



DESERT VIEW BIBLE CHURCH

SERIES: FOLLOWING CHRIST THROUGH CHAOS • 8.28.22 •
1 CORINTHIANS 16 •

MAIN POINT

Living for Christ impacts our finances, our relationships, and our commitments.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever had very important information to communicate, but only a limited time in which to relate it? Share your experience with the group.

How did you make sure you communicated all the essential information?

When Paul reached the last section of his Letter to the Corinthians, there were still a few important items that he still wanted to address. The believers still had unanswered questions about giving, and Paul had a few more instructions and commands to deliver. In these verses, Paul delivered a few rapid-fire exhortations and general directions for them as they continued in the faith.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4.

Paul gave four principles for the Corinthians to follow. Identify them as a group.

How do you think the Corinthians understood the instruction to set aside a sum of money in keeping with their income?

What did Paul's plans for handling money suggest about the handling of money given to churches today?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. How does God bless our giving? What should our attitude be as we give?

Why is it a good idea to give over and above your tithe for specific efforts like benevolence and disaster relief? How does this show the church to the world?

Paul began this section by answering a question raised by the Corinthians. There had been a recent drought in Jerusalem, and Paul used this event as a context to instruct the Corinthians in their giving practices. In these verses, we find four timeless principles that apply to Christian giving. First, all Christians are expected to give and to do so regularly. Giving is not only for those who are particularly wealthy or generous, but it is the duty of all Christ-followers.

The next principle is our giving should be proportionate to our income. This is seen in the practice of tithing. Giving according to one's income results in some giving more, others less; but all give with equal commitment. Lastly, all believers should be deliberate, joyful, and prayerful in their giving. We are not to give impulsively, but are to set something aside and save it so it will be available as a need arises—such as the drought in Jerusalem the Corinthians provided relief for.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 16:5-12.

Paul includes a summary of his travel plans in these verses. Where was he going? Why did he want to come to Corinth after he had gone to Macedonia?

Why does Paul send more mature Christians—like Timothy and Apollos—to visit the Corinthians? What does this illustrate about Paul's affection and care for these brothers and sisters?

Have you ever traveled to another city or country on a mission trip? How did your time there help support the work of the established church in that city?

Paul instructed the Corinthians to help Timothy feel at home among them. How important is hospitality in the life of a church?

Writing from Ephesus, Paul informed the Corinthians of his forthcoming travel plans, and his desire and plans to come to them again. He chose to pass through Macedonia first, so that he might have more time with them when he eventually arrived. In his absence, he asked his friends Timothy and Apollos to look in on them and encourage them in their ministry. Paul's plans show a great deal of love and concern for the Corinthians and lead him into his final instructions in this letter.

What five instructions are given in verse 13 and 14? How do these instructions summarize much of the content from the first letter to the Corinthians?

How do we ensure that all we do as Christians be done in love? What obstacles keep this from being the case sometimes?

What does it mean to be subject to leadership in the church? How can you give recognition to your leaders and thank them for all they do?

In verse 20 Paul gives instructions on how to greet other Christians. What might this look like in our own church?

To close his letter Paul offered several more admonitions and directions. He did this by first offering five simple reminders for the Corinthians that encapsulated much of what he said in the previous fifteen chapters. Additionally he encouraged them to be respectful and thankful toward their leaders. The language Paul used in verse 16 clues us into the idea that the people he referenced in verse 15 were leaders in the church. As such they were owed a certain degree of respect for their leadership and service to the Corinthians and the Lord.

Finally, Paul passed along greeting from other churches and Christians. When Paul says to greet one another with a kiss, we shouldn't understand this as prescriptive for all Christians in all times; rather, at the time of his writing it was a culturally appropriate greeting, much like shaking hands or hugging in our context.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How can you use the financial resources God has blessed you with to support the church and serve other Christians in need?

Are there any Christians in another area of the world whom you feel called to pray for and serve? How can you mobilize your time and resources to give to these causes as the Corinthians gave to the churches in Jerusalem, or as Timothy and Apollos visited the Corinthians?

Is there a leader in the church who has had a significant impact on your spiritual life? How could you take the time to thank that person this week? How can you pray for our leaders?

PRAYER

Thank God for all He has taught you through this study in 1 Corinthians. Pray that He would use all that you have learned to help you be more fully committed to the cause and mission of Christ. Pray that the whole of our lives would model and reflect the gospel to a watching world.

COMMENTARY

1 CORINTHIANS 16

16:1-4. Paul is responding to a question expressed to him in a previous letter (see 7:1 and note) about how to organize the collection for the Jerusalem church (2 Co 8-9). The Corinthians had pleaded for the opportunity to contribute to the collection (2 Co 8:4). Each person was to set aside funds regularly for the collection, based on his ability to give. All the funds were eventually to be collected and sent in care of designated couriers. Paul personally would go with the couriers if it seemed advisable and the circumstances permitted.

16:5-9. Paul planned to go through Macedonia to Corinth (on his third missionary journey) and possibly to spend the winter at Corinth. He then expected the Corinthians to provide supplies for his journey when he left them. In the meantime, he intended to stay in Ephesus until May (the Jewish feast of Pentecost) because of the favorable response to the gospel in that city.

16:10-11. Paul gave instructions on how the Corinthian believers should receive Timothy. Paul was certain Timothy was going to Corinth. “Send him on his way in peace” is idiomatic for “supply him with all he needs for the journey.”

16:12. Apollos, whose vital role in growing the Corinthian church Paul readily acknowledged (see 3:5-6 and note), was most likely unwilling to come now because of gospel duties elsewhere.

16:13-14. Believers must be alert about competing traditions of worldly wisdom and stand firm as one body in the faith. “Faith” here refers to the content of the gospel—Christ’s death and resurrection (15:1-5,14). Love confirms our submission to the Lord’s authority and to one another.

16:15-16. Paul exhorted the Corinthians to submit to the household of Stephanas (1:16).

16:17-18. Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus visited Paul and made up for the Corinthians’ absence (literally, “these filled up your lack”). Noting their high character and gifts for ministry, Paul instructed the believers at Corinth to recognize them.

16:20. In the context of Paul’s letters (Rm 16:16; 2 Co 13:12; 1 Th 5:26) and the early church, the holy kiss was a sign of mutual fellowship within the family of believers.

16:21. Paul concluded the letter in his own handwriting, verifying its authenticity and authority (2 Th 3:16-18). By custom Paul spoke his correspondence aloud to a

secretary (an amanuensis) who recorded his words on parchment or papyri (Rm 16:22). The signed autographic conclusion probably included verses 21-24.

16:22. The call for judgment on those who were disloyal to the Lord was an uncommon way to end a letter.

16:23-24. The letter ends with Paul's formulaic "grace greeting," followed by a personal touch that is unique to this letter.