

1 Corinthians

# Wisdom & Unity

Meeting the demands of  
Christian life and living



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Starting where  
you are:

Any questions?



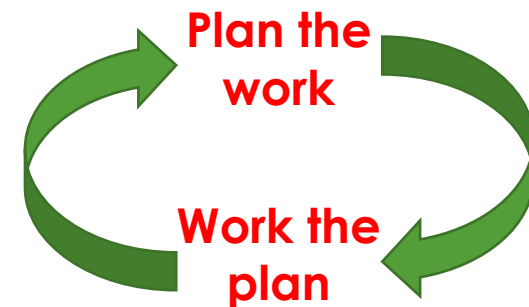
# 1 Corinthians 16:1-24 — Plan for Christian Stewardship

More than simply concluding the letter, Chapter 16 includes practical ways to continue a Gospel-centered ministry. Paul's theological center and pastoral concern are displayed by his counsel for ministry that serves the local body and remains connected to fellow believers; those they know well and those they may never meet.

Three stewardship areas—money, opportunity, and people—highlight the need for wisdom and commitment in ministry. Wise planning and commitment to stewardship increase the ability to meet needs and mitigate burdens.

## **Outline: 1 Corinthians 16:1-24**

- Ministry partnership plan (1-4)
- Ministry and personal plans (5-12)
- Ministry maintenance plan (13-20)
- Final salutation (21-24)



December 15, 2022



# Plan for Christian Stewardship

Planning for successful Christian stewardship is necessary for an effective, lasting witness.

# Ministry partnership plan (16:1-4)

Commitment to the fellowship of believers is demonstrated by financial partnership.

## **Giving as a partnership (1)**

- Support for believers
- Support from believers

## **Giving as a pattern (2)**

- Diligence in giving
- Decorum for giving

## **Giving as a priority (3-4)**

- A matter of trust

**Ministry is never to be about money. But ministry does include faithful stewardship of money.**

# Ministry and personal plans (16:5-12)

Commitment to the fellowship of believers is demonstrated by ministry participation.

## **Paul's plans (5-9)**

- Awareness of personal commitments
  - Be aware of your own commitments
  - Share your commitments

## **Timothy's plans (10-11)**

- Appeal for collective commitment (see 4:16-17)
  - "Do not despise" [ἐξουθενήση : exouthenēsē]: despise; cast out as nothing; treat with contempt
  - Ensure a peaceful, productive environment

## **Apollos' plans (12)**

- Regard for other people's commitments

**The work of ministry inextricably binds believers together, even as each one fulfills personal calls and maintains personal commitments.**

# Ministry maintenance plan (16:13-20)

Commitment to the fellowship of believers is demonstrated by ministry maintenance.

## **Collective determination (13-16)**

- **Watch** (13) – stay awake, be vigilant, pay attention [do not die].
- **Stand firm in the faith** (13) – stand as if to persevere.
- **Be brave** (13) – (to act as a man; mature) be responsible and courageous by taking the initiatives God reveals through faith.
- **Be strong** (13) – show bravery, demonstrate God's prevailing power.
- **Act in love** (14) – ensure that what is done is born out of (or happens because of) love.
- **Submit yourself** (16) – be subject to, put yourself under.

## **Collaborative appreciation (17-18)**

- Acknowledge that persons have done what you did/could/would not do.
- Acknowledge that the ministry of others has given you rest, refreshment.
- Get to "know", by/through experience, persons who labor on your behalf.

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## Final salutation (16:21-24)

Verse 21 authenticates that this letter, while dictated before, was a genuine letter from Apostle Paul. Such an authentication conveys the credibility that comes along with Paul himself. As such, this final salutation is an opportunity to relay any final matters of importance. What, then, does Paul convey in this salutation?

### The fellowship of believers is maintained by:

- **Separation:** (ἀνάθεμα : anathema) a curse; banned or excommunicated.
- **Anticipation:** (Μαράνα θά : Maranatha) an exclamation of approaching divine judgment.
- **Grace:** (χάρις : charis) favor; favorable act toward another.
- **Love:** (ἀγάπη: agapē) affection or benevolence. In this case, from the Apostle to the believers.



Any Questions?

