



**Sunday December 08, 2019**  
**1 Corinthians chapter 16**

We have been studying through 1 Corinthians in recent months, and we are now in the final chapter.

The apostle Paul has addressed several matters at the Corinthian church. He has also responded to questions they had asked. He addresses one final matter in chapter 16 and makes closing statements to his letter.

We cover this final chapter in the following sections.

We will read through the Scripture verses in each section first and then present comments and insights on that section.

Helping Needy Saints At Jerusalem (16:1-4)

Coordinating Ministry Work (16:5-12)

Words Of Exhortation (16:13-14)

Honoring Those Who Serve (16:15-18)

Final Greetings (16:19-24)

**Helping Needy Saints At Jerusalem (16:1-4)**

**1** Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

**2** On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

**3** And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.

**4** But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

***Caring for those in need***

The apostle Paul was encouraging other churches (i.e. churches at Corinth, Galatia, Antioch, Macedonia, etc.) to take up special collections for the needy saints in Jerusalem, when they came together on Sundays. It was most likely due to a famine that came on that region (Acts 11:27-30). The church in Jerusalem also took care of a large number of widows (Acts 6:1-6). In this, we see the Church's responsibility in responding to the material needs of God's people. While we do give towards the preaching of the Gospel, to support those ministering the Word and caring for our spiritual needs, we also should give towards meeting the material needs of those who do not have. We see this taught in several places in the New Testament.

Consider James 1:27 as an example:



**James 1:27**

**Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**

In 1 Timothy 5:3-13, the apostle Paul instructs how care must be administered by the local church. He instructs that we care for those who are truly in need; who cannot be supported by their own family; for those who are truly serving the local church spiritually and have a good testimony among God's people.

### ***The first day of the week***

Notice here that the Early Church had transitioned to meeting on "the first day of the week" (i.e. the Lord's day or Sunday) and stopped observing the Jewish Sabbath.

Also we see that when they came together on the first day of the week, each one brought their contribution with them as God had prospered them.

### ***Handling money matters wisely***

Notice also Paul's prudence in asking them to send people who they chose to take the gift to Jerusalem. This way there would not be any chance of any one accusing Paul of any misappropriation. A good lesson for us about handling money as ministers of God.

Concerning this Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 8:21

**2 Corinthians 8:21**

**providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.**

### **Coordinating Ministry Work (16:5-12)**

5 Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia).  
6 And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go.  
7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits.  
8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.  
9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.  
10 And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.  
11 Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren.  
12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time.

The apostle Paul was sharing his travel plans. He was at Ephesus when he was writing this letter to the Corinthians. He planned to stay on in Ephesus until the feast of



Pentecost (about ---), and then make his way to Corinth, where he hoped he would be able to spend time with the believers there.

### ***Following God's Leading***

**vs 7 "...if the Lord permits."**

However, he said "if the Lord permits", indicating he still needed to hear from God about whether he should do this or not. We must learn to listen and follow God in planning and coordinating our work.

### ***Recognizing divine opportunities***

**vs 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.**

Paul saw that God has opened "*a great and effective door*" ("a good opportunity for a great and growing work" Easy to Read Version) for him at Ephesus, although there were many adversaries. So he wanted to stay on and minister at Ephesus, in response to the opportunity before him. Here we learn the importance of recognizing an opportunity that God has made available for us and then responding to that opportunity.

### ***Encouraging younger ministers***

**vs 10-11**

**10 And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.**

**11 Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren.**

Timothy was going to stop over at Corinth on his way to Ephesus. It is interesting to see how Paul affirms young Timothy to the Corinthian church stating that "*he does the work of the Lord as I also do*" and he wanted them to receive him well. He didn't want anyone to intimidate him ("*see that he may be with you without fear*") or to look down upon his youthfulness ("*let no one despise him*" see 1 Timothy 4:12). He requested that they bless him during his short visit and "*send him on his journey in peace*".

This is an important lesson for us older (more seasoned, more established, senior) ministers of God. Rather than being absorbed with our own work, we need to support, encourage and endorse younger ministers so they can also rise up into God's call for their lives.

### ***Apollos***

**12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time.**



In working with Apollos, who was himself an established minister by this time, Paul allowed him to make his own decisions without controlling or dictating what another senior minister should do.

### **Words Of Exhortation (16:13-14)**

**13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.**

**14 Let all that you do be done with love.**

The apostle Paul leaves the Corinthian believers with these final words of encouragement. All the terms he uses in verse 13 are military terms:

#### ***Watch***

Literally means to keep awake, be vigilant, be continually on your guard, lest you be surprised by your enemies.

For instance the Scriptures teach us to watch and pray so that we do not fall into temptation (Matthew 26:41). We are also to be sober and vigilant because we have an adversary who is looking for opportunities to get an advantage over us (1 Peter 5:8).

#### ***Stand fast in the faith***

Stand firm in the faith, because there are enemies who try to destroy your faith. Militarily, this includes keeping rank; do not be disorderly or retreat; be determined to keep your ranks unbroken; keep close together.

#### ***Be brave***

This is the only place in the New Testament where this word is used. It literally means "act like a man". Militarily this means that when you are attacked, do not flinch; maintain your ground; resist; press forward; Strike deadly blows; conquer.

#### ***Be strong***

Militarily this includes: Increase in strength. Keep yourself fit. Learn how to conquer. Die in the contest or win. If one division is opposed by too great a force of the enemy, strengthen that division, and maintain your position. Summon up all your courage, sustain each other.

#### ***Let all that you do be done with love***

As Paul instructed them in 1 Corinthians 13, he reminds them to do everything motivated by love.



### **Honoring Those Who Serve (16:15-18)**

15 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—

16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

17 I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied.

18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

Stephanas was among the first believers in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:16) and he and his household gave themselves to serving God's people in practical ways. Fortunatus, and Achaicus may have been servants at Stephanas' household, who came with him to minister to Paul. Paul commends what they did and instructs the Corinthian believers to honor such people.

### **Final Greetings (16:19-24)**

19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 The salutation with my own hand—Paul's.

22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### **MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL**



## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday December 08, 2019**  
**1 Corinthians chapter 16**

There is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

### **Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### **Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

### **LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 Corinthians chapter 16*

### **INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*1, Share some of the key things that speak to your heart from this closing chapter.*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

### **FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

### **ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**



Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

*3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



## USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>