“The Collection”
1 Cor. 16:1

Introduction:
A. God's people have always had a collection or treasury.
   1. Ancient Israel. (Josh. 6:19, 24)
   3. Apostles (John 12:6)
   4. Early church. (Acts 4:32-37; 11:29-30; 1 Cor. 16:1,2)
B. God's people need to understand all aspects of "the collection".

Discussion:
I. The Authority for the Collection.
   A. By express apostolic order. (1 Cor. 16:1,2).
      1. Not merely laying it aside at home.
      2. Collected each week or would have had to be "gathered" or "collected" when Paul came.
   B. By approved example. (Acts 11:29).
      1. Not merely each individual acting alone.
      2. If not "collected", how could it be put in hand of Barnabas and Paul.
   C. By necessary inference. (Phil. 4:15-18)
      1. A church sent once and again.
      2. Sent it by hands of one man.

II. The Nature of the Collection.
A. No longer belongs to giver. (cf. Acts 5:4)
   1. Did not belong to apostles personally. (Acts 3:6)
   2. If not apostles, not givers, who? Could it be the Lord?
B. No longer under control of giver.

III. The Gathering of the Collection.
A. Gathered on 1st day of week by churches. (1 Cor. 16:1,2)
B. Gathered from willing individuals.
   1. Each according to his ability. (cf. Acts 11:29; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:3,12)
   2. More out of sense of love and devotion rather than obligation. (2 Cor. 8:7)
      a. It is a command or order. (1 Cor. 16:2)
      b. It is more than just a command. (2 Cor. 8:8)
         (1) A grace or favor. (2 Cor. 8:1-7)
         (2) An act of love and devotion. (2 Cor. 8:5, 8)
         (3) A sowing that yields spiritual returns. (2 Cor. 9:6-15).

IV. The Handling of the Collection.
A. Congregationally controlled. (1 Cor. 16:3; 2 Cor. 8:19)
B. Honorably in sight of all men. (2 Cor. 8:20,21)

V. The Purpose of the Collection.
A. Not to relieve individual responsibility. (1 Tim. 5:16; Gal. 6:6)
B. To be a gift to needy saints.
   1. At home. (Acts 4-6)
   2. Elsewhere. (Acts 11:29-30; 1 Cor. 16; 2 Cor. 8,9)
C. To be pay for goods and services needed to do church's work.
   1. "Wages" or "hire" or "gift" to preachers and/or elders. (2 Cor. 11:8; 1 Tim. 5:17; Phil 4:17)
      a. "Wages" or "hire" suggest pay or compensation for services rendered.
      b. "Gift" (doma) to preacher differs from "gift" (Charis) of charity to needy saints.¹
   2. When Bible authorizes church to do a thing, money to do it necessarily inferred.

Conclusion:
A. If the church given the responsibility, the collection can be used for it.
B. If the Christian first gives self to Lord, will have little problem with giving into the collection.

¹ doma - “not always gratuitous or wholly unsuggestive of recompense”- Thayer