

“Giving – Living – Loving”
1 Corinthians 16:1-24
9/5/21
Message 31

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Giving – Living – Loving”

• Review

- **Today We will finish Up The Book of 1 Corinthians**
 - The Whole Time - We have been asking - What was wrong in the Church of Corinth?
 - But in Reality - We can ask –
 - What is wrong with the church of today?
 - So MANY Similarities
- **This is a CORRECTIVE letter...**
 - **The Corinthians Did not Like Being Corrected**
 - Tore up Paul’s first letter
 - **Correction we have SEEN**
 - Division
 - Carnality
 - Immorality In The Church
 - Serious Nature of Sexual Sins
 - Marriage Issues

- Christian Liberties
- Church Service were a Mess – Lord's Supper
- Spiritual Gifts
- Agape is Needed
- Understanding & Order in the church service
- **Chapter 15**
 - **1st Message - 1 Cor. 15:1-11**
 - The Proof of the Resurrection
 - The Old Testament
 - The Eye Witnesses
 - **2nd Message - 1 Cor. 15:12-34**
 - The Hope & The Reason we keep serving God
 - It's NOT in Vain
 - **3rd Message – 1 Cor. 35-58**
 - The Reality Of Our Resurrection vs. 35-49
 - The Reward That Will Come vs. 50-58
 - Rapture
 - Stay the Course 1 Cor. 15:58

- **Now To Chapter 16**

- **After discussing the Resurrection in great detail**

- He now Brings it HOME
- From –
 - Doctrine to Duty
 - Doctrinal to the Practical
 - Worship to Works
- He ENDS the letter with his Final Instructions in regard to
 - Giving - Doing the Lord's work
 - Living – Faithfully – Waiting on the Lord
 - Loving – We MUST put on LOVE (Christian Fellowship)
- It ALL Makes Sense –
 - If (Since) the Resurrection – Rapture is TRUE – REAL
 - It MUST Affect how we LIVE
 - If we Really believe that one day we're going to leave this world, and through rapture or resurrection, go to be with the Lord for all eternity.
 - It sure stir our hearts all the more to live for the Lord right now
 - Our concern should be to lay up treasures in heaven while we are on earth
- **So let's look at Paul's Final Instructions**
 - We will look at 5 main points
 - Realize The Importance Of Helping Others vs. 1-4
 - Remember The Priority Of God's Will vs. 5-12

- Receive The Exhortations To Spiritual Maturity vs. 13-14
- Respond To The Leadership & Ministry Of Others vs. 15-18
- Reflect The Love of Christ to One another vs. 19-24

Realize The Importance Of Helping Others vs. 1-4

First: The Purpose Of Their Gift v. 1

○ **1st For The Saints in Jerusalem v. 1a**

1 Corinthians 16:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, *as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:*

- The Church in Jerusalem was hit hard – A REAL struggle
- Why WAS it HURTING:
 - 1st When Church was born at Pentecost –
 - People from all over – many who stayed – no employment - Hard to get a job!
 - 2nd Supported a large number of Widows (Acts 6:1-6)
 - 3rd There was a Great Famine (Acts 11:27-30)
 - 4th Great Persecution –
 - Many believe that the Lord allowed it because they had not left to spread His Word around the world (Acts 1:8)
 - Just before his ascension, Jesus said to this church, "begin in Jerusalem and then go to all Judea and Samaria and then reach out to the uttermost part of the earth," Reading the record of Acts, you can see that they totally ignored those words!

