

Exegetical Notes – 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

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1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Verses 1-4

Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³ Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

- We cannot be certain as to why, but apparently the Christians in Jerusalem were strapped financially. Paul had resolved to help them by taking a collection for them among the churches (see Romans 15:25-28 and 2 Corinthians 8-9). Apparently, the Corinthians had questions about how this offering was to be received and then delivered to Jerusalem. So, in these verses Paul addresses their concerns.
- They are to follow the directions which he gave to the church in Galatia. Note that the Corinthians would know what Paul had written to the Galatians. His letters were passed from congregation to congregation. Note that the offering is widespread. All of the Greek churches were called to help the Christians in Jerusalem.
- On Sunday, each Christian is to set aside a sum of money to send to Jerusalem. It is to be a weekly thing. Every Sunday they are to set aside this money. It is to be in keeping with their income. They are to determine for themselves the amount that they will set aside. No one is to be told how much to give. However, everyone is expected to give.
- It is unclear when the money set aside each week is to be brought to the church. Was it to be brought each week or was it to be held by each person until Paul arrived? This is unclear. What is clear is that no special appeal should be needed when Paul arrives in Corinth. At the time of his arrival,

the money for the Jerusalem offering would be ready to be sent to Jerusalem. The offering would not be started when Paul arrives but concluded at his arrival.

- When Paul arrives, he will give letters of recommendation to the men that the Corinthians have picked to carry their portion of the offering to Jerusalem. He would not question the Corinthian's choice. He would simply endorse those they had chosen to care for their portion of the offering and to see that it was delivered safely to Jerusalem in its entirety. This freed him from responsibility and blame if something went wrong or was questioned.
- He himself may go with those taking the offering to Jerusalem if events allow, but he will not be "in charge" of the offering itself.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon based on 1 Corinthians 16:1-4. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)