

SERMON NOTES

Planning for a Great 2021... Not Just Wishing It Will Happen!

1 Corinthians 16:1–12 | Matt Green | January 3, 2021

The Collection for the Saints (16:1–4)

- A number of mostly Gentile churches participated
- Christians in Jerusalem were probably in special need
- The collection would promote unity between Jew and Gentile
- It would also promote unity between rich and poor in Corinth

Planning for Giving: Principles

- **Who:** All were encouraged to participate
 - *Principle:* Giving is for everyone, and we should prayerfully seek how God would have us worship Him in this area
- **What:** Each is to give according to how they are prospering
 - *Principle:* Plan how much to give, as directed by the Lord
- **When:** On the first day of each week
 - *Principle:* Set a specific time to give — weekly, when paid, etc.
- **Where:** Save at home, or deposit at the church?
 - *Principle:* Plan your giving method: Online, check, etc.
- **Why:** So no collecting would have to be done when Paul arrived
 - *Principle:* It is helpful to remember why we are giving
 - Giving honors God, and it helps ministries and people in need
 - Regular giving can help us be more generous

Ensuring the Integrity of the Collection

- Delegates would accompany the offering to ensure its delivery
- Paul would go himself if it seemed advisable
 - *What God gives us to do may not always seem prudent!*

PLANNING FOR A GREAT 2021 – NOT JUST WISHING!

1 CORINTHIANS 16:1–12 | JANUARY 3, 2021

Paul's Travel/Ministry Plans (16:5–9)

- Paul is planning to spend extended time in Corinth
 - Perhaps he knows they need an extended visit to straighten things out?
 - Paul values extended time for fellowship
 - *Is fellowship a part of our life? If not, how can we plan for it?*
- Important qualification: These are Paul's plans "if the Lord permits"
 - *All our plans are subject to "if the Lord wills"*
- Why Paul can't come yet: Ongoing ministry in Ephesus
 - *Ministry opportunity and opposition often go together*

Two Visitors: One Is Coming, One Is Not (16:10–12)

- Timothy is coming, but may not be welcome
 - He is the in-person reinforcement of Paul's instructions
 - He may be regarded as Paul's junior assistant
- Apollos is not coming, though the Corinthians sought him
 - He was popular among the Corinthians
 - But, it wasn't his will (or God's?) to go to Corinth at that time
- *Plans don't always work out — Be prepared for disappointment*

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

ATTRIBUTED TO **ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY**
(FRENCH WRITER/AVIATOR, 1900-1944)

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today