

1 Corinthians 16:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

Analysis

Now concerning the collection for the saints—Paul introduces *logeia* (λογεία), a commercial term for collecting taxes or money, here sanctified for gathering relief funds for the impoverished Jerusalem church. This collection was crucial to Paul's theology of Gentile-Jewish unity in Christ, demonstrating that Gentile churches owed a debt to the mother church from which the gospel originated (Romans 15:26-27).

As I have given order to the churches of Galatia—The same systematic collection plan was implemented across Paul's mission field. This reveals Paul's organizational skill and his commitment to tangible expressions of the "fellowship of the saints" (koinonia). The Jerusalem collection occupies significant space in Paul's letters (2 Corinthians 8-9, Romans 15), demonstrating that practical Christian charity is inseparable from theological orthodoxy.

Historical Context

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians around AD 53-54 from Ephesus during his third missionary journey. The Jerusalem church faced severe poverty due to famine (Acts 11:28-29) and persecution. Paul's collection from Gentile churches served both humanitarian needs and theological purposes—proving that the Gentile mission produced authentic Christianity and fostering unity between ethnically divided communities.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does systematic, planned giving differ from spontaneous charity, and what does Paul's organizational approach teach about Christian stewardship?
2. What does the collection for Jerusalem saints reveal about the relationship between doctrine and practical love?
3. How might modern churches foster unity across cultural and economic divides through intentional acts of generosity?

Interlinear Text

Περὶ δὲ τῆς λογίας τῆς εἰς τοὺς ἀγίους ὥσπερ
concerning Now the collection for the saints as
G4012 G1161 G3588 G3048 G3588 G1519 G3588 G40 G5618

διέταξα ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις τῆς Γαλατίας οὕτως καὶ
I have given order to the churches of Galatia so even
G1299 G3588 G1577 G3588 G1053 G3779 G2532

ὑμεῖς ποιήσατε

ye do
G5210 G4160

Additional Cross-References

1 John 3:17 (Parallel theme): But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Romans 12:13 (Holy): Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

Galatians 2:10 (Parallel theme): Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

Acts 24:17 (Parallel theme): Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

Philemon 1:5 (Holy): Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;

Philemon 1:7 (Holy): For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.

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