

I Corinthians 16 Contribution

- I. Contribution 1-4
 - a. For the saints, 1
 - i. Money taken to the poor among the saints in Jerusalem, Rm. 15:26. Why so impoverished? Example of sharing their material blessings with others in need, Ac. 2:44
 - ii. Churches in Macedonia, Galatia, Achaia gave
 - iii. Gentile churches urged to give because they were spiritually indebted to the Jewish churches, Rm. 15:27, see Ch. 9:11
 - iv. Promoted to strengthen the bonds between the Jewish and Gentile Christians, II Cor. 9:11-15
 - b. How were they to give? 1-2
 - i. In compliance with God's Will, 1
 - ii. To meet a need, 1
 - iii. Individually, 2
 - iv. On the 1st day of the week, 2
 - v. In harmony with their prosperity, 2
 - vi. Into a common fund, 2. Justin Martyr (150 AD) indicated that in his day offerings were brought to the church on Sunday (Apology)
 - c. How was the gift to be handled? 3-4
 - i. Taken by appointed men, II Cor. 8:19-23, 12:16-18). Note Paul's care with the money.
 - ii. Messengers approved by a letter, Paul would go if appropriate.
 - iii. The chosen men: Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica, Gaius of Derbe, Timothy, and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus, Ac. 20:4
- II. Paul's Plan for the Future 5-9
 - a. A visit to Corinth is planned, 5-6. Paul wanted to visit and possibly winter there, 5-7. He was going to remain in Ephesus until Pentecost, then to Macedonia, then to Corinth, 5-9. He wanted to spend some considerable time there but he would be hindered, II Cor. 1:8-11, 15-24
 - b. "Why did Paul decide to remain in Ephesus until Pentecost and not go to Corinth at that time, 6-9? Had he gone, he could not have stayed long. Paul desired to spend more time with them than his busy schedule would allow, 6-7. The word 'door' is used as a metaphor for opportunity, Ac. 14:27, II Cor. 2:12, Col. 4:3, Rev. 3:8. A 'great' ('wide' ASV) means a golden opportunity, Ac. 19:1-20. There were many enemies of the Gospel in Ephesus that needed to be confronted, 9, Ac. 20:19-23, II Cor. 1:8-10." (p. 64)
 - c. Paul sees his plans as tentative at best, 7. "If the Lord Wills," 7, Js. 4:13-17, II Cor. 1:8-11, 15-24
- III. Regarding the Work of Timothy and Apollos 10-12
 - a. Timothy, 10-11
 - i. Sent to remind them of Paul's doctrine and example, 4:17
 - ii. They were to put him at ease among them
 - iii. He was doing the work of the Lord among them just as Paul, 10
 - iv. No one in Corinth was to despise him, 11, I Tim. 4:12 – "youth"

- v. Send him back to Paul in peace, 11, Ac. 19:22
 - b. Apollos, 12
 - i. Worked earlier in Corinth, Ac. 18:27-19:1
 - ii. Paul had strongly urged him to go to Corinth with other brethren, Ac. 19:22
 - iii. Not Apollos' decision to go at that time, 1:10 a possible reason
 - iv. He would go to Corinth when he had the opportunity
- IV. Closing Admonitions 13-18
 - a. Be vigilant, 13, Mt. 26:41, I Pet. 5:8
 - b. Stand fast in your faith, 13
 - c. Be courageous, 13
 - d. Be strong, 13
 - e. Let everything be done in love, 14, 12:31,13:13, 14:1
 - f. Regarding the household of Stephanas, they were the first fruits of Achaia, the Roman province in which Corinth was the capital city, 16, 1:16,15:20. Addicted – committed – to ministering. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be in submission to such good leadership in the church, 16
 - g. Regarding Stephanas, Fortunatus, Achaicus, 17-18, Paul rejoiced at their coming because they provided info about the Corinthian church, 17. The letter carrying the various questions (7:1, 8:1, 12:1, 16:1) was probably carried by them.
- V. Greetings and Benediction 19-24
 - a. Concluding greetings, 19-24. Churches of Asia, Ephesus where Paul was (particularly) sent their regards, 19-20. Especially the church that met in the house of Aquilla and Priscilla, 19
 - b. The sincere practice of “holy kiss” should serve as a constant reminder against cliquishness and egotism, 20, Rm. 16:16
 - c. Paul wrote the closing in his own handwriting, 21
 - i. Customarily, he dictated his letters to an amanuensis (scribe, secretary, stenographer), Col. 4:18, II Thess. 3:17
 - ii. Sosthenes probably filled this role for I Corinthians, 1:1
 - iii. Paul authenticated each letter by writing the salutation in his personal handwriting, II Thess. 3:17, Gal. 6:1
 - d. Paul solemnly warned, 22. “Anathema” – Greek word for cursed
 - e. Left them with a prayer, 22. “Maranatha” – Greek meaning “our Lord come”
 - f. Benediction, 23-24
 - i. Grace of the Lord Jesus be with you, 23, 1:3
 - ii. Love be with you all in Jesus Christ, 24

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