- They became comfortable! - Needed of nothing!
- So Paul gave orders to many churches that an offering be collected that would go to help them
- **2nd The Order he gave to ALL the churches v. 1b**

1 Corinthians 16:1 (NKJV)

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:

- **All the Church - Everyone must do!**
 - Mentioned in other letters of Paul – Galatia
 - It was not just something that the Corinthians had to do.
- **Reasons WHY**
 - 1st Unify the Church
 - It helped to unify the church
 - Most of the collection came from Gentiles
 - Went to help the Jewish believers
 - Paul hoped that this expression of Gentile love would help to heal some wounds and build some bridges between the churches
 - 2nd Giving is an essential part of Christianity
 - It is not an option; it is something every Christian must do.
 - Remember the words of Jesus,
 - "Freely you have received, freely give," (Matthew 10:8)

- If we have NOT freely received anything from Jesus than DON'T give!
 - BUT you have been BLESSED – GIVE
 - Illustration
 - As a child told - It's More important to give then to Receive
 - **3rd Lessons on Giving**
 - **1st A Heart to Help**
 - Every believer is to HELP
- 1 John 3:17 (NKJV)**
- 17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?**
- If the Lord shows us a need, and we can help...
 - We need to respond... Individually or as a Church
 - **2nd Wisdom is Needed**
 - Sadly – Churches have been used as Welfare Program
 - There are those who use churches for a type of welfare program
 - To get something for nothing and they go from church to church
 - I've seen this many times
 - The Church is NOT a Welfare Program
 - It is not a welfare program

- We as a church and individuals need to have wisdom regarding those in need
- **3rd - Biblical principles in supporting needy!**
 - 1st The church must discern who the truly needy are (1 Timothy 5:3)
 - Who really are widows
 - 2nd If a person can work to support themselves
 - They are not truly needy and must provide for his own needs
 - (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; 1 Timothy 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:11).
 - 3rd If one can be supported by their family
 - They are not truly needy, and should not be supported by the church (1 Timothy 5:3-4)
 - 4th Examine Moral Conduct
 - It is right for the church to examine moral conduct before giving support (1 Timothy 5:9-13)

• **Second: The Principles Of Giving vs. 2-4**

○ **1st It was Disciplined v. 2**

▪ **1st On the First Day of the Week v. 2a**

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV)

2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

- This Speaks of 2 Things
- **1st Consistent - A regular basis**

- This means that giving was probably a regular practice for them
- SYSTEMATIC
- **2nd Early Church Met On Sundays (First Day of the week)**
 - The Early Church met on Sunday
 - Our 7th Day Adventist friends
 - Believe we are meeting on the Wrong Day of the week
 - Since Saturday is the Sabbath –
 - They believe we should still be meeting on that day
 - Paul's Answer
 - Says here that they met on the “first day of the week” which was Sunday
 - Resurrection Day and that was the practice of the early church
 - Worship of the Lord is not limited to one day of the week, it is every day and one day is not better than another
 - Other Bible Verses

Luke 24:1 (NKJV)

1 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.

Acts 20:7 (NKJV)

7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

Romans 14:5 (NKJV)

5 One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.

Colossians 2:16–17 (NKJV)

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

- Don't miss what it is all about, not the day of the week, but Christ, He is the substance of our worship!

▪ **2nd Each One v. 2b**

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV)

2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

- This speaks of a deliberate act!
 - You are purposing to set aside a portion for Jesus!!!
- All should give!
 - No matter the amount!
- Why?
 - 1st Because we are a people who covet!
 - And the more we give the better we get!
 - 2nd It Reveals me:
 - Is it a first priority? Or an afterthought!

- It has well been said that if we look at our check books we will see what the priorities are!
- Where I am investing is where my heart is!
- If I am truly excited about the Lord's work than I will give- it reveals me!

○ **2nd It Was Discretionary As To Amount v. 2c**

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NKJV)

2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

- **“As he may Prosper”**
 - Was this a Special Offering?
 - Don't KNOW
 - The text doesn't say so I won't teach it
- **Now the question is, “How much do we give?”**
 - Some say that our tithes should be 10%
 - Does THE NT teach a Tithe?
 - The conversation Jesus had with the Pharisees
 - It's Hard to hang our hats on that
 - So then WHAT - HOW do we give?
 - **1st Cheerfully**

