

"CONCERNING THE COLLECTION"
1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4

INTRO: One of the great commands of scripture is found in Ephesians 5:1 where it says, "**BE YE FOLLOWERS OF GOD, AS DEAR CHILDREN.**" Now certainly there are MANY WAYS we can fulfill that admonition as Christians but when the concept of FOLLOWING GOD is studied, one particular area of following Him that rises to the top of the kettle is **GIVING!** Think about it. God has given us so many things. But the GREATEST THING HE GAVE US was **JESUS CHRIST HIS SON...John 3:16.** GOD IS A GIVING GOD! He has given us life, provision, care, families, breath, health, brains, and the GREATEST GIFT OF ALL....**SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.** And so, if we are going to FOLLOW GOD AS HE EXPECTS, one way to do so is in GIVING TO HIM. **GIVING TO THE LORD IS A GREAT WAY TO SHOW OUR LOVE FOR HIM, AS HE GAVE HIS BEST FOR US THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.** Today I want us to consider the concept of BIBLICAL GIVING under the title of "CONCERNING THE COLLECTION."

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NOTE: This should be one of the MOST EXCITING AND ENJOYABLE studies of scripture, AND WILL BE, unless a person is out of fellowship with Christ and does not give to the Lord's Work on a regular basis.

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SELECETED SCRIPTURES ON GIVING:

Deuteronomy 16:17; 1 Chronicles 29:9; Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7

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ONE KEY PASSAGE ON GIVING IS 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4

I. THE COLLECTION TO BE TAKEN - VS. 1

A. Paul was speaking about a collection he was taking concerning the poor Christians at Jerusalem who were financially destitute because of a famine that had hit that area. This famine took place during the years of AD 45,46 and many Christians suffered greatly.

B. Paul had previously invited churches from Macedonia, Galatia, and Antioch to give to the needs of Christians who were in the famine and they responded positively. Romans 15:26; Corinthians 8:1-5

C. Paul taught that **GIVING TO OTHERS IN NEED** is truly a DIVINE PRINCIPLE. Galatians 6:10

GIVING TO OTHERS IN NEED SHOULD BE A BASIC DESIRE AND WILLINGNESS OF ALL TRUE BELIEVERS.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED - VS. 2

NOTE: There are many scriptures that teach believers how and what to give to the work of the Lord. This text presents some of the most practical guidelines for consistent giving for us to consider.

A. We are to Give Regularly

"UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK."

1. The Common Day of Combined Worship for Believers. (Acts 20:7)
2. Giving is a very tangible part of True Worship on the Lord's Day.
(Psalm 96:7-9)
3. Giving is to be given REGULARLY, not just when one feels generous or when there is a special need.

B. We are to Give Individually

"LET EVERY ONE OF YOU."

1. Each individual believer is to Worship God with an offering.
2. Where there are two people receiving an income in a family, each one is to give to the offering.
3. Parents are to teach their Christian children to give.

C. We are to Give Systematically

"LAY BY HIM IN STORE."

1. The general rule for giving is that we should plan ahead what we are going to give at each service. AND that amount should be "SET ASIDE" out of one's income at the point of financial increase. (Proverbs 3:9,10).

2. There may be times when giving may be spontaneous. As believers we should be willing to give at all times as the need arises.

(2 Corinthians 8:11,12)

D. We are to Give Proportionally

"AS GOD HATH PROSPERED HIM."

1. No set amount of giving is specified in this passage for giving. As God blesses us, we are to give.

2. But the tithe is a good place to begin our giving as it was laid out in the OT. (Malachi 3:10). By the way, there were three tithes in the OT. One to the government, one to the temple and one for general welfare of others.

E. We are to Give Liberally

"NO GATHERINGS WHEN I COME."

1. Paul requested that the offering for the poor at Jerusalem be given before he arrived so that it did not need to be dealt with upon his arrival.

2. But the principle is that we should give as LIBERALLY AS GOD HAS GIVEN TO US.

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE CHALLENGE TO BE ACCEPTED

A. Luke 6:38

B. 2 Corinthians 8:7-10

C. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION:

The more we love the Lord, the more obedient we are to the scriptures, the more genuine our worship is - the greater will be our giving.