



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians Wk. 45**  
**Storing up for the Saints / Worship not Whim**  
**By Pastor Jody May 04/12/2026**

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**1 Corinthians 1:25** - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**Uncommon Sense** - "God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."

**[CALL TO HEAR]**

**1 Corinthians 16:1-4 ESV**

**The Collection for the Saints**

**16** Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

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**Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."**

**People - "Thanks be to God."**

**Pray**

**Illustration**

Learning to put money in perspective usually never starts with us voluntarily doing that. When we are young the first inclinations we have with money, when we get some, is to go and buy something we want. It represents freedom, it represents a way to obtain joy, it gives an outlet for, *thy will to be done*.

For those of us blessed to have fiscally responsible parents we were taught money the hard way by authoritarian means. I don't ever remember having control of my bank accounts until I was out of college. For me that was a good thing because self-control was something I was not fond of. I worked a lot while in Highschool and College and my mother was my banker. She saw as a part of her job was to make sure I took a portion out of my checks for the church first, car insurance second, and any funds owed to the bank third, that



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left me without much in the end. What I learned was I didn't need much to live on and one's debts always come before desires.

Then there are those of us who had parents who were less controlling about money and accounts which probably means you learned about money the hard way, which means by mistakes. I had a roommate out of college and as soon as my friend had gotten his first 9-5 job with benefits it seemed like his aim in life was to burry himself in debt. Having credit to him meant the ability to get what he wanted right away. The battle for him was trying to find joy in the things he was purchasing while dealing with the pain that he never felt he good enjoy life like the rest of us. He learned that credit doesn't mean the same as competence, and pursuit of immediate happiness only leads to sadness and unfulfillment.

### **Introduction**

Either way, if you are a Christian, and you practice regular giving to the work of the church, learning that discipline probably did not come easy. Giving to the work of the saints, faithfully, graciously, and cheerfully takes some getting used to and is a part of everyone's path of sanctification in this life. Why? Because it means you voluntarily place into God's hands, what you really don't want to part ways with, because the value of it is tied into your work and freedoms. So, every Christian goes through a time in their life where they struggle with their views of giving and they must learn that we don't give because God needs our money. As you read this week in **Psalm 50** God does not sweat it for His budget is not tied to a reserve based on us.

### **Psalm 50: 7-11 ESV**

<sup>7</sup>"Hear, O my people, and I will speak;  
O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.  
<sup>8</sup> Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke  
you;  
your burnt offerings are  
continually before me.

<sup>9</sup> I will not accept a bull from your  
house  
or goats from your folds.  
<sup>10</sup> For every beast of the forest is  
mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.  
<sup>11</sup> I know all the birds of the hills,  
and all that moves in the field is  
mine.



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No, God will accomplish all He has set out to do whether you are obedient or not because all is His so He can accomplish all He wants to do. What this IS about is us **learning how to worship**. It is about us placing on the altar that which really makes us happy and trusting that God will provide for us what we really need. It is the same test that Abraham faced with Isaac on a hill thousands of years ago, it is putting into God's hands what the world has taught you what makes the world go around.

It was the very same thing done for us, God placed up for us out of His riches His Son.

**2 Corinthians 8:9 ESV**

<sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor,

Christ took on flesh to become poor like us. For Him it was not about having the ability to do what you want when you want, it was about learning to be submissive to God demonstrating to all that GOD is worth it. Giving is Worship and worship is not something one does on a whim, it is intentional, it is sacrificial, and it comes from a glad heart.

**MP**

***We Practice Right Worship by Reordering our Views of Giving.***

Simply put we will do this by looking at the three things Paul brings up in the text. **Giving is systematic**, that is it works best planned out, thought out, and prepared for before it is requested. Secondly, **giving is proportional** as in it is related to one's prosperity. God is not asking all give the same amount neither is he asking some not to give, but we recognize people's ability to give is based on what God gives. Thirdly, **giving is to be organized** that is what is received is to be managed well for God's name's sake.

