The Collection
1 Cor. 16:1-3

Introduction:
A. An advantage of Christians’ being in congregations is the pooling of money.
   1. Together can afford what an individual may not.
   2. Gives each an opportunity to share in a common work.
B. With text as basis, let’s study three points on church collections.

Discussion:
I. The Collection authorized.
   A. An authorized collection
      2. By necessary inference.
         a. Churches paid wages, must have collected them. (2 Cor. 11:8).
         b. Church sent to Paul’s necessity, must have collected it. (Phil. 4:15-18).
   B. A weekly collection. (v. 2).
      2. It was collected then, not merely set aside at home as some teach.
   C. A local collection.

II. The Collection taken.
   A. It was given in form of money (proceeds or price). (Acts 2:44,45; 4:34,35).
      1. Why burden church with liquidating, storing, or managing possessions?
      2. Not talking about some incidental giving something to church it can use.
         a. Like giving church a days work.
         b. Or giving church piece of land, a copier, etc. it can use.
      3. Are talking about taking a collection for the church to use in its work.
   B. It was given by those who first gave themselves to the Lord. (2 Cor. 8:1-5).
      1. To give as prospered. (1 Cor. 16:2).
         a. Each must decide his prosperity.
         b. Many factors go into deciding how much would be appropriate.
            (1) One may consider his pay, obligations, sickness, etc.
            (2) One may consider urgency of the need at the time. (cf. Acts 2,4).
            (3) One may consider O.T. principles of giving.
      2. To give as purposed. (2 Cor. 9:7).
         a. Not hap-hazard nor last minute pressure.
         b. But a deliberate decision of the heart. (2 Cor. 8:12)
      3. To give cheerfully without grudgingly. (2 Cor. 9:7).
      4. To give individually - “each one”. (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).
         a. Does this forbid hus. and wife jointly deciding from joint prosperity?
         b. Does this demand that each one must actually drop it in the plate?

III. The Collection Spent.
   A. 1 Cor. 16 deals with both collecting and spending funds.
      1. It is only authorized way for church to collect money.
      2. It is not only authority way for church to spend money.
   B. Church is specifically authorized to spend money on benevolence and preaching. (1 Cor. 16; Acts 11; Phil. 4; 2 Cor. 11:8).
   C. Church is inferentially authorized to spend money on edification and worship.
      1. If church is authorized to do a thing, it is authorized spend money for it.
         a. To obtain the necessary facilities.
         b. To pay the necessary personnel.
      2. Just like with an individual, money is means of doing the work.

Conclusion:
A. Let us give ourselves to Lord, then give into collection as prospered.
B. Let us then scripturally, liberally and wisely, as a church, use the collection.