

“WHEN CARNALITY AND ‘COLLECTIONS’ COLLIDE”

I Corinthians 16:1-4

I. INTRODUCTION:

A. Carnality, the daily battle for any believing congregant:

1. How the letter began - carnality: (*I Cor. 3:1-4*)
2. How the letter concludes - collections: (*I Cor. 16:1-4*)
3. Pronouns, the tell-tale sign of carnality: (*See Eccl. 2*) (*I Cor. 8-10*)
 - a.
 - b.

B. Spirituality, the daily quest for any believing congregant:

1. Spirituality defined: (*I Cor. 2:10,13,15-16*)
2. The “litmus” of spirituality: (*Mt. 7:19-21*)
3. Christ's two posted precepts for money:
 - a. Christ owns everything (salvation declaration): (*I Tim. 6:7; I Cor. 6:19-20*)
 - b. I manage His money with eternity in mind: (*Mt. 7:19-21; 25:14-30; Acts 20:24*)

C. The issue of an “additional collection” for strangers: **v. 1** (*II Cor. 8:1-9:5*) (*I Cor. 9:8-10*) (*See back*)

II. FIVE DIRECTIVES FOR THIS ADDITIONAL COLLECTION: **vv. 2-4**

A. The pattern: **v. 2**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

B. The participants: **v. 2**

C. The place: **v. 2**

D. The proportion: **v. 2**

- 1.
- 2.

E. The protection: **vv. 3-4**

- 1.
- 2.

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming “people of the Word” in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

SINNERS PRAYER

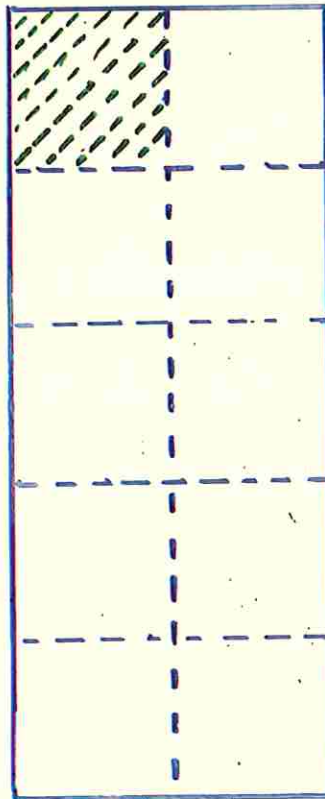
Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.

BRIDEGROOM DEFINITIONS

A. Storehouse tithing: The word "tithe" simply means "tenth". A tithe is returning to the Lord through the local church (storehouse), and with no strings attached, a minimum of one tenth of your financial blessings (gross income, profits, inheritance, etc.) as a declaration of His sovereign ownership over any and all of the possessions placed under your management. It has been calculated that in the Old Testament in accordance with the Mosaic Law, the minimum amount was about 23 % of the individual's gross income. (See *Deut. 14:23; Mal. 3:10-12; Heb. 7:1-3*)

B. First fruits: The Lord (Bridegroom) always asks for your first fruits, the first and best of all that you have received before anything else is dispersed just as He did in demonstrating His love to His bride. (*Rom. 5:8*) As it relates to tithing, it means to give a minimum of the first ten percent of your blessings to the Lord through a local church, before you pay any other financial commitments including your taxes. (See *Mal. 1:13; Pro. 3:5-6, 9-10*)

FIRST-FRUIITS



C. Offerings or sacrificial "collections": Sacrificial offerings are given to the Lord (Bridegroom) "over and above the expected 10% tithe", usually through the responsible agency of the local church (bride). As a gracious and loving expression of gratitude to the Bridegroom, the individual personally sacrifices his wants and desires, to return a greater percentage of God's blessings to the Lord leaving for himself and his family, a dwindling percentage of the whole. Offerings are not based on the amount of the individual gift to the Lord, but rather on what percentage the sacrificial offering is of the whole. A great example of the sacrificial offerings of an entire congregation is recorded in Exodus 25:1-2 and Exodus 35:4-29 of the Old Testament. The greatest model today for an individual's sacrificial offering is the account of the widow referenced in Mark 12:42-44 and Luke 21:1-4 of the New Testament. (See *Ex. 35:4-29; Mal. 3:8b; I Cor. 16:1-4; II Cor. 9:7; Lk. 21:1-4*)