

We have spent a bunch of time talking about the resurrection – Four weeks discussing

- Now Paul moves from foundation to function...we lay a foundation and then build
What is the point of building a house? To live in it...Parents have built two homes...live
After Paul's wonderful theology on the resurrection, he moves into the practical – finances

- A part of how we live as Christians is what we do with our finances...touchy subject
Met a guy once: Tell me how to be a man – husband – father – how to die...not my money

- We have all heard...the church only wants your money – money – money – money
Health – Wealth – Prosperity preachers...do want you money...send \$\$\$ for your miracle
Real churches don't want money...we want your obedience Scriptures – Obedience brings...

Something I want to say from the top...I am thankful for the generosity here at our church
Why we titled this message – The gift of giving...because it is a biblical joy to the giver

16 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ²On 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. ³And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

Paul doesn't apologize for not only asking for their money...but commanding it as a leader

- Why can Paul be so bold? How could Paul be so brazen? The answer is simple...
- Paul is assuming that their first responsibility is to the gospel...what the money is for
It doesn't take a genius to realize that the advancement of the gospel takes resources

Big Idea: We give for the Gospel – Let me make this practical as we dive in...

We are called to practice systematic, proportional, and accountable generosity.

As we move from foundation to function we are going to look at four principles for giving

1. We Give for Gospel Ambition (v. 1)

16 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. The collection to which Paul refers, was a special gathering to help the church in Jerusalem
Summary – Romans 15:25-26 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

- Poor, because they not only were suffering due to a drought and hard economic times
- They suffered neglect and persecution due to their faith...rough Christian in Jerusalem
- Paul's making the case that the church in Corinth, among others, should help them
- Not "the poor and needy in Jerusalem in general," but the poor among the saints

In other words...the collection is for the church – The church is our primary obligation

You'll notice that it was a command given to them from the Lord... 'As I directed'

Here's reality of what's going on...collecting an offering for a church never attend | MAP

TA: We must adopt the design – Whether you contribute or not...we've adopted the design

- A portion of what people give here doesn't stay here? Nicaragua – Church Planting
When you give here it is for Gospel Ambition...here...city...state...world being reached
We, as the people of Christ, have an obligation to give in such a way in impacts eternities
Do you know what I need? An oil change...do you know how I know that...my car
My car is demanding I take care of it...now...I could ignore it, but the car will break down
God is demanding that we give to take care of the church...if we don't...it breaks down

If we do not give towards gospel ambition, we are short changing ourselves on discipleship

- Think about all your ambitions...you put resources towards them...same is true Gospel
The church in Corinth was taking seriously the sacrifice for the gospel...we should too

2. We Give for Gospel Investment (v. 2)

²On 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.

First of all...this is hilarious. Paul is like...you guys do the collecting – Don't make me collect
In this text we see four things: The Period – The Participants – The Place – The Proportion

- The Period – The first day of the week – This is Sunday...when the church was gathering
 - This means our giving should be regular and scheduled – Didn't have online...okay
 - Giving is not to be sporadic or 'As the Spirit Leads You' – Spirit Could lead in different
- The Participants – Each one of you – The principle for giving is universal and for all
 - Amount will change but the principle remains the same...Christians give to the work
- The Place – Store it up – The place given is to the church and the church distributed
- The Proportion – As he may prosper – Meaning the more prosperous you are the more
 - Disagreement in church = Is it a 10% Tithe or is it an offering – Nowhere in the NT
 - The principle in the NT is that of an investment | Bills – Savings – Investment

2 cor. 9:6-7 - ⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. How we give:

- Sacrificially - Whoever sows sparingly...whoever sows bountifully
- Prayerfully – Decided in his own heart – Have not gone to the Lord in prayer...problem
- Willfully – Not reluctantly or under compulsion
When churches manipulate people into giving it is biblically wrong
- Joyfully – For God loves a cheerful giver – The gift of giving...God loves it when you give
TA: You must make giving worship | Worship means reverence and submission

- However you give – Check – Online – Cash – Thousands or Pennies... act of worship

3. We Give for Gospel Commitment (v. 3-4)

³And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

- Paul is talking about here is accountability – Trusting people with the gift you give
 - This is why we have Elders in the church and not committees...Elders decide finances
 - Once a month our Elders review our financial situation...decisions | I don't know
- We take stewardship, accountability, and transparency very seriously – Member Mtg.
Here is the other side of the coin...you need to give and trust

These people, just like our people, were vetted for their integrity...they could be trusted

You have 100K to protect...would you give it to an FDIC accredited bank or bank robber

The church...if governed well...is the safest and most secure place you can invest

The church is committed to the gospel and will use every penny like the widows mite

Paul was entrusting the people from the church to deliver the gift...that took a lot of trust

- Guys could have taken the money and ran...could have bought a bunch of donkeys
If you do not trust your elders...go to a church that you do and give there
I'm going to tell you, before God and on my life...you can trust your Elders

TA: We must guard the gift.

We don't hoard it – Hide – We guard it and use gospel reasons – Budget w/ eternity in mind

- Guarding the gift isn't just about happens in the offering box – Happens in the heart
 - When we handle God's money God's way, both the church and the believer become living proof that Jesus can be trusted with everything we have.

- Are you using your money with integrity?

Tell me how to be a man – husband – father – how to die...not my money...Im not...God is