

# **“Conclusion To The Book Of 1 Corinthians”**

## **1 Corinthians 16:1-24**

Message by Michael J. Barnard

July 7, 2018

**Teaching Aim:** To explore why the Christian day of worship was moved from Saturday to Sunday. To examine Paul’s teaching on Christian giving and see how it applies to us today. To hear Paul’s final words of instruction and encouragement to the Corinthians, realizing his love for them, even though the church had strayed in many areas.

### **Part I: Collection from the churches for the needy saints in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:1-4)**

1. What collection did Paul refer to in **verse 1**? (See **vv. 2-3**) Why was it so important for believers from all over the region to chip in and help the Christians at Jerusalem? (See **Acts 8:1; 11:28**)
  
2. What would you say if you were asked why most Christians today meet on Sunday instead of on the Jewish Sabbath – on Saturday (**vs. 2**)? What Scriptures would you use to defend the change? (See **Luke 24:1-6; 1 Cor. 16:2; Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10**)
  
3. What three principles do we learn from **verse 2** about Christian giving? What is your normal practice in giving to the Lord’s work? How do you decide what to give and what not to give? Do you give to the Lord first and live on the rest, or do you wait to see what is left over at the end of the month when everything else is paid for? Which of the two positions is the most biblical? (See **Prov. 3:9-10**)
  
4. What do you think Paul meant when he said, *“storing up as he may prosper?”* How does this concept affect the rich? How does it affect the poor? According to **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**, how much of our income should we give to the Lord’s work? What should the attitude of our hearts be as we give?
  
5. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he was encouraging them to take up a collection for the needy in Jerusalem. What can we learn about the integrity of Paul’s monetary practices from **verses 3 & 4**? What can the modern church learn from Paul’s example today? How open is your church when it comes to its church finances?

## Part II: Opportunities for future ministry along with Paul's extended ministry team (1 Cor. 16:5-13)

1. What country is ancient Macedonia located in today (**vs. 5**)? (See Bible Dictionary) What famous biblical cities from Macedonia are found in in **Acts 16:12-17:13**?
2. Why do you think Paul would rather winter with the Corinthians than sail on the Mediterranean Sea during the winter months (**vs. 6**)? (See **Acts 27:9-12, 41**) What are some ways the Corinthians could be a help to Paul in ministry (**vs. 6**)? What are some practical ways you can help missionaries in the field today? What are some practical ways that you can encourage them?
3. According to **verse 7**, was Paul hoping for a short visit or was he hoping for a longer stay with the Corinthians on his next trip? Why would it be advantageous for Paul to stay in Corinth during the winter months?
4. Paul reveals what city "*The Book of 1 Corinthians*" was written from in **verse 8**. What city was it? How long did Paul minister in this important city? (See **Acts 20:31**) What is the significance of the day of Pentecost to the Christian? (See **Acts 2:1-4**) What is the significance of the day of Pentecost to the Jews?
5. What was higher on Paul's priority list, reaching the lost in Ephesus or pampering the saved in Corinth (**vs. 9**)? Who were some of the adversaries Paul faced in Ephesus? (See **Acts 19:21-27; 2 Tim. 4:14**)
6. Many people speculate that Paul's young assistant Timothy was timid in character. Where does such an idea come from (**vs. 10**)? (See **2 Tim. 5:23**) Have you ever found yourself timid when God called you into a new area of ministry? Why? How did you respond to your fears? As timid as Timothy was at times, who became Paul's number one assistant and successor? What can believers learn from Timothy's example today?

7. Who was Apollos (**vs. 12**)? (See **Acts 18:24-28**) What had Paul encouraged Apollos to do? What was Apollos' response? What can we learn about Paul's leadership style from the way he handled Apollos? How important is following the leading of the Holy Spirit in your life to you?

8. What five commands did Paul give to the Corinthians in **verses 13 & 14**? Explain the importance of each. How do these commands relate to us today?

### **Part III: Final words of encouragements and Paul's farewell (1 Cor. 16:14-24)**

1. What can we learn about the household of Stephanas from **verse 15**? Where have we seen Stephanas before? (See **1 Cor. 1:16**) According to **verse 16**, does it appear the Corinthians had "little" or "much" respect for Stephanas and his household? Why do you think several members of the Corinthian church might have been upset with him? What was Paul's response to these individuals?

2. What did Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus supply for Paul that the rest of the Corinthians had not (**vv. 17 & 18**)? Why is it important for every Christian worker to have other believers come alongside and encourage them? According to Paul's instructions, how should the church respond to these three men once they return to Corinth (**vs. 18**)?

3. The churches in Asia would include the biblical cities of Colosse, Laodicea, Hierapolis, and the city from which Paul wrote this letter, Ephesus (**vs. 19**)? Who were Aquila and Priscilla and what was their relationship to the Apostle Paul (See **Acts 18:1-4, 24-26**) How important was their ministry? What fact can we learn about Aquila and Priscilla from **Rom. 16:3-5** and **1 Cor. 16:19**? Why do most churches today meet in large buildings instead of in homes like biblical days?

4. How do you think people would respond today if we greeted one another with “*a holy kiss*” in church? Was this a common practice in ancient times? Why? (See **Rom. 16:16**; **2 Cor. 13:12**; **1 Thess. 5:26**; **1 Pet. 5:14**) What was the significance of a holy kiss?
  
5. As highly educated as Paul was, why do you think he needed a scribe to write the main body of his letters (**vs. 21**)? (See **Gal. 4:15**) According to **Rom. 16:22**, which scribe assisted Paul with the Book of Romans? What was the significance of Paul ending each of his epistles in his own handwriting?
  
6. What curse did Paul place upon the false teachers and anyone else who did not love Jesus Christ (**vs. 22**)? What is the meaning of the word “*anathema*?” (See Dictionary) Will those who “*ultimately reject Jesus Christ*” as Savior and Lord be accursed? Why? (See **John 14:6**; **Acts 4:12**) Paul ends **verse 22** with the Aramaic word “*Maranatha*.” Depending on spelling, what is the meaning of this word? (See Commentaries) Where else do we find this word being used in the Bible? (See **Rev. 22:20**)
  
7. In **verse 23** Paul finished “*the Book of 1 Corinthians*” in his customary manner. What did he do? What key word did Paul choose to use in this verse? Why? After correcting the Corinthians in many areas, how did Paul end his letter (**vs. 24**)? What can we learn from Paul’s demonstration of tough love?
  
8. Paul addressed many issues in this letter: division; sectarianism; sexual immorality within the church; lawsuits among believers; problems in marriage; food offered to idols; abuse of the Lord’s Supper; abuse of spiritual gifts; a lack of love; a misunderstanding about the bodily resurrection of the dead. Which part of this book spoke to you the most? Why?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- God expects his people to give from what they have, not from what they do not have!
- Giving to the Lord is an act of worship, a privilege that is to be done by every believer whether rich and poor!
- Giving should be in proportion to one's income!
- God's desire for giving is that it be done systematically and from the heart!
- The Christian Church should receive God's servants with love and encouragement!
- Each of us should be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and ministries!
- Anyone who ultimately rejects Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord will be accursed by God throughout eternity!
- Paul's love for the Corinthians, even in spite of their problems, should be an example to all of us today!