

**“HOW ARE CHURCHES TO
HANDLE MONEY?”**
1 Corinthians 16:1-4

INTRODUCTION

In this letter to the Corinthians, the ending is just as important as the beginning and the middle. The first 4 verses in chapter 16 deal with the collection of money for the saints. In some churches, money is *always* spoken of. In other churches, it is *never* spoken of. There is a proper balance somewhere in between. Paul tries to address the practical need of the poor saints in Jerusalem and Judea. There was a long-standing famine in Israel which led to the poverty of many. This was also addressed in **2 Corinthians, Romans 15:26, and Acts 11:29, 30; 24:17.**

THE COLLECTION

In the very beginning of this chapter is the idea the church is not divided between Jew and Gentile. The collection for the Jewish believers in Jerusalem and Judea was gathered by the Gentile church. Corinth was a wealthy city and needed to think of others, as should we. **“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith,” Galatians 6:10 NKJV.**

FIRST DAY

Paul said to collect on the first day of the week, Sunday, when they gathered together. (The first fruits is to honor the Lord, **Proverbs 3:9, 10**). The collection was rooted in the offering for the tabernacle under Moses, and renovation of the temple under Hezekiah, Josiah and Malachi. A collection at the church should be a part of our worship, so it is *not* for unbelievers! Note that while there are many great para-church ministries, those should never replace giving to the local church!

PLANNED GIVING

Giving to God has to be a priority! Our giving should be planned. Unfortunately, things like paying for cable TV, cell phones, gym memberships and recreational activities seem to be more important to some people than the work of the Lord. That was why Haggai rebuked the nation of Israel for neglecting the rebuilding of the temple. Their houses had become more important.

HOW MUCH?

We need to live within our means and exercise self-control. The Lord wants us to give as He prospers us. We should give to His work even if we don't have a lot. The widow was commended for giving just 2 mites. She gave all she had, Mark **12:41-44**. God loves a cheerful giver, **2 Cor. 9:7**. Remember, where your treasure is, that is where your heart is!

CONSIDER

The Lord wants us to beware of covetousness. It is a great idol, even today! Covetousness is the strong desire to acquire more material possessions, more than other people have. Jesus said **“...Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses”**, Luke **12:15 NKJV**

Paul did not want to pressure anyone into giving. He wanted to send someone else with the money to Jerusalem in order to be accountable. He greatly desired other sets of eyes on these funds so there would be transparency. He wanted to remove any doubts of impropriety in his ministry!

PRAY

- * That we would have hearts that love the lost!
- * That the body of Christ would support the local churches financially.
- * That the Lord would allow us to purchase the land behind the church for youth activities.