

# 1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

**Sermon Title:** "Thankful for the Work of God in the People of God"

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 16:1-12

Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, November 21, 2021

## INTRODUCTION

*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:58)*

Note: Your knowledge of the future directly impacts your attitude and actions in the present.

Note: It's a very natural transition that Paul makes from future resurrection to practical living.

*"For the LOVE OF MONEY is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this CRAVING that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Timothy 6:10)*

## I. THANKFUL TO BE A PART OF GOD'S WORK!

1 Corinthians 16:1 -

1) The collection was for the purpose of loving, helping, and caring for fellow believers!

*"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)*

1 Corinthians 16:2 -

2) Our giving ought to be regular, systematic, purposeful, and in proportion to our income.

*"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." (2 Cor. 9:6-8)*

1 Corinthians 16:3-4 -

3) This collection (the Lord's money!) was to be entrusted to the care of trustworthy people.

## II. THANKFUL FOR GOD'S PEOPLE!

Note: Verses 5-12 teach us some important lessons about real ministry in real life!

1 Corinthians 16:5-7 -

1) ALL our plans, for life and ministry, must be submitted to the Lord!

*"If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:15)*

1 Corinthians 16:5-7 -

2) The Lord's work (God-glorifying ministry) seeks the good/growth of people ("YOU")!

*"Him we proclaim, warning EVERYONE and teaching EVERYONE with all wisdom, that we may present EVERYONE mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all HIS energy that HE powerfully works within me." (Colossians 1:28-29)*

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 -

3) There will ALWAYS be hindrances and adversaries to the Lord's work... get used to it!

*"Indeed, ALL who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Timothy 3:12)*

Note: Opposition often leads to opportunity to speak about and to stand for Jesus!

1 Corinthians 16:10-12 -

4) Paul was NOT a "one-man" show; he served as part of a team, which he loved!

Note: Paul was not some "CEO-Boss-Tyrant"; he honored and respected the opinions of others.

### Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What principles for giving do you see in verses 1-4?
2. Why was this collection so important to Paul?
3. How is Paul's love for the Corinthians seen in verses 5-12?
4. How is Paul's love for his fellow workers (his ministry team) seen in verses 5-12?
5. Why (in verse 9) is Paul not discouraged by the presence of "many adversaries"?