

**First things first**  
**27. The service of the saints (1 Cor. 16)**

John Percival

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- Some lessons for church health...

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- First things first!

**Bible references:** 2 Cor. 9:7, James 4:13-15, 1 Cor. 15:1-2

**1 Corinthians 16v1-24 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. <sup>3</sup> Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

<sup>5</sup> After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you--for I will be going through Macedonia. <sup>6</sup> Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. <sup>7</sup> I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. <sup>8</sup> But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, <sup>9</sup> because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

<sup>10</sup> If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am. <sup>11</sup> No-one, then, should refuse to accept him. Send him on his way in peace so that he may return to me. I am expecting him along with the brothers. <sup>12</sup> Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

<sup>13</sup> Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. <sup>14</sup> Do everything in love.

<sup>15</sup> You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. I urge you, brothers, <sup>16</sup> to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labors at it. <sup>17</sup> I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. <sup>18</sup> For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

<sup>19</sup> The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. <sup>20</sup> All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

<sup>21</sup> I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. <sup>22</sup> If anyone does not love the Lord--a curse be on him. Come, O Lord! <sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. <sup>24</sup> My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.