

Unity over the Collection and Final Instructions (1 Cor 16) **“The Collection and Final Instructions for the Church”**

1. The Collection for the Saints of Jerusalem (vv. 1-4)

Paul commands the church to make sure to give during the first day of the week when the church met. Some could give more than others so Paul dictates that those who could do more would do more to help the saints in Jerusalem. This gift showed the triumph of Jesus as the son of David when the nations who were claimed by God took care of the poor Jews who needed assistance. The members were to give their resources to selected delegates. Paul would give them letters of introduction, evidence that they were legitimate, to carry to Jerusalem to share with the poor members of the Jerusalem church. Paul said he might need to go with them if they thought it necessary.

2. Paul, Timothy, and Apollos’s Travel Plans (vv. 5-12)

Paul explains that he will visit Corinth after passing through Macedonia. He planned to stay with the Corinthians when the time was best. He wanted to work with them intimately. But for now, Paul planned to stay in Ephesus, the place where he wrote the letter, to preach the gospel because God had opened an evangelistic opportunity and the enemy was trying to hinder him. Young Timothy may come to them in his stead. If he does, Paul commands they not treat him poorly, probably because of his youth, but to care for him. Apollos could not come as they hoped he would at that time.

3. Encouragement and Respect for Church Leaders (vv. 13-18)

Paul encourages the church to stay strong and do all things in love. Also, Paul urges the church, in this same vein, to take care of the leaders who had come to visit him. These included Stephanas and his household, Fortunatus, and Achaicus. These were to be respected and served by the membership for their service for the church.

4. Greetings from Other Church Leaders (vv. 19-20)

Paul sends greetings from the churches of Asia (where Paul is). This includes Aquila and Priscilla (Prisca for short) and the church in *their* (not just his) house. It is apparent that Priscilla has a teaching or co-pastoral role in the church. Paul also asks the church to greet each other with a holy kiss. Kindness is essential in the church of Jesus Christ.

5. Paul’s Blessings and Cursing (vv. 21-24)

Finally, Paul tells the Corinthians he is writing this last part with his own hand. The reason is because Paul often used an amanuensis (a scribe) to write his letters. But this last part Paul wrote himself. He recites a curse for anyone who does not love Jesus. But also says, Marana Tha. This phrase is an Aramaic plea, Paul’s native tongue, which means “Our Lord, Come!” The fact that he spoke it to this Greek speaking congregation may indicate he often spoke to them in Aramaic phrases.