

Authority: What We
Get By Giving

Denominations think NT gives us freedom to worship as we please

- Q: does NT give us a pattern?
- Consider giving –
 - 1 out of every 6 verses in Mt., Mk, Lk, deal with money.
 - 16 of Lord's 29 parables deal with person and his money.
 - Lord emphasized giving. It must be a matter of importance to Him.

Some complain: get nothing out of worship

- The essence of worship is giving
- Those who learn to give actually receive far more in return
- Example of God's giving corrects faulty thinking
 - Jn.3:16
 - Jn.10:17-18

I. Passages on Giving

1 Co.16:1-3

- 'Collection' of money
 - Once defined only by context (Th.)
 - Archaeology found many instances of word in papyri / ostraca / inscriptions...
 - Used chiefly of religious collections for a god, temple, etc.
 - *'Especially a collection for sacred purposes'* – LAE. *'Collection of money'* – BDAG
- Ac.4:32-37
- 1 Tim.5:16, collective action: requires pooling of funds

1 Co.16:1-3

- 'Gave orders' = command
 - 'This is my rule in all the churches,' 1 Co. 7:17
 - Lk.17:...10

1 Co.16:1-3

- ‘Churches’ – collective action
 - Specific purpose of **this** collection: relieve poor saints at Jerusalem (3-4; 2 Co.8-9)
 - Question: Could a church use this money for another purpose? No!
 - 2 Co.8:4, benevolence; any other use misappropriates funds.
 - *“Isn’t this what churches do today? They take a collection because of 1 Co. 16 [benevolence] but use it to support preachers?”*

Suppose 1 Co.16 is not in NT –

- Does church have authority to send / support preachers?
 - Ac.11:22 ... 1 Co.9:1-16 ... 2 Co.11:8
- Without 1 Co.16, does church have authority for place to meet? Yes: 1 Co.14:23. Hb.10²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- [Gn.6, authorizes tools...]
- [Ep.5:19, authorizes song books, etc.]

Even without 1 Co.16...

- church has authority to use funds...but no specific method of obtaining them
 - Any legitimate way of raising money would be authorized. Cf.:
- Acts 20:7 – only passage that states when to take Lord's supper; it doesn't tell why.
- 1 Co.16 is only passage that states when / how a church is to raise funds; it discusses one purpose for the funds; other passages reveal other purposes.

Barrel = church treasury



Evangelism

Edification

Benevolence

So you must do also

- Adds to force of the obligation
 1. *So you*: giving is not optional
 2. *Must*: Corinthians are commanded to give
 3. *Do*: Imperative
 4. *Also*: Same obligation as other churches

First day of the week, 2

- “Every” (cf. NASB; ESV).
- “*On the first day of every week*” 1 Co.16:2 – BDAG; Th.
- Establishes frequency of contribution. Cf. Lk.2:41
- If 1 Co.16 refers to individual putting something aside at home, why specify 1st day of week?
- Ac.20:7, Lord’s Supper on same day

Let each one of you

- Each Christian

Lay something aside, storing up

- To store up, save up, lit., put into the treasury
 - Each is to 'lay by himself' ('take to himself what he means to give') – Hodge
 - 'Put something aside' – BDAG
 - This is not the final destination
- Storing money at home is not a church collection (1); it would require a collection when Paul came (2)

As he may prosper

- Lit., to send well on one's way; originally of a man taking a trip: he stops periodically to see how far he has come (prospered).

Ac.11:29

- No authority for church to assess brethren as some denominations do.
- No one knows financial abilities of others.

Phm.14

No collections when I come

- Giving must be planned, not random.
- 'So that there will be no need to collect contributions of money when I come' 1 Cor 16:2 – L-N

...your gift, 3

- Grace, 2 Co.8:9, of Christ
- Gift, 8:4
- Titus would complete this grace in you, 8:6

2 Co.9:6-7

- **Not sparingly, 6** – to be miserly. Ro.8:32
- **Bountifully, 6** – adv., liberally (on basis of blessings) – opposite of sparingly
- **As he purposes in his heart, 7** – determine beforehand, decide; deliberate choosing
- **Not grudgingly, 7** – with regret
- **Not of necessity, 7** – compulsion
 - 5: Paul and others go to Corinth...
- **Cheerful, 7** (Ac.20:35); joy makes us give. Ex.36
- **Service, 12**, as priest. Lk.1:23; Hb.8:6

TDNT

“synonyms which Paul uses for this [collection] are not taken from the area of taxation but from that of edification. In other words, they depict acts of love:

[grace], v. 3; 2 Co.8:4ff.;

[fellowship], Ro.15:26;

[service], Ro.15:31; 2 Co. 8:4; 9:1;

[blessing] 2 Co.9:5.”

Mt.25:21

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Our checkbook is an autobiography

- Spend lot of money of software...
- Spend lot on wine, women, song...
- Spend lot on Lord and His work...