2 Corinthians 9:6–7 (NKJV)

6 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

7 *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

- So do we give more or less than 10% or just 10%? YES!
- Give out of a cheerful heart because God will not accept anything if it is given with the wrong motives
- We should not give grudgingly or out of compulsion
- **2nd Give as one Prospers**
 - That means you give according to the way God has given to you.
 - Has he poured out abundantly?
 - Then give abundantly.
 - Are you having a hard time and barely making it?
 - Well, then your gift can be reduced proportionately.
- **3rd It's the HEART of the person giving!**
 - The widows 2 mites

Mark 12:43–44 (NKJV)

43 *So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;*

44 *for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”*

- The wonderful hymn sums it up!
 - When I survey the wondrous cross
- Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.
- Out of a heart that has been blessed! We say
thank you!!

▪ **NOTE on GIVEN**

- I don't KNOW who gives
- What one gives is between them and the Lord
- And it should be done with a cheerful heart in worship to Him

○ **3rd It Was Delivered By Responsible People vs. 3-4**

1 Corinthians 16:3–4 (NKJV)

3 And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem.

4 But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

- Accountability
 - Money given to the Lord was to handled by honest people
 - We have several men count each week
- Beware of ministries that are questionable!
 - Make sure your giving is truly an investment into the Lord's work & His kingdom

Remember The Priority Of God's Will vs. 5-12

• First: The Outcome Is Dependent Upon Circumstances vs. 5-6

1 Corinthians 16:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia (for I am passing through Macedonia).

6 And it may be that I will remain, or even spend the winter with you, that you may send me on my journey, wherever I go.

○ **1st Blessed are the Flexible**

- NOW At the end of a 3 year stay in Ephesus
- Paul wrote his letter and probably gave it to Timothy to deliver (v. 10).
- Paul originally planned to follow Timothy a short while after (4:19)
 - Visiting Corinth on the way to and from Macedonia (2 Cor. 1:15, 16).
- He had to change his plan and visit only after a longer stay in Ephesus (v. 8)
- Then on to Corinth after Macedonia, to stay for a while (vv. 6, 7)
- One thing I see in Paul is flexibility

○ **2nd Lessons**

- 1st Our plans should always be subject to the Lord's revision
- 2nd The future does not always come together as we think it will
- 3rd How important it is that we remain flexible to the Lord's Will

• Second: The Orders Ultimately Come From The Lord v. 7

1 Corinthians 16:7 (NKJV)

7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits.

- **1st “If the Lord permits”**

James 4:13–15 (NKJV)

13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”;

14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”

• **Third: The Opportunities Will Be There vs. 8-9a**

1 Corinthians 16:8–9 (NKJV)

8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.

9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

- **1st We Have an Open door**

Revelation 3:7–13 (NKJV)

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”:

8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

• **Fourth: The Opposition Will Come Against Us v. 9**

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV)

9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

- **1st Paul also knew that opposition often accompanies opportunities**

- Acts 19 speaks of both the opportunities and opposition Paul had in Ephesus at this time
- God Will Does not Always mean EASY
- When Paul into a city to ministry
 - He did not ask where is the 5 star hotel
 - He ask what are the prisons like

• **Fifth: Lesson - 7 Important Principles in Discerning God's Will**

- **1st Avoid two extremes in seeking God's will**
 - 1st So frightened at making a mistake that we make no decisions at all
 - 2nd Impulsive decisions and rush ahead, without taking time to wait on the Lord.
- **2nd Sincerely Want to do His will (John 7:17)**
- **3rd A Surrendered Life**
 - **When discerning God's will we must surrender our lives completely to Him!**
 - (Must be a blank Check)
 - What Paul did from the moment he was saved he gave everything to Jesus
 - Who are you Lord and What do you want me to do

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

- **It is a WASTE of TIME**

- To ask God what His will for our lives if we not willing to surrender it ALL to Him and our willing to Obey!
- We can't pick and choose where He may want us to be.
 - I want Hawaii but forget Africa....

