

Giving As It Was Meant to Be

16:1 Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 ***On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.*** 3 Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. 4 If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

5 After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you-for I will be going through Macedonia. 6 Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. 7 I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, ***if the Lord permits.*** 8 But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me. (Acts 19)

10 If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am. 11 No one, then, should refuse to accept him. Send him on his way in peace so that he may return to me. I am expecting him along with the brothers.

12 Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

13 ***Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.*** 14 ***Do everything in love (agape).***

15 You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and ***they have devoted (addicted) themselves to the service of the saints.*** I urge you, brothers, 16 to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labors at it. 17 I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. 18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

19 The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. 20 All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. 22 ***If anyone does not love (phileo) the Lord-a curse be on him (anathema- be banned).*** Come, O Lord! (*maranatha- the Lord is coming*) 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 24 My love (*agape*) to all of you in Christ Jesus. ~~Amen.~~

OT Tithing and Finances- helping the priests, the widows, the poor

Deut 14:22-15:11

22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. 23 ***Eat the tithe of your grain***, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always. 24 But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away), 25 then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose. 26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. ***Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice.*** 27 ***And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.***

28 At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and ***store it in your towns***, 29 so that **the Levites** (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and **the aliens, the fatherless** and **the widows** who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

15:1 At the end of every seven years you must ***cancel debts***. 2 This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel the loan he has made to his fellow Israelite. He shall not require payment from his fellow Israelite or brother, because the LORD's time for canceling debts has been proclaimed. 3 You may require payment from a foreigner, ***but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you***. 4 However, ***there should be no poor among you***, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, 5 if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. 6 For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

7 If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. 8 Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. 9 Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near," so that you do not show ill will toward your needy brother and give him nothing. He may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. 10 Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. 11 ***There will always be poor people in the land.*** Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward ***your brothers*** and toward the ***poor and needy*** in your land.

NT Giving- helping the other believers

2 Cor 8-9

8:1 And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 ***For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own,*** 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. 5 And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will...

8 ***I am not commanding you***, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

10 And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. 11 ***Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.*** 12 ***For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.***

13 ***Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality.*** 14 ***At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality,*** 15 ***as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."***

9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written:

"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 ***You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.***