

I. Introduction: Paul's final challenge to the Corinthians was to join the work of the Lord that was going on in Jerusalem, Ephesus, Corinth, and to the ends of the earth.

II. The Work of the Lord (1 Cor 16:1-12).

A. Paul's Collection (vv. 1-4).

1. Paul instructed the Corinthians to take a weekly offering for the poor Christians in Jerusalem so that they might help those destitute believers there.

B. Paul's Opportunities (vv. 5-9).

1. Paul explained to the Corinthians that he hoped to come to them soon after he had gone through Macedonia and to continue to serve the Lord in other places as well.

C. Paul's Companions (vv. 10-12).

1. Paul told the Corinthians that he was sending Timothy to them and that they should receive him warmly. He believed Apollos might also come to them in time.

III. Conclusion: Paul challenged the Corinthians to give their lives to the work of the Lord, and explained to them how he and others were currently engaged in God's work.

Questions About: The Work of the Lord

1. What are you doing for Jesus? What are you doing to build His kingdom? If God audited your life, what would He find that you are doing with His time? His money? His energy? His talents?
2. What does the Bible have to say about your life? (**Ps 90:10; James 4:14**) How will we give an accounting of our lives? (**Matt 25:14-30**) How does this give us perspective on our lives?
3. What practical area of service did Paul address first? (**1 Cor 16:1-4**) Why was Paul collecting money from the Corinthians? (**v. 3**) Why were the Christians there in such dire need?
4. How does money indicate where our hearts are? (**Matt 6:19-24**) What do you spend your money on? Do you use money to serve God? Do you serve your money like it's a god?
5. What were Paul's plans for the immediate future? (**1 Cor 16:5-9**) Where did Paul want to go? (**v. 5**) When did he plan on visiting Corinth? (**v. 6**) How long did he want to stay with them?
6. What can you learn about Paul's character from his plans? (**1 Cor 16:5-9**) How was Paul a planner? How did he exhibit urgency? How was he tenacious? How can we imitate Paul?
7. Who was Paul sending to Corinth in his place? (**1 Cor 16:10-12**) What do you know about Timothy? (**Acts 16:1-5; 1 Cor 4:17; Phil 2:20**) How did Paul tell them to treat Timothy?
8. What did Paul say about Apollos? (**1 Cor 16:12**) What do we know about Apollos? (**Acts 18:24-19:1**) How were Timothy and Apollos laboring for Jesus? How are you?

Prayer

1. Pray God would help us to understand how we can be a part of the work of Jesus on earth.
2. Ask God to give you a greater sense of urgency to reach people with the Gospel message.