▪ **Be where He wants you to be!**

- We are not always able to understand what God will is and what He is doing!
- *Chambers; "God plants his saints in the most useless places. We say, "I should be here because I am so useful!" Jesus never estimated His life by the standards of greatest use. God puts His people where they will glorify Him, and we are not capable of judging where that is..."*
- We must trust in the "Sovereignty Of God!"

○ **4th Grow in Intimacy with God!**

- Illustration: As Husband and Wife Intimacy!
 - Knowing each other moves before they make them
- We MUST GROW in Intimacy with God
 - Prayer
 - His Word
 - WE MUST Train our minds much like an athlete who practices over and over again so when they are performing they never stop to think it just comes naturally!

- He has already given much of His will for our lives in His WORD! His revealed will! That will answer most of our questions!

○ **5th When discerning God's will we seek godly Advice!**

Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV)

14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

- 1st Be discerning!
 - If we are play baseball who do ask advice from, the coach or the peanut salesman?
 - If you ask Dr. Phil, Oprah, or Dr. Laura, worldly advice is what you will get
- 2nd Be honest with how you ask!
 - Do not ask in such a way that the person given the advice only sees your side ask in such a way that it is honest and objective! Not filled with prejudice.
- 3rd If you GIVING advice
 - Listen well and give Word - oriented advice
 - Many times over the years people have asked me what is God will for their lives...
 - I am careful with the answer... example the other day about a person who wants to move away

○ **6th When discerning God's will we remember what is right may not be EASY**

- Opposition will come / but RUN through the open door!!!

- *Wiersbe writes; “Even though Paul was in danger in Ephesus (1 Cor. 15:32), he planned to remain there while the door was open. Like a wise merchant, he had to “buy up the opportunity” before it vanished and would never return.*
- God’s WILL is NOT always EASY
 - We MUST avoid the thought that if everything is going well then we are in God’s Will
 - As a Matter of Fact – It’s MOST likely the opposite
- The Modern Church is LOOKING for EASY
 - *Herbert Hendin wrote (Age Of Sensation) “It is no accident that at the present time the dominant trends in psycho-analysis are the rediscovery of narcissism. The society is marked by self-interest and ego-centrism that increasingly reduces all relations to the question, “What am I getting out of it?”*
 - We see similar trends in the church echoed by such sentiments as
 - “God wants me to be happy!”
 - “If I am not happy, I am not in His will!”
 - “God does not want me to suffer pain. I am in pain. Therefore I am not in God’s will!”
 - Well that is not always the case!
 - *Chambers wrote, “To choose to suffer means that there is something wrong; to choose God’s will even if it means suffering is a very different thing. No healthy saint ever chooses suffering; he chooses God’s will, as Jesus did, whether it means suffering or not!”*

- God's will for our lives is not determined by our own personal joy or state of happiness!
- He is more interested in our Holiness than our happiness!
- He is more interested in reaching a lost world!
- Paul did not take the easy road!

▪ *Richard Baxter "Lord, what thou You will, where thou You will, and when thou You will!"*

○ **7th If we were sincere and heart**

- Even if you make the wrong decision God will make it right!

● **Sixth: Paul knew the importance of people vs. 10-12**

○ **1st Paul's Heart**

- He spent his time with them!
- Making a difference in their lives!
- In this section - how to care for the different types of people there are!

○ **2nd Timothy vs. 10-11**

1 Corinthians 16:10–11 (NKJV)

10 *And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do.*

11 *Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren.*

▪ **1st Treat Timothy Properly**

- Paul tells the Corinthians that if Pastor Timothy comes to them that they are to treat him properly!

- Remember - They treated Paul horribly

- **2nd Remember - Timothy**

- 1st LOVED By Paul – He was a son to him
- 2nd Timothy was Timid
 - Was young and timid and tended to shy away from conflicts
 - He was bullied by those who were strong willed and defiant.
 - He clearly did not have the same personality that Paul did!

- **Apollos vs. 12**

1 Corinthians 16:12 (NKJV)

12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time.

