

**HOW WE GIVE  
LIVING THROUGH GIVING – PART 2 OF 3  
1 CORINTHIANS 16:2**

**CHRISTIANS ARE TO BE FAITHFUL**

1. The primary purpose of giving as taught in the New Testament is for the **support** of the **saints** who make up the church (1 Cor. 16:1).
2. As Christians, we are taught from the Bible to “Do good to **all men** and especially to those who are of the **household** of faith (Gal. 6:10).
3. The **collection** Paul is referring to was for the impoverished Jewish **Christians** in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:3).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Paul states or implies a number of principles concerning **Christian giving** (1 Cor. 16:2).

**I. HOW OFTEN DO WE GIVE (1 CORINTHIANS 16:2)?**

- A. The Bible says we should give **weekly** (1 Cor. 16:2).
  1. The church met weekly on **Sunday**, and the worship service included **regular giving**.
  2. In other words, giving should be planned and not just a **random** event or whenever the “Spirit leads”.
- B. Giving is a **mandated** part of the worship experience (1 Cor. 16:2).
- C. Sunday giving appears as an important element of worship with “spiritual **sacrifices**” (1 Pet. 2:5).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Our giving should not be based on periodic **emotional** appeals or feelings, but on regular **planned** contributions of the financial resources God provides (1 Cor. 16:2).

**II. WHO IS TO GIVE?**

- A. “**Each one** of you” is an all-inclusive statement (1 Cor. 16:2).
  1. No **Christian** or class of Christians is excepted or excused.

2. We are **stewards** of whatever the **Lord** has given us, no matter how little or large our economic provision.

3. **Jesus** used a widow with a very limited income as His **model** for giving from the heart (Mark 12:41-44).

B. **Giving** is all about **attitude** (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

1. **Trusting** God (2 Cor. 9:6)

2. Prayerful **planning** (2 Cor. 9:7)

3. **Cheerfully** without remorse (2 Cor. 9:7)

**KEY THOUGHT:** The Macedonians gave out of a great **love** for **God** and for His people (2 Cor. 8:2, 5).

### III. **WHERE ARE WE TO GIVE** (1 CORINTHIANS 16:2)?

A. Giving is presented on Sunday at the **worship service** (1 Cor. 16:2).

1. Giving is primarily for the “church” and the gifts should be “**to**” and “**through**” the church.

2. Though many Jewish believers continued to worship in the synagogue and in the Temple, the **normal** time for Christians to worship together as Christians was on **Sunday** (Acts 20:7).

B. Giving began and was recorded immediately after **Pentecost** (Acts 2:44-45).

C. Shortly after that time, believers began to bring their gifts to the **Apostles** to **distribute** (Acts 4:35, 37; 5:2).

D. Each believer was to **save** and store up his **gift** to be given (1 Cor. 16:2).

**KEY THOUGHT:** As often as we give in weekly worship, it should remind us of our continued **stewardship** before the Lord of the possessions He has given us (Luke 16:10-11).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**May 15, 2011**

**SUNDAY: Paul provides a number of principles concerning Christian giving (1 Cor. 16:2)!**

Two weeks ago, we looked at “Why We Give”. The primary purpose of giving as taught in the New Testament is for the support of the saints who make up the church (1 Cor. 16:1). Christians are to return a portion of the resources God has provided them through their giving. As Christians, we are taught from the Bible to “Do good to all men and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:10). The collection that Paul was referring to in this passage was to provide some relief for the impoverished Jewish Christians in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:3). There are a number of passages in Paul’s letters to the churches that he outlines principles concerning the giving of Christians. Have you considered your commitment to giving recently? Ask the Lord today to affirm what you are giving or to share a new plan for you to follow. *May the adventure of allowing Christ to live through your life bring new dynamics to your Christian giving!*

**MONDAY: Christians are to give weekly (1 Cor. 16:2)!**

That is weekly, not weakly. The church met weekly on Sunday, and the worship time included an opportunity to give a financial gift to the Lord (1 Cor. 16:2). Laborers were most often paid at the end of the work day. Money was to be saved from each day’s wages to give on Sunday. Our giving today should follow the same pattern when we are paid. Christians today may give monthly, bi-monthly or every week, depending on how they are paid. In other words, our giving should be planned and not a random event or whenever the “Spirit of generosity” hit our fancy. Pray about your giving to be sure that you are honoring the Lord and following His outline for giving to His work. *May the changes that the Lord is leading you to make become wonderful experiences that will draw you closer to Him!*

