

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Corinthians 16

Lesson 22

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong (1 Corinthians 16:13) are some of Paul's final instructions to the church of God which is at Corinth and to all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord (1:2). These are words of a father's heart – Paul, the earthly father of their faith and our heavenly Father, the heavenly Father of their faith and ours. May you sense the love in these closing words of this awesome book to the believers in Corinth and believers everywhere. Maranatha! *O Lord, come!*

DAY ONE: Read 1 Corinthians 16

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 1 Corinthians 16 has been divided into four sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-4

Verses 5-12

Verses 13-18

Verses 19-24

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for chapter 16.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God* and *Jesus*.

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 16. Remember, as you mark the key words to mark any personal pronouns that refer to them. You do not need to mark every word that refers to them – only those that you feel are significant.

4. Using the chart provided with your Observation Worksheets, add any information you feel is pertinent about the **Author(s)**, the **Recipients**, **Problems** and **Commands**.
5. Scan the verses that contain the word *Lord*. Choose one of them and share your thoughts about that verse.

DAY TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

1. Paul moves from a looking forward to the future to the practical of providing for one another as we sojourn on this earth. He begins this chapter with the same words which he began chapters 7 and 12 – *now concerning*. Many of the churches, including the Galatians, were collecting gifts. Who was the *collection* to be for?

a. Summarize his instructions in verses 2-3.

2. We do not have the record of Paul's orders to the church in Galatia. However, we do have his instructions to the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Paul used the churches in Macedonia as an example of Christian giving. Describe their giving by filling in the blanks.

2 Corinthians 8:2 ...that in a great _____ of _____ the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty _____ in the _____ of their _____.

2 Corinthians 8:3 For I bear witness that according to their _____, yes, and beyond their _____, they were _____.

2 Corinthians 8:4 _____ us with much _____ that we would receive the gift and the _____ of the ministering to the saints.

2 Corinthians 8:5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave _____ to the _____, and then to _____ by the will of God.

a. Summarize the attitude of the giving of the believers in Macedonia.

b. What does it mean that they gave *according to their ability*?

1.) What does 2 Corinthians 8:12 say that encourages this attitude?

2.) How does this counter any excuse we may have that we don't have enough time or enough money?

3. Paul uses another example of giving in 2 Corinthians 8:9. Who is the example?

a. What was His example?

4. Record what the following verses say about the:

attitude of giving:

2 Corinthians 8:11

2 Corinthians 9:7

purpose of giving:

2 Corinthians 8:13,14

2 Corinthians 9:12

result of giving:

2 Corinthians 9:6

2 Corinthians 9:12-14

5. According to 1 Corinthians 16:3, *letters* were to accompany *whomever* the believers in Corinth *approved* to deliver the collection. 2 Corinthians 8:16-21 reflects the importance of the *approved* couriers. What are some of the things you can glean from these verses about choosing people to represent the Lord?

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

- Malachi 3:10 NIV

DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-12

1. In this section of 1 Corinthians 16, Paul reveals his travel plans. What are they?

2. What two things did Paul write about Ephesus in verse 9?

a. Explain, as you would to a new Christian, what we mean when we say *God opened a door*. Use Acts 14:27 and Colossians 4:3 to aid your explanation.

b. Although God had *opened the door* for Paul to preach the gospel, it was not a door without adversity. List some synonyms for the word *adversaries*.

1.) Describe the adversity Paul encountered according to 2 Corinthians 1:8.

(a). According to verse 9, why did these things happen?

(b). Why is learning to *trust in God* so important?

(c). How does knowing God's purpose for many trials you face is to teach you to *trust Him*, help you to adjust your thinking and attitude?

Challenge: Acts 19 describes Paul's visit to Ephesus. Who were his *adversaries* and what did they do?

3. What were Paul's instructions concerning Timothy? See 1 Corinthians 16:10,11.

a. What does this teach us about properly receiving those God sends to minister to us?

