

# My Journey Whithersoever I Go

## First Corinthians Chapter Sixteen



~ Our Spiritual Safari concludes commentary on first Corinthians in this report and, in our next report, we will return to the Old Testament to consider the Book of Ezra. In this report, we come down from a three-report safari summit in chapter fifteen. I think we covered the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from every angle I am capable of presenting Him from. There is a very definite and strange relationship between the birth of Christ and the death and resurrection of Christ. If Jesus wasn't Who He said He was on earth, then His death is perfectly meaningless; and we have no salvation.

As long as we meet around the living Christ — and His death, burial and resurrection — we can disagree on *ALMOST* all other doctrine. We would have to agree on the virgin birth to consider the One Who died and was resurrected. If we don't have a Savior Who was virgin born, then we don't have a Savior; because there is no other Name under Heaven by which man can be saved. Another area we will have to agree on is the sole authority, inerrancy, and inspiration of Scripture. There are a few others; but not nearly as many as divide the church today. That's shameful. It's the result of a total and complete ignorance of the Bible.

In this final chapter, Paul discusses many subjects; from the collection of an offering to opportunities and opposition, watching and praying, the conduct of the church, the acid test of doctrine and, finally, it is ecclesiastical as the modern church comes into view. This is also very personal because Paul is obviously not sure what he is going to do in this chapter; he doesn't know where he is going to go from here. That's a great relief to me because I find it very difficult to predict my future at this time! Most people seem to think they can tell me where they're going to be and what they'll be doing in five years; well, I don't believe God has given

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anyone privileged information that He hasn't given to others – such as information about the future. I know many people think they have a private connection to the Lord that other lesser believers know nothing about – but, they don't – those people are just liars....

***<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.***

~ Well, friends, how are you doing with materially supporting the man who believes God and teaches you His Word properly, correctly and completely? You would think that after such a lengthy, holy, most glorious doctrine of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that Paul has just given us — and that we took three full reports examining — that he would want to stay in the clouds and finish this letter on that lofty plane. But, no, Paul doesn't do that at all — he takes them to the bottom by passing around the proverbial offering plate. Most people tell me I shouldn't talk about my material needs. I imagine they say that because they don't really care about my material needs. Maybe it's embarrassing for them. I digress, sort of....

***<sup>2</sup> Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.***

~ Here's what I do know about Christian giving: if you don't want to worship on the first day of the week, then you'll need to make a special trip to drop off your offerings; because offerings are part of worship, of course — and Paul instructs the church to make the offering on the first day of the week – not on the Sabbath Day. This is for the early church in Corinth because they met on the first day of the week. That's when the church comes together to remember the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Not Saturday. It's mind-boggling to me that men refuse to see these truths and insist on worshiping in their rank unbelief.

See, there's no rule about tithes or structured mandatory percentages for offerings; we're to give as God has prospered us. Has God prospered you? Paul didn't want high pressure methods used for taking up a collection.

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That is absolutely contrary to the way giving is done, taught and received today – contrary to the Word of God, that is. We are to give as God has prospered us. Some of us can give in ways other than monetary, too. I just happen to know there are some Christians who cannot afford to give anything – period. On the other hand, some are doing very well, and giving a tenth isn't enough for them. I know some successful people who should give *MUCH* more — perhaps half — to a worthy cause whereby they receive their blessings. Either way, if you only give a tenth, you may as well give nothing; because God wants it *ALL*, friends! It's all His already anyways! He's just testing you – thought you might like to know.

Paul calls church giving “*liberality!*” He called their liberality the same word used for grace. Elsewhere, Paul calls donations a contribution, a blessing and a ministrations. In Acts, Luke tells us about “*alms.*” Alms concerns giving to the Lord. Our giving today must be grace-based giving; dependent upon how the Lord has blessed and prospered our life. Would you say your giving could be considered liberality? If you read the record in Leviticus carefully and correctly, you'll understand the nation Israel actually tithed a little more than thirty percent by the time their theocratic government collected their portion....

