

LESSON 28: 1 CORINTHIANS 16:1-24

The Collection, and Final Exhortations

1. What was the purpose of the collection about which Paul speaks in verses 1-4? Why should the Gentile Christians of Achaea share with the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem? What do they “owe” to Jews? (See Romans 15:25-28.)
2. What guidelines does Paul provide for the collection, and what principles for giving can we deduce from these verses?
3. On what basis does Paul make decisions about his future plans (vv. 5-9)? How about Apollos (v. 12)?
4. Note the two seemingly opposing elements in verse 9. What do you think this “great door for effective work” was to which he here refers (see Acts 19)? What happens if in your thinking, you neglect or emphasize one to these elements to the exclusion of the other? For what purpose does God open (or close) doors in your life? (See Acts 16:6-10; 2 Corinthians 2:12; and Colossians 4:3.)
5. What can be learned about Timothy by reading between the lines in verses 10-11? (See also 1 Timothy 1:2; 4:12,14.) Why and how does God work to spread the Gospel through different kinds of people?
6. In verse 13, Paul gives a summary list of guidelines for the character of a Christian’s stance and life, and then, in the following verses, holds up Stephanas and others as examples. Why? Why do “such men deserve recognition”? To what had the household of Stephanas submitted themselves? And why should the Corinthians now “submit to such as these”?
7. Near the very end of his letter Paul writes, “Come, O Lord!” (v. 22b) Do you long for the return of the Lord? What difference would such longing make in the Church today?