

“The Collection”

1 Cor. 16:1

Introduction:

- A. God's people have always had a collection or treasury.
 - 1. Ancient Israel. (Josh. 6:19, 24)
 - 2. Temple. (Luke 21:1)
 - 3. Apostles (John 12:6)
 - 4. Early church. (Acts 4:32-37; 11:29-30; 1 Cor. 16:1,2)
- B. God's people need to understand all *aspects* of “the collection”.

Discussion:

I. The Authority for the Collection.

- A. By express apostolic order. (1 Cor. 16:1,2).
 - 1. Not merely laying it aside at home.
 - 2. Collected each week or would have had to be “gathered” or “collected” when Paul came.
- B. By approved example. (Acts 11:29).
 - 1. Not merely each individual acting alone.
 - 2. If not “collected”, how could it be put in hand of Barnabas and Paul.
- C. By necessary inference. (Phil. 4:15-18)
 - 1. A church sent once and again.
 - 2. Sent it by hands of one man.

II. The Nature of the Collection.

- A. No longer belongs to giver. (cf. Acts 5:4)
 - 1. Did not belong to apostles personally. (Acts 3:6)
 - 2. If not apostles, not givers, who? Could it be the Lord?
- B. No longer under control of giver.

III. The Gathering of the Collection.

- A. Gathered on 1st day of week by churches. (1 Cor. 16:1,2)
- B. Gathered from willing individuals.
 - 1. Each according to his ability. (cf. Acts 11:29; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:3,12)
 - 2. More out of sense of love and devotion rather than obligation. (2 Cor. 9:7)
 - a. It is a command or order. (1 Cor. 16:2)
 - b. It is more than just a command. (2 Cor. 8:8)
 - (1) A grace or favor. (2 Cor. 8:1-7)
 - (2) An act of love and devotion. (2 Cor. 8:5, 8)
 - (3) A sowing that yields spiritual returns. (2 Cor. 9:6-15).

IV. The Handling of the Collection.

- A. Congregationally controlled. (1 Cor. 16:3; 2 Cor. 8:19)
- B. Honorably in sight of all men. (2 Cor. 8:20,21)

V. The Purpose of the Collection.

- A. Not to relieve individual responsibility. (1 Tim. 5:16; Gal. 6:6)
- B. To be a gift to needy saints.
 - 1. At home. (Acts 4-6)
 - 2. Elsewhere. (Acts 11:29-30; 1 Cor. 16; 2 Cor. 8,9)
- C. To be pay for goods and services needed to do church's work.
 - 1. “Wages” or “hire” or “gift” to preachers and/or elders. (2 Cor. 11:8; 1 Tim. 5:17; Phil 4:17)
 - a. “Wages” or “hire” suggest pay or compensation for services rendered.
 - b. “Gift” (doma) to preacher differs from “gift” (Charis) of charity to needy saints.¹
 - 2. When Bible authorizes church to do a thing, money to do it necessarily inferred.

Conclusion:

- A. If the church given the responsibility, the collection can be used for it.
- B. If the Christian first gives self to Lord, will have little problem with giving into the collection.

¹ doma - “not always gratuitous or wholly unsuggestive of recompense”- Thayer