**1. Giving is to be Systematic.**

**16** Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. <sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up...



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As we wrap up Corinthians, and remember it is the first of Paul's Epistles to be written (from Ephesus) we can see that there was some type of collection being done for the saints (the church). Well, who are these saints and what church do they belong to?

We get our first clue to this in Romans.

**Romans 15:26 ESV**

<sup>25</sup> At present, however, I am going to **Jerusalem** bringing aid to the **saints**.

<sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

Alright piecing this together, the saints are the believers that make up the Jerusalem church. We also know that Romans was written 1-2 years after Corinthians. Then thirdly that area of country called **Achaia** is where you find the city of Corinth. This all adds up to the fact that the collection here in 16:1 that he is calling for is for the church at Jerusalem. Now we must ask why?

The church in Jerusalem is the mother of all churches, and it is made up of mostly Jewish converts. Paul had launched his ministry to the Gentiles from there about 15-20 years earlier. Since that time the church in Jerusalem had grown in size, and influence, but it has also grown in its' persecution.

There was a high cost tied to the True Faith back then, as in many parts of the world today, but with Jerusalem it was a little different. You see the strength of the testimony of the Messiah; the reality of Jesus, His empty tomb, the witness of the 500 that saw Him after resurrection, the decline of the temple, and the future prophecy about the destruction of the temple, all coincided with the church's presence in Jerusalem. This is where Christianity was birthed from so it was important not to give up that ground. Their presence there meant that the Sanhedrin could not sweep away/cover up the reality of the crucifixion under the weight of time.

By her continual working presence in Jerusalem, they kept calling converts out of Judaism. It's brightest light for Jesus was when Jewish people claimed they had found the Messiah in Him. That meant a people who would



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have to leave family, their traditions, their inheritance, and any land rites that were recorded in the temple. As one author said one should expect to be socially ostracized, economically compromised, and religiously disenfranchised (Akin, p.299). They in fact became *persona non grata*, an unwelcome person in society. So, because of this societal exclusion the church in Jerusalem was sustained by the generous gifting of other Christian churches throughout the Roman Provinces.

**Illustration:** Which btw it is important for Christians to be Entrepreneurs, people who start and maintain businesses, ensuring that as the Christian Community grows in a place so does the opportunity to maintain and keep its influence. Three weeks ago, Pastor Onan and I met Clay Fuller, where I got to talk to him briefly about the good work we are doing here at HCC, trying to put our focus on the next generation, where he became very interested in what we were doing. His desire he said was to ensure that young men have the opportunity to get good jobs, and to make homes affordable, so that we could get that opportunity to proliferate Christian Community here in Paulding. As the church grows in prominence here, please understand persecution will increase as well, that is if you are going to be known for teaching the Word correctly and calling people to repentance. Pray that Congressman Fuller keeps his word, gets reelected come November, and that we get further influence in his life.

Back to Corinth, in order to ensure the Christian witness of Jerusalem, Paul calls on Corinth to collect money as he told Galatia to collect money for this cause (16:1). So what did he tell Galatia and now Corinth?

**<sup>2</sup>On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up...**

The instructions that Paul lays out for Corinth is done in a **systematic way** - it happens at the same time, in the same place, by the same people, for the same cause. What is that cause? The proliferation of the Gospel, in a hostile world, no matter the adversity.



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These same directions for Sabbath practice, the theologians I read agree, have never gone away. The Apostolic Authority tied to this passage in Corinth means there is **always** to be a collection for the saints, for those doing the work of ministry. You should be collecting this money on the first day of the week, when you gather together to worship/fellowship. And lastly, it should also be done by EVERY person in the church, **each of you**, those who would call themselves members of the body.

