

## 1Corinthians – Week 59

### I. Review: The Mystery Revealed (1Cor. 15:51-58)

- i. At the coming of Christ:
  1. We all shall instantly be changed!
  2. We will all be able to exclaim:
    - a. O Death: Where is your painful sting? Our bodies will not succumb to you anymore!
    - b. O Death: Where is your victory? You cannot claim our bodies anymore!
- ii. In view of the forgiveness of sins and the glory of the resurrection:
  1. Be steadfast, immovable and always be in the work of the Lord!
  2. Nothing you do in the Lord will be in vain!

### II. Continuation: Chapter 16

#### A. Instructions concerning contribution

i. 1Cor. 16:1-4 (ESV), “*Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. <sup>3</sup> And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.*”

1. Here we see the practice of taking up collections upon the first day of the week (Sunday)
  - a. This principle showed that the early Christians did not regard the Sabbath (or the seventh day) as the day of corporate worship, but Sunday:
    - i. The Lord rose on the first day of the week (Mk. 16:9).
      1. Jesus was declared the Son of God on a Sunday (Rom. 1:4)
    - ii. The Pentecost was the 50<sup>th</sup> day after a Saturday (i.e., Sunday).
      1. The Church was ushered in on Pentecost. (cf. Acts 2)
      2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred on Pentecost (cf. Acts 2)
    - iii. The disciples met to break bread on Sunday. (Acts 20:7)
    - iv. The Church was commanded to set aside a sum of money on Sunday.
      1. This apostolic direction was given to other congregations as well (i.e., the Galatians)
  - b. One should set aside weekly what he will give.
    - i. This portion of your income is consecrated to the Lord.
    - ii. Personal note: It would be a good habit when setting aside a sum of money to pray, asking the Lord to use it to His glory.
  - c. Who should give?
    - i. “*Each of you*” – every member (rich or poor)
  - d. How much should one give?
    - i. “*As he may prosper,*” that is, according to how God has enabled you to give.
    - ii. This principle is found in 2Cor. 8:12, where Paul instructs each disciple to give according to what he has, not according to what he does not have.
      1. 2Cor. 8:12 (ESV), “*For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.*”

2. Purpose of the contribution was...
  - a. To help those who are truly in need
    - i. Acts 11:28-30 – A contribution was sent to the saints devastated by a famine in Jerusalem
    - ii. Romans 15:26 – Speaks of the poor saints in Jerusalem
    - iii. Galatians 2:10 – the church is called to remember the poor.
  - b. To support those who minister (Phil 4:14-19)
  - c. To cover expenses incurred by the ministry (rent, insurance, materials, etc.)

## B. Paul's personal plans

- i. 1Cor. 16:5-9 (ESV), *“I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, <sup>6</sup> and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. <sup>7</sup> For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. <sup>8</sup> But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, <sup>9</sup> for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”*
  1. Paul knew that his plans were in the hands of the Lord.
    - a. We ought to always say, “Lord willing” when making plans (cf. James 4:15)
  2. Paul always looked for open doors for the gospel even though he knew there were many enemies there as well!
    - a. It is good for us to seek open doors wherever we are!
    - b. Wherever there is an open door, Satan is there too!
      - i. But don't let Satan discourage you from doing the work of the Lord
      - ii. As Paul told the Corinthians, always be in the work of the Lord (1Cor. 15:58).

## C. Closing exhortations

- i. Plea to receive Timothy cordially
  1. 1Cor. 16:10-11 (ESV), *“When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. <sup>11</sup> So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.”*
    - a. Paul encourages the Corinthians to make sure Timothy's visitation is an encouragement to him.
    - b. This principle applies to us as a congregation to really be a source of encouragement to those who are doing the work of the Lord.
- ii. Apollos to visit the church at Corinth
  1. 1Cor. 16:12 (ESV), *“Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.”*
    - a. Apollos wanted to go to visit the Corinthians but he was not able to do it immediately as Paul asked him to.
    - b. This verse shows that a disciple is not obliged to do something a leader tells him if he is not able to do so.
- iii. Exhortation to steadfastness and love
  1. 1Cor. 16:13-14 (ESV), *“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. <sup>14</sup> Let all that you do be done in love.”*
    - a. Paul reminds them to be watchful:

