

An aerial photograph of a valley with a town, fields, and mountains in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

# GIVING AT CORINTH

1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-4

The background of the image shows a classical building with several tall, fluted columns supporting a heavy entablature. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark, overcast sky. The text is overlaid on this background in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

**IT WAS A  
SPECIAL GIVING**

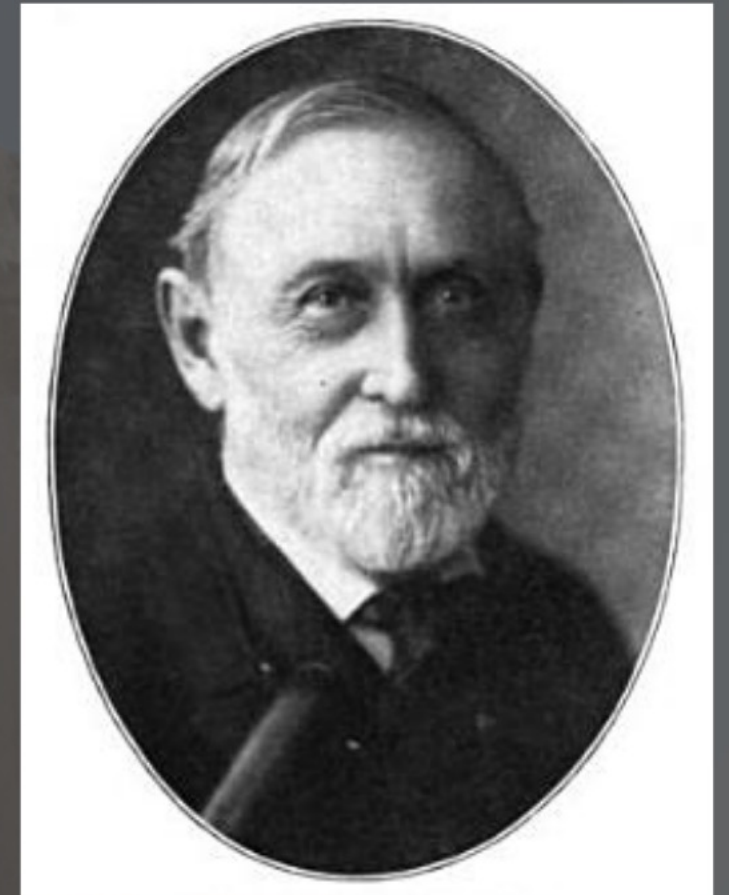
**“NOW CONCERNING...”**



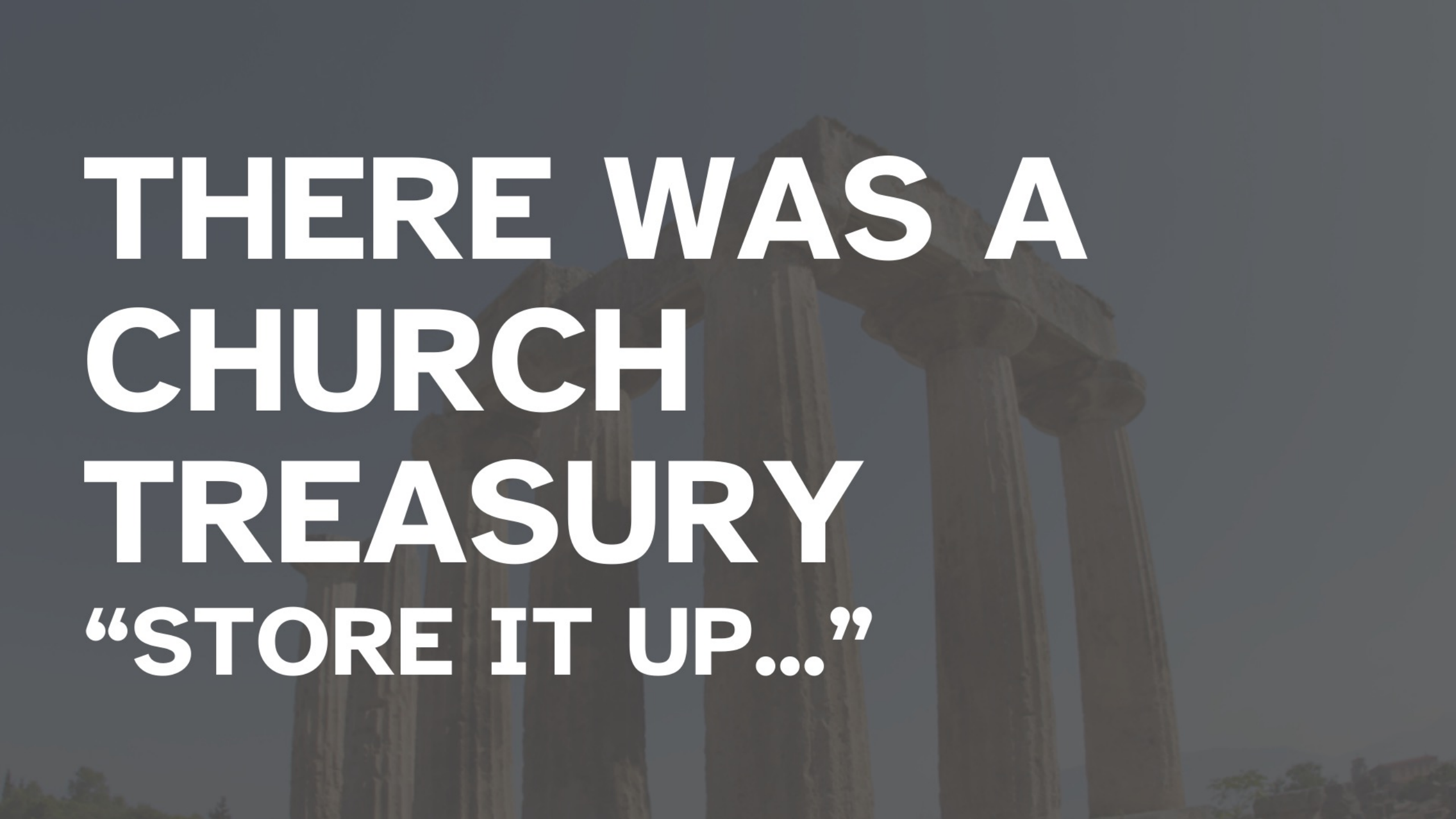
# CONSIDERATIONS

- **“Now concerning”** shows this was a special topic of concern that Paul wrote this letter to address (7:1, 25; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1, 12).
- The **special contribution** is met by the **regular contribution system** of the church.
  - Paul forbade the collection to be gathered from people’s homes at his arrival.
  - It was to be done on the Lord’s Day.
  - This to be placed in the public treasury of the church as a funds for a separate need.
- **Generosity knows no regularity**, but this was part of the church practice.

“If each man had laid by in his own house, all these scattered collections would have had to be gathered after Paul’s arrival, which was the very thing that he forbade. Again, had the collection been of such a private nature, it would have been gathered normally at the end instead of at the beginning of the week. But the first day of the week was evidently set apart for public worship (John 20:19-26; Acts 20:7; Revelation 1:10), and this offering was part of the service. It was put in the public treasury of the church, but kept by itself as a separate fund.”



**J. W. McGarvey**



**THERE WAS A  
CHURCH  
TREASURY  
“STORE IT UP...”**



# THE CHURCH TREASURY

- “...put something aside and **store it up**, as he may prosper...”
  - The verb phrase “store it up” is a translation of the word **thesaurizo**.
  - Thesaurizo has the idea of **storing, treasuring, accumulating, even pickling**.