But pastor Jody, what about if you don't have it to give, what about the fact that it seems that you are trying to get me to give, and I know I am not supposed to give out of compulsion (2 Cor 9:7). Well friend if you have memorized that from the Bible to say to me on this occasion then I would say you have a lot more to worry about than just money, it seems you have a heart issue. I will actually address that passage here shortly as well.

But here's what I want you to remember before moving on. Giving IS to be systematic, that just brings form and shape to it, for it is a form of worship and God does care about it. Giving comes under the Regulative Principle of Worship and by embracing its' systematic nature, our views/handling of money and the giving of it, will vastly improve.

## **2. Giving is to be Proportional.**

<sup>2</sup>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.

So, giving in a systematic fashion also comes with giving in direct proportion to one's prosperity. The natural insinuation for God's people is that every time God increases one's income, storehouse, bank accounts, that the firstfruits of that increase is not to go into self-interests first. Meaning a portion of each increase provides an increase in the ability to give to the church/saints. You don't have to view every increase as all if all of it needs to be given back to God, although that may happen for some individuals by their choice. BUT every increase should come with the expectation that your ability to give to



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God increases. A person gives in the church as they have the ability to **prosper**.

**Illustration:** Just so you know then, this does not make the church ok with political systems like **socialism** or **communism**. Those systems take your wealth, what God gives to you, and redistributes it as the government sees fit, making all people equally poor and dependent on the state. Capitalism provides for the ability for people to flourish and choose to operate their **liberty of conscience** to do with extra as they see fit.

*God alone is the Lord of the conscience, (James 4:12; Romans 14:4) and he has left it **free from doctrines and commandments of men** that are in any way contrary to His Word or not contained in it. (Acts 4:19, 29; 1 Corinthians 7:23; Matthew 15:9)... **Requiring implicit faith or absolute and blind obedience DESTROYS liberty of conscience and reason as well.**(1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 1:24.)*

**- LBCF 1689 21.2 Christian Liberty and the Liberty of Conscience**

It is the responsibility of the individual Christian to steward their money wisely seeing for the welfare of the church/saints first and then their neighbor as they see fit. If we allow taxation to go unchallenged or if we give up our freedoms to power hungry federal officials, then we go against the will of God on this my friends.

Now, even though Paul addresses the policy on giving to the saints in verses 1-4 we **should also go to 2 Corinthians**, and we can see in that letter the Corinthians, some of them, were still having a problem following the Apostolic decree – **Systematic and Proportional giving**. When we go to this 2<sup>nd</sup> letter (6-12 months later) we can see that Paul clarifies what systematic and proportional giving looks like, because people were most likely having a hard time grasping it.

### **2 Corinthians 8:1-4 ESV**

#### **Encouragement to Give Generously**

**8** We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their **abundance of joy** and their **extreme poverty** have overflowed in a wealth of



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generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and **beyond their means**, of their **own accord**, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.

**Systematic/Proportional does not mean non-sacrificial giving.**

Sometimes giving hurts, especially when you feel like God has not been following the rate of increase of inflation in your life. But the point that Paul is making is not to shame the Corinthians, but he is showing them that ALL the churches of Macedonia (their neighbors to the north), out of their poverty, not riches, gave according to their means and some above their means. That means *without an increase/poverty* they dipped into their reserves, they restructured their lives *by their own accord*, so that they may give to this collection of the saints/*they begged to give!* To give relief to those that needed it more than them! Paul is like, **this is a blessing for us and a joy for them!** Proportional does not mean it will never sting, nor does it mean it will be easy, but it does show that poverty does not keep one from giving and then giving generously with joy when stirred up by the Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 9:6 ESV**

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (see also Galatians 6:7)

**Systematic/Proportional giving does come with the promise, one reaps what one sows.**

Friends and family that is a principle that is repeated several times in the scriptures that is not strictly related to money. It speaks more in the relationship to sowing righteous things will promote more righteous things and things done in evil will produce evil for the individual while God will still redeem the final fruit – [Reaping what You Sow](#). Point it this, the more we endeavor to sacrifice for God's Kingdom, the most righteous of all causes, the more God will make use of that and the more **joy** you will receive in return.