***<sup>3</sup> And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.***

***<sup>4</sup> And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.***

***<sup>5</sup> Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia: for I do pass through Macedonia.***

***<sup>6</sup> And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I go.***

~ That statement in verse six means a lot to me, friends! I'm going whithersoever the Lord takes me now. I'm not sure where that will be, either. The Lord leads me along, day by day; and I thank Him for that

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because, without Christ, I would be going nowhere. If the Lord Jesus didn't Personally hold onto Andrew Hunt, then Andrew would be lost before the sun went down.

Paul is gloriously unsettled here. All of Paul's plans are now subject to God's direction, purpose and permission. I think we should all have future plans, but those plans must be amenable to the will of God. We must be willing to change our plans as the Holy Spirit leads us. God has set before each of us an open door to take His Word to the entire world. Unfortunately, there are also many adversaries who will literally try to crucify us if we attempt to serve God properly, correctly and completely. At least, that's been my experience. Any man who preaches the Word of God will find himself utterly alone in trying to do so; but, a great door will still be opened to that man which God will not allow any man to shut. You can just write that down. I did...

***<sup>7</sup> For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit.***

***<sup>8</sup> But I will tarry at Ephesus until Pentecost.***

***<sup>9</sup> For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.***

***<sup>10</sup> Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.***

***<sup>11</sup> Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren.***

***<sup>12</sup> As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.***

***<sup>13</sup> Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.***

***14 Let all your things be done with charity.***

***15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)***

***16 That ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth.***

***17 I am glad of the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.***

***18 For they have refreshed my spirit and yours: therefore acknowledge ye them that are such.***

***19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.***

***20 All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.***

***21 The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand.***

***22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.***

***23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.***

***24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen. (The first epistle to the Corinthians was written from Philippi by Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus and Timotheus)***

~ Our Spiritual Safari leaves the city of Corinth by saying good-bye to these various wonderful saintly personalities who were serving God; the Word of God tells us these men were “addicted” to the ministry. When I first read

that, I thought they had started using drugs or something. That's not what that means – isn't that silly? I think Paul would tell you it would be *IMPOSSIBLE* to run a proper, correct and complete Bible teaching under the influence of drugs or alcohol; the Lord would see to its demise, Personally.

Unfortunately, the city of Corinth remained given over to corruption, sensuality, immorality, and evil at the time in which we are studying. I think they knew more about immorality and how to do it well than we know anything about today, to be sure! The men Paul mentioned lived among these church members, taught them, preached to them and ate dinner in their homes - and they knew the Lord Jesus Christ. These men that Paul mentioned lived for Christ in a carnal, heathen and pagan place called Corinth.

**Luke 10:**<sup>16</sup> *....and Jesus said, He that heareth you heareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me ~*

**1 Thessalonians 4:**<sup>8</sup> *....he therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit ~*

They despised Timothy in Corinth in verse eleven because he was a young man who taught the Word of God sincerely, in an educated manner and without compromise. The church viewed Apollos and Timothy as being in opposition to each other, but they were both serving the Lord — together. Turn that over in your mind a few times, friends. Well, Timothy, Paul and Apollos were each planning to visit the church in Corinth soon. Paul tells them to be strong in the faith and stand fast until that time.

And with that, we concludes commentary in first Corinthians. In our next report, we'll travel back in time to Jerusalem to the days of Ezra. Ezra is truly a seriously neglected book of the Bible. The city of Jerusalem is destroyed by fire, and the walls are broken down at the time we are returning to. Israel and Judah have both been taken in captivity and, yet –

guess what? – the Word of the Lord will be given to them again as a gift from God.

Ezra brings the Word of the Lord back to Jerusalem and motivates those who returned with him to actually read it and study it; that's what Ezra is all about, friends – all about the Word of God! The Word of God is the only way and the only place we will ever find Jesus Christ; our safari searches for Him on every page of Scripture, too. If you love the Lord, then that's where you'll be looking for Him, also. Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart, and do you trust Him with your life as your Savior? If you say yes, then, may I say, it's time to learn the Bible and understand it for your life ~

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