

The Collection

1 Cor. 16:1-3

Introduction:

- A. An advantage of Christians' being in congregations is the pooling of money.
 - 1. Together can afford what an individual may not.
 - 2. Gives each an opportunity to share in a common work.
- B. With text as basis, let's study three points on church collections.

Discussion:

I. The Collection authorized.

- A. An authorized collection
 - 1. By apostolic command and example. (v. 1; Acts 4:34-36; 11:27-30).
 - 2. By necessary inference.
 - a. Churches paid wages, must have collected them. (2 Cor. 11:8).
 - b. Church sent to Paul's necessity, must have collected it. (Phil. 4:15-18).
- B. A weekly collection. (v. 2).
 - 1. First day of week like Lord's supper. (cf. Acts 20:7).
 - 2. It was collected then, not merely set aside at home as some teach.
- C. A local collection.

II. The Collection taken.

- A. It was given in form of money (proceeds or price). (Acts 2:44,45; 4:34,35).
 - 1. Why burden church with liquidating, storing, or managing possessions?
 - 2. Not talking about some incidental giving something to church it can use.
 - a. Like giving church a day's work.
 - b. Or giving church piece of land, a copier, etc. it can use.
 - 3. Are talking about taking a collection for the church to use in its work.
- B. It was given by those who first gave themselves to the Lord. (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
 - 1. To give as prospered. (1 Cor. 16:2).
 - a. Each must decide his prosperity.
 - b. Many factors go into deciding how much would be appropriate.
 - (1) One may consider his pay, obligations, sickness, etc.
 - (2) One may consider urgency of the need at the time. (cf. Acts 2,4).
 - (3) One may consider O.T. principles of giving.
 - 2. To give as purposed. (2 Cor. 9:7).
 - a. Not hap-hazard nor last minute pressure.
 - b. But a deliberate decision of the heart. (2 Cor. 8:12)
 - 3. To give cheerfully without grudgingly. (2 Cor. 9:7).
 - 4. To give individually - "each one". (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).
 - a. Does this forbid hus. and wife jointly deciding from joint prosperity?
 - b. Does this demand that each one must actually drop it in the plate?

III. The Collection Spent.

- A. 1 Cor. 16 deals with both **collecting** and **spending** funds.
 - 1. It is only authorized way for church to collect money.
 - 2. It is not only authority way for church to spend money.
- B. Church is specifically authorized to spend money on benevolence and preaching. (1 Cor. 16; Acts 11; Phil. 4; 2 Cor. 11:8).
- C. Church is inferentially authorized to spend money on edification and worship.
 - 1. If church is authorized to do a thing, it is authorized spend money for it.
 - a. To obtain the necessary facilities.
 - b. To pay the necessary personnel.
 - 2. Just like with an individual, money is means of doing the work.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us give ourselves to Lord, then give into collection as prospered.
- B. Let us then scripturally, liberally and wisely, as a church, use the collection.