

1 Corinthians 16 New American Standard Bible

Instructions and Greetings

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you are to do as well. ² On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save as he may prosper, so that no collections *need to* be made when I come. ³ When I arrive, whomever you approve, I will send them with letters to take your gift to Jerusalem; ⁴ and if it is appropriate for me to go also, they will go with me.

⁵ But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia; for I am going through Macedonia, ⁶ and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I go.

⁷ For I do not want to see you now *just in passing*; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; ⁹ for a wide door for effective *service* has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

¹⁰ Now if Timothy comes, see that he has no reason to be afraid *while* among you, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am. ¹¹ So do not look down on him, anyone. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brothers.

¹² Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly encouraged him to come to you with the brothers; and it was not at all *his* desire to come now, but he will come when he has the opportunity.

¹³ Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴ All that you do must be done in love.

¹⁵ Now I urge you, brothers *and sisters*: you know the household of Stephanas, that they are the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to ministry to the saints;

¹⁶ *I urge* that you also be subject to such as these and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. ¹⁷ I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. ¹⁸ For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. ²⁰ All the brothers *and sisters* greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ The greeting is in my own hand—*that* of Paul. ²² If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha! ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

1. It doesn't matter what relationship you are in money will always play a part.
2. Biblical perspectives on giving are reflected in both the old and the New Testament.
3. In the old testament they gave to God by giving to the temple treasury, and in the new testament they gave to God by giving to the church.
4. Giving is meant to be an act of worship with a desire to be a blessing with what you give.
5. A guide of ten percent is referenced in the old testament and followed by free will offerings on top of that ten percent, but your giving is more to do with 'a heart to give'.
6. To not give is to lose the blessing of trusting God to provide for you where you have less.
7. In the New Testament we give to advance the work of God's kingdom.
8. Paul gives some principles regarding how we should give, to the Church at Corinth, but these are just guidelines.
9. Paul's relationship with Corinth is very genuine.
10. He even makes plans to be with them in the winter - even though Paul has just spent fifteen chapters on where life in this church wasn't working.
11. Have you ever desired to be with someone but know you just don't have the time right now - it is very frustrating.
12. Paul makes reference to the Pentecost celebration which has already become an annual celebration, forming part of the religious calendar.
13. Opportunities to spread the word were opening up for Paul but it was not without adversary.
14. An adversary of the Kingdom of God is hostile to the preaching of the Gospel.
15. Paul says 'if Timothy comes' meaning he may not, but if he does look after him well.
16. He instructs them to ease the pressure on Timothy as he has been a good soldier in the work of God, in the advancing of the Kingdom.
17. Paul reminds them even as he is, suggesting that he has done well.
18. It is never a good thing to blow your own trumpet, but if the people have lost sight of your service to them they may well end up losing sight of you.
19. 'Bless him very well' referring to Timothy 'and build him up.'
20. It is important to build up leaders in the church through prayer and support as you are equipping them to serve you better.
21. It seems Paul tried without success to connect to Apollos to look in on the church at Corinth.
22. Apollos seems to be unable to at this time.
23. Even the great apostle was not able to persuade him.
24. What is it to be on the alert?
25. What is it to act like men?
26. What is it to stand firm in the faith?
27. What is it to be strong?
28. Why should everything we do be done in love?
29. To urge is to strongly suggest.

30. Sometimes within the church you find these special saints and their families who are a step above the rest in their service and love to the church and the Lord.
31. Stephanas and his family was one such family.
32. The more prayer you offer for the leaders, the more likely they are to serve you well.
33. Fellowship with other believers in the other towns was growing; sadly denominationalism separates believers and undermines our unity.
34. The early believers met in houses.
35. To greet with a holy kiss is a gesture of affection but must not become familiar or inappropriate.
36. Why do you think the apostle Paul would say 'anyone who doesn't love the Lord is to be accursed'?
37. Paul introduces us to a word 'Maranatha' it means come Lord Jesus, come.
38. Paul introduces us to the word 'Grace' and a declaration of blessing.
39. Paul expresses his own personal love in the Lord for this body in Corinth. What does 'in the body' mean?
40. He qualifies this 'in Christ Jesus' meaning as a connected part of the body of Christ.
41. The word amen in the New Testament is only used after a declaration of praise or at the end of a prophecy.
42. It is scarcely used at the end of prayer unless the prayer is an exultation regarding who God is.
43. What is it to have a refreshed spirit?
44. Paul writes this letter to the Corinthians with his own hands unlike some letters where a scribe is used.