

I Corinthians 16:1-9 **The Blessing of Giving**

Introduction:

The story is told of a four year old boy who is given various shaped wooden blocks by his father. First the father gives his son a cube and then a triangle and then a round wooden sphere. The father now kicks it up a notch by blindfolding his four year old son giving him the various blocks and is asked to identify the wooden blocks one at a time and give them back to his father. His son scores a hundred.

This is precisely God's way of dealing with His children. God never asks anything of us that He has not already provided for us. We make good use of what our Heavenly Father has given to us.

I. The Collection for the Saints – v.1-4

A. For the poor

1. The Jerusalem church was not rich
2. Persecution and famine – Acts 8:1-4; 11:27-30
3. Turn to: Romans 15:25-27

B. First Day of the Week – v.2

1. Commemoration of the Resurrection of Christ
2. The time for worship – John 20:19; Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10
3. The poor widow's contribution – Mark 12:41-44; Luke 16:10; I Pet. 2:5

C. Tithing:

1. Not mentioned in this context – “as he may prosper”
2. Not abrogated in the New Testament
3. Jesus commended the Pharisees – Luke 11:42
4. Tithing is not for the “super-Christian” Acts 20:35

D. No Collections – v.2- 4

1. Letters accompanied those who delivered the gift
2. Deacons administering the funds – Acts 6:1-6; I Cor. 12:28

II. The Future Plans of Paul – v.5-9

A. Paul's tentative plans

1. Planning and God's providence – II Cor. 1:15-20; Acts 20:1-3

B. God's will and the open door v.7 (I Cor. 4:19; Acts: 18:21; Heb. 6:3; Jam. 4:13-15)

Conclusion:

1. ***Let us not miss the blessing of giving. Our giving in tithes and various offerings will bless us and others in the gospel ministry. What is at the heart of giving? Giving of ourselves – II Cor. 8:1-5***
2. ***Let us also remember that giving includes the giving of our time as it did the apostle Paul.***

Let us give our time to worship

Let us give our time to Bible Study

Let us give our time to Sabbath School Teaching

Let us give our time in fellowship

Let us give our time to prayer

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