- Jesus warned us that we should not store up our treasures on earth but in heaven, where nothing can destroy it (Matt 6:19-20).
  - “So is the one who **lays up treasure** for himself and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:21)
- The church had a **treasury in which its collective funds were gathered and accumulated for its work and mission**.

The background of the image shows several tall, fluted ancient Greek columns supporting a stone entablature. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark, overcast sky, creating a somber and historical atmosphere. The columns are arranged in a perspective that leads the eye towards the center of the frame.

# THERE WAS A FREQUENCY

“FIRST DAY OF EVERY  
WEEK...”

# THE FREQUENCY

- “On the first day of every week...” = Sunday.
  - This is the frequency of collective church giving (**weekly**).
  - This was **not** simply a matter of a special contribution.
  - We have **no other textual authority** for when the Christians give their offerings to God.
- Personal generosity is not limited to Sunday giving, but these are “**above and beyond**” matters.
  - Christians sold their property they laid the proceeds at the apostles feet (probably not literally).
  - How Christians seek to generate income they decide to give to the church is their prerogative.





# ON THE BASIS OF PROSPERITY

**“AS HE MAY PROSPER...”**

# PORPORTIONATELY

- Giving in on the basis of one's prosperity: "as he may prosper..."
  - **NOT** on the basis of your feeling
  - **Our giving must reflect our prosperity.**
  - No one is asked to give beyond God's grace in their lives.
  - To illustrate, **everyone's 10%** looks the same before God.
- Some may be able to give more than others:
  - As the rich foolish farmer (Luke 12), **one should consider how to use the level of their abundance.**
  - Most of us live on modest incomes for our society, those that live comfortably should consider giving from their abundance.



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