**2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV**



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<sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

**Systematic/Proportional giving should come cheerfully.**

That was that verse I mentioned earlier that some people in the church, the ones that think you should never talk about giving, like to bring up. People shouldn't give reluctantly, and people should not be under compulsion (under hardship with no way around) that is forced giving. The reason Paul makes this statement is because earlier in chapter 9, in v.4 he didn't want them to be embarrassed when the Macedonians, that were coming with Paul, would be expecting their offering to be ready, as Paul had already boasted about their giving from before.

<sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a **willing gift**, not as an **exaction**.

So, I sent brothers ahead, Paul said, to prepare you for the need that was in Jerusalem, so you have time to systematically plan, and bring on a Sunday, that which God put in your heart, to give sacrificially, each one of you. Paul doesn't want their gift to come from a surprise request when he stops by. That's what that means under compulsion, to give when you have not thought about it and then it doesn't come from a cheerful heart.

Family many people in the church like to give **sporadically**, without a lot of attention as to why they give many times because they don't think a lot about where they money goes and what it is needed for. The other extreme is people give **spontaneously**, because of a heart string that may have been plucked right in a service or based on the promises provided by prosperity Gospel ([2 Cor 9:10-11](#)). Both approaches here lead to giving **sparingly**, for there is no Divine rhyme or reason to their giving. While the **systematic** approach, in the spirit of worship on the Lord's Day, according to one's prosperity, brings people joy, it promotes generosity, and fights against the angst of poverty.



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Ok great so far, we have learned giving is to be systematic – same way, say day, by every person (family), for the cause of the saints. Secondly it is in proportion to one’s prosperity, people who have more generally give more, but it doesn’t mean that it is never sacrificial, and if it is sacrificial, it doesn’t mean it can’t be cheerful.

**3. Giving is to be Organized.**

<sup>3</sup>And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me.

Ok so when Paul arrives, he doesn’t do the picking of the delegates to the church of Jerusalem, that is the Church of Corinth’s job. But this is no small task. When we read 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 Paul was very concerned about the caliber, the competence, and the character of those he traveled with, especially those who would be responsible for handling the money.

**2 Corinthians 8:20-21 ESV**

<sup>20</sup>We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, <sup>21</sup>for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord’s sight but also in the sight of man.

The aim is to be above reproach whether by God or by man. The church should be to our community and world an entity that operates with the highest standards that which she has been blessed with. Some of the darkest stains and hypocritical testimonies of the church come about when the leaders are immoral, when they advocate a person’s right of choice over a right to life, and the mismanagement of money. It is the church’s responsibility and privilege to redeem the use of money in the world since most of the world has made money their God. The church cannot serve two masters, so how she treats her stewardship of money says a lot about the God they say they serve!

That’s why at HCC, even though we are a small church we have very few hands that touch money, but we have a lot of eyes that give oversight to it. I don’t write checks and every penny I spend has to be accounted for and must be



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matched up to a ministry that remains in the constraints of a pre-determined budget. That is also why we determined 5 years ago to pull out of Acts 29 which started giving their money to Social Justice causes, and why 3 years ago we stopped giving to the SBC cooperative programming because of their misuse of church planting dollars. Who we have represent us matters, and what we do with our money says a lot, and we work hard at putting the few dollars we have to work knowing God will reproduce those talents. What you reap is what you sow.

Giving is to be **systematic** for all, in **proportion** to one's prosperity, to be **organized** by high caliber people and in this way, people become more joyful in their sacrificial giving for the saints.

**[CALL TO OBEY]**

- **Plan your firstfruits every Lord's Day (Systematic).**

Decide today what you will set aside each week before any discretionary spending.

Prepare your gift before the Lord's Day so "there will be no collecting" under pressure when we gather.