**TUESDAY: Christian giving is systematic and driven by prayerful consideration (1 Pet. 2:5)!**

It is not the size of the gift that makes it worshipful. When we are obedient to the Lord, we experience the joy of His favor. Giving is a mandatory part of the worship experience presented in the Bible (1 Cor. 16:2), but so is paying the mortgage/rent and buying food for the family. It is part of our relationship with God and His economy. Sunday giving appears to have been an important element of worship because it involved “spiritual sacrifices” (1 Pet. 2:5). In summary, our giving should not be based on periodic emotional appeals or feelings, but on regular planned contributions from the financial resources God has provided (1 Cor. 16:2). Thank God for His many blessings, and ask how you should structure the use of your financial resources each month according to His plan for you. *May this spiritual adventure push and stretch you to let God be in complete control!*

**WEDNESDAY: Each Christian is to be part of God’s plan for giving (1 Cor. 16:2)!**

God is completely inclusive in His statement of who is to be involved in His economy. “Each one of you” Christians are to be directly and regularly involved (1 Cor. 16:2). No Christian or class of Christians is excluded. God has entrusted His resources to us to manage. We are stewards of whatever the Lord has given us, no matter how little or large our economic provision. Jesus used a widow with a very limited income as His model for giving from the heart (Mark 12:41-44).

God's plan is not equal giving, but equal sacrifice. Ask God what your specific contribution should be from the resources He provides you each month. Be faithful to what the Lord has impressed your heart to give. ***May the Lord cradle you in His faithful hands to remind you of His extraordinary love and commitment to your protection!***

**THURSDAY:** ***Giving is all about our attitude (2 Cor. 9:6-7)!*** Jesus shared about the widow the disciples were all watching at the treasury to the Temple (Mark 12:41-44). Jesus' point was that giving is all about attitude! Paul wrote to expand on the same principle of giving (2 Cor. 9:6-7). There are many attitudes that should accompany our giving to the Lord, but here are three simple ones. Giving involves trusting God (v. 6). First, will you give the tithe from what God has given you, and will you trust that He will provide for you next week? Second, will you invest the time and effort to seek God's leadership in your giving? Will you be faithful to pray and plan your giving (v. 7)? Third, will your heart be joyful and your giving be without remorse (v. 7)? Giving with these attitudes honors God no matter the size of the gift you are making. If you give what He tells you and you give out a love for Him, it brings Him joy and honors our Lord. The Macedonians gave out of a great love for God and for His people (2 Cor. 8:2, 5). If Christ is going to live through you, then He must have control of this area of your life, too. ***May the challenge bring exercise to strengthen your prayer and faith "muscles"!***

**FRIDAY:** ***The church is the primary conduit for our giving (1 Cor. 16:2)!*** Paul's letter implied that giving was presented on Sunday at church (1 Cor. 16:2). The indication is that giving is primarily for the "church" and the gifts should be "to" and "through" the church. Though many Jewish believers continued to worship in the synagogue and in the Temple, the normal time for Christians to worship as Christians was on Sunday (Acts 20:7). Worshiping on Sunday celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ each week. It is a time of celebration of our Lord and commitment of our lives to godliness. Ask the Lord to show you ways to prepare for worship on Sunday morning. Seeking to prepare your offering at the end of the week is one of those ways. ***May the Lord break the control that money has on your life so it just becomes another tool that the Lord uses as He lives through your life!***

**SATURDAY:** ***Christians are to "store up" their gift to bring to Sunday worship (1 Cor. 16:2)!*** Remember, most laborers earned their wages one day at a time throughout the week. They may have worked for different overseers throughout the week earning a different wage every day. Throughout the week the Christian is to "store up" from the money God provides through employment to give on Sunday. Giving began shortly after Pentecost (Acts 2:44-45). Christians shared from their meager funds to help those who had need. Some sold possessions they could get along without to give the money to other Christians in need. It was not long after that when believers began giving their gifts to the Apostles to distribute (Acts 4:35, 37, 5:2). As often as we give in weekly worship, it should remind us of our continued stewardship before the Lord of the possessions He has entrusted to us (Luke 16:10-11). Seek the Lord's direction as to how you are to give each week or month. Lay all your possessions before Him to see if some are supposed to be sold and the funds used by Him in some way. ***May the joy of obedience and being in the center of God's will be your own when you seek and obey!***