The Work of the Lord (1 Cor 16) <u>www.aubeacon.com</u>

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. "Now concerning" indicated another question by the Corinthians. (7:1)
 - 2. He urged others churches to do this as well. (Rom 15:26; 2 Cor 8:1-2)
 - 3. 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; 1 Tim 5:9)
 - 3. Therefore the requirements of this passage will involve how a church raises money for all of its work.
 - 4. A day is specified and commanded. (1 Cor 16:2; Rev 1:10)
 - 5. It is "every first day." (NASV)
 - 6. This is NOT to be done at home but rather in the assembly on the first day of the week.
 - 7. Some have thought that a denial of the treasury, the local eldership and thus any required local collective responsibility would bring greater unity. Has it?
- C. 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)

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 1:23-24; 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. (4:17)
 - 1. Erastus was with Timothy and was from Corinth. (Rom 16:23, Acts 19:27)
 - 2. Timothy was in real danger of opposition and shameful treatment. (1 Tim 4:12)
 - 3. $\dot{\epsilon}\xi ou \theta \epsilon \nu \dot{\epsilon} \omega$ exoutheneo \square AV despise 6, set at nought 3, esteem lease 1, contemptible 1; 11 1) to make of no account, despise utterly.
 - 4. Today we face a real problem in Christian's attitudes towards men who are supported to preach the gospel. Have you despised a young preacher?
- B. Hospitality was a form of support to the workers of the Lord. (3 John 5-8)
 - 1. Your home is a great tool for the Lord.
 - 2. The Christian can speed the unity of brethren here. (Acts 9:26-29)

IV. The Work of the Lord in Encouragement (13-18)

- A. One of the best forms of encouragement is to be strong!
 - 1. "Watch" give strict attention to as a sentinel. (Acts 20:31; 15:33)
 - 2. "Stand fast"- one who holds his ground. (1 Cor 15:2, 58)
 - 3. "Be brave" conduct oneself in a courageous way. (Eph 6:10)
 - 4. "Be strong" the one who conquers and achieves victory!
- B. One neglected talent we have is the ability to encourage.
 - 1. What is your attitude towards teachers? (Gal 6:6; 3 Jn 5-8)
 - 2. To encourage another does not mean we are promoting pride.
- C. Stephanas, a man addicted to the ministry.
 - 1. Have you known anyone like this? (16:15)
 - 2. If you do then rally around them. Do not assume that they have a constant flow of encouragement and help.
 - 3. You can encourage men in the field by sending help in the form of another man!

IV. The Work of the Lord in Cooperation (19-24)

- 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.
 - 3. Old Testament (2 Sam 15:5-6; 2 Sam 20:9-10)
 - 4. New Testament (Mk 14:44; Lk 7:45)
 - 5. This kiss was a common form of greeting for all men.
 - 6. Our kiss is "holy" in the manner and intent of it.
 - 7. Today we can practice a "holy" handshake, hug, etc.
- B. Consider the work of Aquila and Priscilla. (16:19)
 - 1. They were with Paul when he left Cornith. (Acts 18:18)
 - 2. They went to Rome and risked their lives for Paul. (Rom 16:3-4)
- C. Do you love Jesus? (16:22)
- *Conclusion:* Where are you in the work of the Lord? (Matt 24:44-51)