- Apollos was
 - Brought into the full understanding of the Gospel by Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:24–28).
 - He was an eloquent speaker and ministered with great power at Corinth, and was very popular in the church they felt attached to him (1 Cor. 1:12; 3:4–8)
- Paul had a plan:
 - What we learn from this is that Paul had a plan for Apollos, he thought it would be great for him to come!
 - But Apollos did not feel the same call so he told Paul not at this time.

- What we see is how Paul did not Lord over Apollos he respected that the Holy Spirit is the only person who has that authority in a person's life!

Receive The Exhortations To Spiritual Maturity vs. 13-14

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (NKJV)

13 *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.*

14 *Let all that you do be done with love.*

• **NOTE –**

- These quick exhortations are taken from Military Language
- Paul was telling the Corinthians, and us, to have both the submission and discipline of a soldier at war

• **First: Caution “Watch”**

- You are a soldier who is on “watch”
- Note 3 things
 - 1st We are to understand that we are constantly on watch.
 - It's a 24/7 position
 - 2nd We are to adopt an attitude of “Not on my watch!”
 - With regard to any advancement by our enemies.
 - We can't give ground to the devil nor yield to the flesh - even for a moment.
 - 3rd We are also watching for the return of the Lord

• **Second: Conviction “Stand Fast In The Faith”**

- **1st This isn't telling you to have more Faith**

- “The faith” is a term that describes the nonnegotiable truths of the Bible
- You are to be familiar with Bible truth and apply it in your everyday experience

• **Third: Confidence “be brave, be strong”**

- AKA – BE MEN
- It refers to inward strength - Luke 1:80; 2:40
- It refers to spiritual strength - Eph. 3:16

• **Fourth: Charity “Done with Love”**

1 Corinthians 16:14 (NKJV)

14 Let all that you do be done with love.

- **Done IN LOVE**
 - Act with the humility, the mercy, the gentleness, the compassion of the Lord

Respond To The Leadership & Ministry Of Others vs. 15-18

• **First: By Submitting To Them vs. 15-16**

1 Corinthians 16:15–16 (NKJV)

15 I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints—

16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.

- **1st Submit yourselves unto such**
 - Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus:
 - These were the three men who brought the questions of the Corinthian Christians to Paul.

- As Paul sends them back with this letter, Paul asked that they be received as devoted servants of the Lord.

• **Second: By Supplying Their Needs v. 17**

1 Corinthians 16:17 (NKJV)

17 I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied.

- **1st For that which was lacking on your part they have supplied**
 - Paul was especially grateful for their coming, because they ministered to Paul's needs when they visited.

• **Third: By Strengthening Them Inwardly v. 18**

1 Corinthians 16:18 (NKJV)

18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

- **1st They have refreshed my spirit and yours**
 - Fellowship – DOES this

Reflect The Love of Christ to One Another vs. 19-24

• **First: The Showing Of That Love v. 19-21**

1 Corinthians 16:19–21 (NKJV)

19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 The salutation with my own hand—Paul's.

- With Acceptance Of Every Believer – “One Another”
- With Appropriateness Toward One Another – “Holy Kiss”
- With Affection For One Another – “Holy Kiss”

• **Second: The Seriousness Of That Love v. 22**

1 Corinthians 16:22 (NKJV)

22 *If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!*

- **1st It is rooted in our love for Jesus Christ our Lord!**
 - Without love for the Lord, we are under the curse of sin and hell is our destination! “Anathema”
- **2nd O Lord, come!**
 - The word here is an Aramaic word, “maranatha”
 - Which means “O Lord come!”

• **Third: The Source Of That Love v. 23**

1 Corinthians 16:23 (NKJV)

23 *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

- 1st GRACE - Eph. 2:8-9

• **Fourth: The Spreading Of That Love v. 24**

1 Corinthians 16:24 (NKJV)

24 *My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

- May we see ourselves as spreading the love of Christ to everyone

Closing

- May we take to HEART the Corrections of this Letter

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26

- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*