Heads of households: lead your family in this, explain the why, and let your children participate.

This week: choose a fixed day (payday) to set aside your gift; make it visible and intentional.

- **Give as God prospers you, with a willing heart (Proportional).**

Tie your giving to God's provision: when income rises, increase your giving; in lean seasons, give according to your means—and at times sacrificially—cheerfully, not grudgingly.

Repent of anxiety, greed, or sporadic impulse-giving; pursue steady, cheerful generosity.

This week: pick a percentage as your baseline; review your budget and reorder expenses so giving comes first, not last.

- **Strengthen orderly stewardship for the sake of the saints (Organized).**



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We keep supporting transparent, above reproach management of all offerings.

Start a quarterly prayer meeting to coincide with a quarterly church business meeting to promote well informed and well-organized management of finances.

**MP**

***We Practice Right Worship by Reordering our Views of Giving.***

**Charge:** May we all become better in our systematic giving providing the ability to accurately forecast and give to the right causes. May we give in proportion to our prosperity and sacrifice with a cheerful heart. And may we tirelessly work at being well-organized in all that is associated with the collection of the saints for it is a part of our worship.

**Prayer**

**Communion**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV**

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."<sup>25</sup>In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."<sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. *Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor.* (2 Cor 8:9). And in assuming our lowly state He worked out of that position the **Covenant of Works**, honoring His Father with the firstfruits of His labor that He so richly deserved. Instead of storing up His reward for Himself our gracious Lord shared His well-earned inheritance with us. Praise be to our King, who loved the Father with perfect obedience.



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Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. Our Lord told us a story one time how a field was given to servants to be worked and lived off of and in return the owner's messengers were beat, and the Son was killed (Mat 21;33-46). Much like the Jewish rulers that story portrayed we too have taken the good blessings of God, and we have thrown Jesus out of our lives. After much tireless work and shedding of blood we were forgiven, redeemed, and taught the error of our ways. By His precious blood we have been returned back to God. Thanks be to our Prophet for His strong and loving correction and thanks be to our High Priest for His eternal sacrificial love!

**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

\* The Congregation will stand

Elder - **"Christians, what do we believe?"** Congregation - recites:

**LBCF 1689 Chapter 26 Of the Church, Paragraph 14. Relationships Between Churches**

Every church and all its members are required to continually pray for the good and prosperity of all the churches of Christ 27 in every place. Furthermore, they should, at every opportunity and within the limits of their situation and callings, help every church by exercising their gifts and graces. Therefore, when churches are planted by the providence of God—if they are able to enjoy the opportunity and circumstances are favorable towards it—they should have fellowship among themselves for their peace, growth in love, and mutual edification. 28

27. Ephesians 6:18; Psalms 122:6

28. Romans 16:1-2; 3 John 8-10

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG]**

**[BENEDICTION]**



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Go in the name of the Father, who out of His riches has provided all we could ever ask for in His Son, but who yet graciously gives us more to contribute to His work and His name.

Go in the name of the Son, who became poor for us so that by His glorious efforts we might come to know the richness of His Mercy and Grace.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that challenges us and empowers us to be a cheerful giver. Now go and share that story with a neighbor that does not understand what truly makes the world go around.

**[FELLOWSHIP CONVERSATIONS]**

1. Heart check: Where do you see “double allegiance” in finances—trusting Christ, yet also clinging to security or status? How can we repent together?
2. Lord’s Day habit: What would it look like for our household to prepare our gift before Sunday so giving is worship, not an afterthought?
3. Proportion and planning: In what specific ways has the Lord prospered us this season, and how can we reflect that in proportionate giving (budget, percentage, or tiers)?
4. Integrity and care: How can our church keep offerings above reproach (clear processes, accredited handlers, updates)? What encourages your trust, and what would help more?
5. Mercy aimed at saints: Who among the saints (locally or in sister churches) has real, verifiable need right now? What one concrete step can our group take this week to help?



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