

Let All be Done in Love (1 Corinthians 16:1-14)

I. Introduction

- A. Chapter 16 confirms that we are reading someone else's mail
- B. Chapter 16 is profitable and relevant for us today
- C. Outline of sermon; pray

II. Instructions for taking up collections (vss 1-4)

- A. Money and the church
- B. A unique offering at a unique time as a model for our giving (vss. 1-2)
 - 1. Churches modeling procedures for other churches
 - 2. No pressure to give – the 'tithe' vs. cheerful giving (2 Cor 9:7)
- C. Four patterns for giving
 - 1. *On the first day of the week* – giving is worship
 - 2. *Each of you* – meaning everyone
 - 3. *Put something aside* – giving is deliberate
 - 4. *As he may prosper* – no set amount; give liberally from the heart
- D. Give out of appreciation that Christ gave all (2 Co 8:9)
- E. Trust God when you give sacrificially (2 Co 9:8)
- F. Accountability in taking an offering (vss. 3-4)
 - 1. The danger of unaccounted money and the pastor
 - a. Above reproach, no false accusations, avoid temptation

III. Travel itinerary – Paul, Timothy, Apollos (vss. 5-12)

- A. The value of an 'extended stay.'
 - 1. Teaching vs. modeling
 - 2. Pastors need their church too
- B. Effective ministry work and many adversaries
- C. Timothy or Apollos
 - 1. Timothy – Paul's representative
 - 2. Apollos – more popular, yet still agrees with Paul
 - 3. Outward focus is an antidote for in house problems in a church

IV. Five Exhortations

- A. *Keep alert* – watchful – praying (Luke 21:36)
- B. *Stand firm in THE* (once delivered) *faith* – the Gospel
- C. *Act like men, be strong* (1 Kings 2:1-3) – remain faithful to God
- D. *Let all be done in love* (not intestinal fortitude to obey)
 - 1. Love for Christ (who loved us first and died for us)
 - 2. Love for others