

The Work of the Lord (1 Cor 16)

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Introduction: Where do you fit in the work of the Lord?

A. Here in this chapter we see the heart of the apostle Paul. He was thinking about two things.

1. The work of the Lord. (**Rom 1:15; 1 Cor 9:16-19**)
2. The needs of others. (**Phil 2:3-4**)
3. Without a doubt Paul lived what he preached. (**1 Cor 11:1**)

B. In this we need to imitate the Apostle Paul.

1. Each of us too must be interested in the progress of the Lord's work.
2. Also we have our own particular talents and responsibilities (stewardship) given by the Lord. How are we doing?
3. Let us examine the areas in which we can improve the Lord's work in our lives.

I. The Work of the Lord in Giving. (1-5)

A. This contribution was for the saints in Jerusalem.

1. He urged others churches to do this as well. (**Rom 15:26; 2 Cor 8:1-2**)
2. This was the way other Christians could assist another congregation during an emergency. This was never meant to be permanent. (**2 Cor 8:12-15**)

B. This is the pattern for all finances of the church.

1. God has a pattern for his church. (**Heb 8:5-6; Col 3:17**)
2. The church has collective responsibilities that involve money. (**2 Cor 11:8; Phil 4:15-16**)
3. Therefore the requirements of this passage will involve how a church raises money for all of its work.

C. How do we give to the Lord?

1. How can we give as prospered?
2. Does any amount please God?

D. Paul maintained care with his influence here.

1. He has others selected from each church to take this money to its destination.
2. We would be wise to have the same care. (**2 Cor 8:19-21**)
(Ex. Ed Harrell in New Orleans)

II. The Work of the Lord in Opportunity (6-9)

A. Paul was delayed in his coming.

1. He wanted to give them opportunity to repent! (**2 Cor 1:23; 2:1; 1 Cor 4:21**)
2. Paul knew that there is wisdom in waiting after teaching another. This is an area of judgment.
3. Paul sent Timothy ahead to give them further opportunity!

4. God works with us this way. (**Rev 2:21**)
- B. Paul depended upon the Lord for his opportunities. (**Jas 4:15; Heb 6:3; 1 Cor 4:19**)
 1. Paul knew when a door was opened. (**8-9**)
 2. Do we think like this? (**Acts 14:27; 2 Cor 2:12; Col 4:3**)
 3. What doors has the Lord opened for you last week?

III. The Work of the Lord in Hospitality (10-12)

- A. Timothy was very much dependent upon the church in his coming.
 1. Hospitality was a form of support to the workers of the Lord. (**3 John 5-8**)
 2. Your home is a great tool for the Lord.
- B. The Christian can speed the unity of brethren here. (**Acts 9:26-29**)

IV. The Work of the Lord in Encouragement (13-19)

- A. One of the best forms of encouragement is to be strong!
 1. “Watch” - Indicates a wakefulness, not being asleep. (**1 Cor 11:30; 15:33**)
 2. Are you steadfast? (**1 Cor 15:2, 58**)
 3. Are you brave in His service? (**Eph 6:10**)
- B. One neglected talent we have is the ability to encourage.
 1. What is your attitude towards teachers? (**Gal 6:6; 2 Jn 5-8**)
 2. To encourage another does not mean we are promoting pride.

IV. The Work of the Lord in Cooperation (20-24)

- A. We should give other Christians a “holy kiss.” (**2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thess 5:26**)
 1. It is critical that we constantly express our love and appreciation to each other.
 2. This kiss was a common form of greeting both in Old and New Testament.
 - a. Old Testament (**2 Sam 15:5-6; 2 Sam 20:9-10**)
 - b. New Testament – (**Mk 14:44; Lk 7:45**)
 3. This kiss was a common form of greeting regardless of your standing before God.
 4. Our kiss is “holy” in the manner and intent of it.
 5. Today we can practice a “holy” handshake, hug, etc.
- B. If we do not love the Lord then we are accursed! (**16:22**)
 1. ἀνάθεμα anathema {an-ath'-em-ah} **Meaning:** 1) a thing set up or laid by in order to be kept 1a) specifically, an offering resulting from a vow, which after being consecrated to a god was hung upon the walls or columns of the temple, or put in some other conspicuous place 2) a thing devoted to God without hope of being redeemed, and if an animal, to be slain; therefore a person or thing doomed to destruction 2a) a curse 2b) a man accursed, devoted to the direst of woes **Usage:** AV - accursed 4, anathema 1, bind under a great curse
 2. Can you think of another occasion where one is “accursed?” (**Gal 1:6-10**)

Conclusion: Where are you in the work of the Lord? (**Matt 24:44-51**)