4. Keeping in mind Paul's introductory statements in this letter (the competition among the believers as they followed different men), we might think that Paul (because of jealousy) would like to keep *Apollos* away from them. What does verse 12 say that might counter this kind of accusation?

a. How might competition among those who minister hinder the work of God?

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-18

1. This section of chapter 16 contains a set of final instructions. List them below.

Verse	Instruction
13	
14	
16	
18	

2. Why does Matthew 26:41 exhort us to be *watchful*?

a. Keeping in mind the condition of the church in Corinth, what do you think it means to watch?

3. Some of those in the church of Galatia had returned to the bondage of the law. The church in Corinth was in danger of returning to the bondage of the world's ways. What is Paul's instruction in Galatians 5:1?
 - a. Explain how we are to *stand fast* in our Christian liberties.
4. 1 Corinthians 16:13 calls us to *be brave*. According to Psalm 27:14, how do we do that?
5. What is Paul's instruction to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:1?
 - a. What do you think it means to be *strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus*?
6. In 1 Corinthians 16:16-18 Paul urged the believers to *submit to and acknowledge everyone who works and labors with us*. What did Paul say about these people?
 - a. Think of a time another believer *refreshed your spirit*. What was it like?

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 16:19-24

1. As Paul relays greetings to the Corinthian believers from the *churches of Asia and Aquila and Priscilla*, he exhorts them to *greet one another with a holy kiss*. This was the common way of greeting at the time. A *holy kiss* should be sincere and motivated by the love of the Lord. What should a believer do when they are not feeling *love* for another believer?
2. Rather than send his greetings to *anyone who does not love the Lord Jesus Christ*, what does Paul say? Verse 22
 - a. The word *accursed* has the sense of ex-communication. This may not apply to unbelievers as much as it applies to those in the church who claim to be believers. How might someone who *does not love the Lord Jesus Christ* expose themselves to not be a true believer?
 - 1.) According to 1 John 5:1, what is the proof of *believing that Jesus is the Christ and being born of God*?
3. Record the last phrase of verse 22.
 - a. This phrase in the Greek is *Maranatha*. It expresses not only the fact that the Lord is coming again, but the sincere desire for His return. On that day when He returns He will restore all things. He will set all things aright. All those who do not *love* Him will be *accursed*, forever banned. All those who do *love* Him will be forever blessed. Why do you want the Lord to come back?

DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 16

1. Scan through each paragraph division and share one thing that spoke to you.

a. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

b. 1 Corinthians 16:5-12

c. 1 Corinthians 16:13-18

d. 1 Corinthians 16:19-24

2. Reflect on this year's study of the book of 1 Corinthians. What are some memorable truths?

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.
- Paul's closing words (1 Corinthians 16:23,24)*

Scripture References for Lesson 22

DAY TWO:

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ²that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, ⁴imploping us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵And not *only* as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and *then* to us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 8:12 For if there is first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to what one has, *and* not according to what he does not have.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

Attitude of Giving:

2 Corinthians 8:11 but now you also must complete the doing *of it*; that as *there was* a readiness to desire *it*, so *there also may be* a completion out of what *you* have.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *So let* each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Purpose of Giving:

2 Corinthians 8:13-14 For *I do not mean* that others should be eased and you burdened; ¹⁴but by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may supply* their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack-- that there may be equality.

2 Corinthians 9:12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God,

Result of Giving:

2 Corinthians 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9:12-14 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

2 Corinthians 8:16-21 But thanks *be* to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the heart of Titus. ¹⁷For he not only accepted the exhortation, but being more diligent, he went to you of his own accord. ¹⁸And we have sent with him the brother whose praise *is* in the gospel throughout all the churches, ¹⁹and not only *that*, but who was also chosen by the churches to travel with us with this gift, which is administered by us to the glory of the Lord Himself and *to show* your ready mind, ²⁰avoiding this: that anyone should blame us in this lavish gift which is administered by us-- ²¹providing honorable things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Malachi 3:10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. NIV

DAY TWO:

Acts 14:27 Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Colossians 4:3 ...meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

2 Corinthians 1:9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

Acts 10 – whole chapter

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

DAY FIVE

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.