

Contribution / Giving

1 Cor. 16:1-2

I. Giving Is A Command

- Concerning The Collection (1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 9:7)

II. Principles To Guide Us

- A. As We Prosper (1 Cor. 16:2)
- B. Seek To Abound (2 Cor. 8:7)
- C. Do So Willingly (2 Cor. 8:12)
- D. Give Purposely (2 Cor. 9:7)
- E. With Cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7)

III. Example Of The Macedonians

- A. They Gave Sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:1-2)
- B. They Gave Joyfully (2 Cor. 8:2)
- C. They Gave Voluntarily (2 Cor. 8:3)
- D. They Gave Persistently (2 Cor. 8:4)

IV. Examples To Inspire Us

- A. Abraham Tithed (Gen. 14:20)
- B. Jacob Gave 10 Percent (Gen. 28:20-22)
- C. Israel's Offerings For The Tabernacle (Exo. 35:4-5, 36:5-7)
- D. Zacchaeus Gave Half (Luke 19:8)
- E. Widow's Two Mites (Luke 21:1-4)
 - 1. Mite – means thin
 - 2. The smallest coin during the time of Christ
 - 3. 1/128th of a denarii or a day's wages
 - 4. Today wage of \$100 (slightly more than \$12 per hour) would represent \$1.56
 - 5. Edersheim – The smallest amount that was allowed to be given under Jewish law
- F. The Christian's In Jerusalem (Acts 2:44-45)

V. How Much Should I Give?

- A. Many suggest 10%
- B. However Paul appealed to the sacrificial giving of the Macedonians – 2 Cor. 8
- C. Consider the following facts
 - 1. Average adult contributes \$17 per week
 - 2. Average giving in 2000 is lower than in the depression era
 - 3. 1933, depth of the great depression, 3.3%
 - 4. 2000, 2.6%
 - 5. Only 3-5% of people give at least 10%