Giving by Design
1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Sermon Outline

1. It’s Purposeful (vs. 1):

   1. Paul is assisted a particular issue focused on a specific point.
   2. Paul challenged them to make a voluntary contribution for the saints in Jerusalem. The attitude that produces this contribution is described in 2 Corinthians 9:15.
   3. The contribution is for those believers who have set themselves apart to be totally devoted to God. This contribution is to further their development and ministry (2 Corinthians 9:10-15).
   4. Paul, as an apostle, who functioned within his authority and guided by the word of God, told them to make these arrangements.
   5. The “Church” is a called out group of citizens assembled for the particular purpose which is to worship God.

2. It’s Timely (vs. 2a):

   1. The day the Lord resurrected from the grave is a day of reverence and appreciation. It highlights our gift of life which is a result of our deliverance from death.

      1. Although some maintain that they met on Saturday evening since the Jewish day began at six o’clock the previous evening, there is no indication that Luke is using the Jewish method of reporting time to tell of happenings in this Hellenistic city (IVP study Bible – Bible Notes on Acts 20:7)

   2. The Lord’s Day (Rev 1:10) is more usually described as “the first day of the week” (cf. John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; Didache 14:1), but the title soon came to denote the day observed in honor of the risen Lord.\(^1\)

   3. First day of … week—already kept sacred by Christians as the day of the Lord’s resurrection, the beginning day both of the physical and of the new spiritual creations: it gradually superseded the Jewish sabbath on the seventh day (Ps 118:22–24; Jn 20:19, 26; Ac 20:7; Rev 1:10).

3. It’s Planned (vs. 2b):

   1. “Put Aside” means it is an appointment, based on what has been constituted, to bow down.

   2. Citizens of God’s assembly are commanded and ordained to continuously worship God with their gifts.

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3. “To Store Up” means to put the money aside that is a valuable accumulation for safe keeping. This seems to carry the same meaning as putting the sacrificial animal aside, once it meant that qualifications provided by the Levitical law, for the day it will be taken to the temple as a sacrifice to God.

4. Give a gift that God views as valuable.

5. Prosper means ‘To be successful in acquiring profit or gain’ – to set out on a journey to achieve a particular financial benefit which the person then accomplishes with profit.

6. A believer must continuously give from their gross income.

7. Paul later explained that he does not want the collection to be under compulsion or done grudgingly (2 Corinthians 9:6-8). This leads to a believer being blessed so that they are prosperous (2 Corinthians 9:8b; 9:10-11).

4. It’s Delivered (vs. 3-4):


2. The members of the church must set someone aside who, over time, has proven to be honest. The focus is proving the good in a person.

3. They must send someone who must take all the money to Jerusalem. Paul maintains his integrity in this matter (2 Corinthians 8:20-21).

4. The offering, like in the Old Testament, is of such a divine nature that those taking it were sent in the same manner and with the same authority as the apostles (however, this did not make them apostles). It was a divine commission.

5. It is definitive and purposeful.

6. The gift is heart-felt spontaneous generosity with no expectation that Jerusalem would do anything in return.

7. We tend to give wanting or expecting something back from God. This is a gift to God because He already is a blessing.

8. If it adds any value to the gift being delivered correctly, Paul would go with them. This is something that Paul himself did continuously for the sake of adding credibility.