

1 Corinthians Part Two

Lesson #27, Chapter 16:1-9

Before you begin this week's lesson spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord for His grace and insight into His word.

1. Paul continues instructing and guiding the Corinthian church up to the very last. What topic does Paul address at the beginning of Chapter 16 verse 1?
2. Why was this collection *for the saints* necessary? See Acts 11:28-30.
3. Who else was involved in giving to the saints? See 1 Corinthians 16:1 and Romans 15:25-26.
4. What special instructions does Paul outline for this special gift to the saints? See 1 Corinthians 16:2.
5. What principles for giving can you derive from verses 1-2? Explain why those principles are a good idea to follow even today.
6. How does 2 Corinthians 9:7 explain the reason for planned giving? While there's nothing wrong with giving on the spur of the moment, why are we urged to give in a planned way?
7. Read ahead in the Corinthians' story to see how they did in their giving to the Jerusalem saints. See 2 Corinthians 8:6, 11; 9:3-5, 7.

8. What things seemed to hinder the Corinthians in their giving? See 2 Corinthians 8:6-8, 11-15; 9:3-7.

9. Most likely you have been hindered in similar ways at times when it comes to giving. What truths particularly encourage you to give?

10. Anytime money is involved, there is need to take particular care that all those involved be above reproach. What precautions did Paul take so that no evil could be spoken about their administration of the gift? See 1 Corinthians 16:3-4; 2 Corinthians 8:18-22.

11. What do we learn from the Scriptures about leaders and money? See 1 Timothy 3:3; 6:10; Titus 1:11; Hebrews 13:5.

12. How have you seen this wise plan of attack put into practice in your church?

13. As Paul discusses who will trek to Corinth to pick up the love gift, it reminds him that he wanted to discuss his future ministry and travel plans with the Corinthians. What are his plans according to verses 5-9?

14. From verses 5-9, what one phrase sticks out that gives us insight into Paul's method of making plans?

15. Why is that mindset a necessary one when it comes to planning our ways?

16. What do the following verses have to say about this same subject? See Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 3:6; 16:9; 19:21; Jeremiah 10:23.

17. How is it possible to make plans, yet leave things up to the Lord at the same time? What kind of example is set for us in the following verses? See Luke 22:42; Romans 1:9-10; James 4:13-17.

18. Why did Paul plan to stay on in Ephesus according to verse 9?

19. What does this teach you about the ministry itself and taking advantage of ministry opportunities?

20. As is often the case, what accompanied Paul's great ministry opportunity in Ephesus (verse 9)?

21. How would understanding that there will always be opposition to the work of God help you to stand firm during times of trial and difficulty? How does it help you take heart when your church or your specific area of ministry faces opposition while experiencing great growth?

"Adversaries and opposition do not break the spirits of faithful and successful ministers, but warm their zeal, and inspire them with fresh courage. A faithful minister is more discouraged by the hardness of his hearers' hearts, and the backslidings of professors, than by the enemies' attempts." ~Matthew Henry¹

¹Matthew Henry and Thomas Scott, *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, 1997), 1 Co 16:1.