



1 Corinthians 16:1-11

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. **2** On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. **3** And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. **4** If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

5 I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, **6** and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. **7** For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.

8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, **9** for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

10 When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. **11** So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

Paul asks the church in Corinth to help three groups: the churches in Jerusalem, Timothy, and himself. In what ways could the church help those groups? Are you seeking out ways to help others beyond your own church community? If so, how?

Paul mentions that there are many adversaries in Ephesus and what does that cause him to do? When faced with adversity are we more likely to stick it out to leave? Why do you think Paul stays?

1 Corinthians 16:12-17

12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. **14** Let all that you do be done in love.

15 Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints— **16** be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer. **17** I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, **18** for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.

What sort of people does Paul say the church should be subject to?

In his letters, Paul mentions other church leaders and church groups around the Mediterranean world, indicating that the church in Corinth was aware of the larger church. In what ways can you foster your connection to and relationships with other churches and leaders?

1 Corinthians 16:19-24

19 The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. **20** All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. **22** If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! **23** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. **24** My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Have you ever had a pen-pal or someone with whom you wrote letters? How does it feel to receive greetings from them or a friend?

How does remembering that 1 Corinthians is a letter affect how you read it?

If you have been reading through the whole letter and have now reached the end, what was one thing that really stood out to you about 1 Corinthians? What is one thing you've learned and how will affect your life?

Numbers 14:1-9

1 Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. **2** And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! **3** Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" **4** And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. **6** And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes **7** and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. **8** If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. **9** Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them."

Having seen their adversaries in the promised land, the come back spies and give a frightful report to God's people. How do the people respond to adversity? What is the result of it (read on if you need to find out)? What may have come about if they had trusted in God's provision?

How can you apply these Scriptures to your life?