (I Corinthians 16:3-4).*

- Each local congregation is responsible for overseeing the work they do. This is clearly seen in the work of elders (**I Peter 5:1-4**).
- Other congregations had to pick their messengers to send as well (**II Corinthians 8:16-23**)

4. Did Paul expect hospitality if he came to the brethren in Corinth?

Yes: *"(5) Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia: for I do pass through Macedonia. (6) And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I go. (7) For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit"* (**I Corinthians 16:5-7**).

- It may be that Paul planned to make this trip prior to going to Rome as a prisoner (**Acts 19:21**).
- He did not end up getting there as they faced trouble in Asia (**II Corinthians 1:8-23**).
- Had he come to them, He expected their hope to go on from there to keep preaching elsewhere (**Romans 15:24** and **III John 6-7**).
- Expecting lodging and financial aid to preach is what Paul should have expected (**Luke 10:3-8**, **Romans 12:13**, **Philemon 20-22**, **Hebrews 13:1-2**, and **I Peter 4:9**).

5. Was Paul able to teach in Ephesus without any difficulties?

NO: *"(8) But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost. (9) For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries"* (**I Corinthians 16:8-9**).

- A great door opened means opportunities to teach (**II Corinthians 2:12** and **Colossians 4:3**).
- One of the largest problems in Ephesus was due to the "Great Goddess Diana" (**Acts 19:21-41**).
- Later, the Ephesians would even have to deal with false apostles (**Revelation 2:1-3**).

6. Could we say that Paul and Timothy [Timotheus] were united in the faith?

Yes: *"Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do"* (**I Corinthians 16:10**).

- **Romans 16:21**, **Philippians 2:19-24**, and **I Thessalonians 3:2**.

7. What was Paul trying to make sure did not happen to Timothy?

He wanted to make sure Timothy wasn't despised: *"Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren"* (**I Corinthians 16:11**).

- No one should have looked down [despised] on Timothy as a lesser person. This could have had something to do with his age (**I Timothy 4:12**).
- It is important that a teacher establish his authority (**Titus 2:15**; cf. **Matthew 7:28-29**).
- When one despises a messenger of the Lord they are despising the Lord too (**Luke 10:16**).
- Sometimes preachers are not well received even by supposed brethren (**III John 6-11**).