



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

## Chapter 16

Bishop Youssef



# Introduction

- In this chapter, St. Paul discusses the collection for the saints (1-4)
- He then writes briefly of his plans to see them and makes a few comments concerning Timothy and Apollos (5-12)
- His final exhortations and greetings are marked with a tone of love: the need to love one another, a warning to love the Lord, and a declaration of his love for them (13-24)

# Collection for the Saints (16:1-4)



- The collection for the poor saints at Jerusalem is referred to more than once in Acts
- It was first called for when a great shortage came upon the land (Acts 11:28-30)
- The church at Jerusalem had been impoverished by the persecutions which followed. (Acts 24:17; Rom 15:26; 2 Cor 8:1,2;9:1,2)
- The directions to the churches of Galatia on this subject have not been preserved

# Collection for the Saints (16:1-4)



- Such hints as this and the reference to a lost letter to the church of Corinth (1 Cor 5:9), show that all that St. Paul wrote has not come down to us
- V. 2 shows that the first day of the week was set apart and regarded by the church
- The church assembled to break bread on that day (Acts 20:7)
- Every one was directed to set aside something on the Lord's day and keep it until St. Paul came

# Collection for the Saints (16:1-4)



- Each week every one is to give according to his ability
- That there be no collections when I come: that implies that the money was to be placed in the treasury, otherwise, it would have to be collected
- The church should select its own messengers, giving them letters as credentials
- He did not then know whether he would go or not, in the outcome he did go (Acts 19:21 20:3)



# Personal Plans (16:5-12)

- His plans: he probably wrote in the spring, he intends to visit Macedonia, and winter at Corinth, this he did, spending three months (Acts 20:2,3)
- That you may send me on my journey: give him aid, and perhaps company in going elsewhere
- He will not sail direct across the Aegean Sea to Corinth, and go from there to Macedonia
- He would have to hurry away from Corinth too soon, unless he went to Macedonia first





# Personal Plans (16:5-12)

- He was then writing before Pentecost, which came in the latter part of the spring
- His ministry in Ephesus was very successful (Acts 19:20)
- Demetrius and his fellow-craftsmen had probably begun their agitation (Acts 19:23-41)
- We learn that Timothy and Erastus had been sent to Macedonia, and Timothy was instructed to stop at Corinth on the way (Acts 19:22; 1 Cor 4:17)



# Personal Plans (16:5-12)

- St. Paul asks that Timothy be kindly received
- Let no man therefore despise him: he was a young man (1 Tim 4:12)
- Timothy went with them, as expected (2 Cor 1:1)
- Apollos was then at Ephesus when St. Paul wrote
- I greatly desired him to come to you with the brethren (Timothy and Erastus). 1 Cor 16:10
- For some reason Apollos was reluctant to visiting Corinth at that time





# Final Exhortations (16:13-18)

- Watch against all your seen and unseen enemies
- Stand fast in the faith - seeing and trusting Him who is invisible
- Be brave with courage and patience
- Be strong to do and execute all His will
- Love would prevent the divisions which he had rebuked in 1 Cor 1:10; 3:03; 11:18
- St. Paul had baptized the household of Stephanas 1 Cor 1:16



# Final Exhortations (16:13-18)

- They were his first converts at Corinth
- That you honor and revere them, be obedient to them, and be content to be ruled by them
- Seeing that they have bestowed themselves and their goods, and this to help you with them
- The other two are not named elsewhere
- These three doubtless brought to St. Paul the letter referred to in 1 Cor 7:1 and probably carried back the present letter



# Final Exhortations (16:13-18)

- They have performed the offices of love, which you could not, by reason of your absence
- Your spirit will be refreshed on receiving this letter, by knowing that "my spirit is refreshed" and by the good report they gave of many of you (1 Cor 1:4-8)
- Render them due acknowledgments by a kind reception of them, know them in their true worth and treat them accordingly

# Greetings and Farewell (16:19-24)



- The churches of Asia: of the Roman province of Asia, of which Ephesus was the capital
- Seven of the churches of Asia are named in Rev 1:11
- Aquila and Priscilla had formerly made some abode at Corinth, afterwards they had gone to Ephesus (Acts 18:2,26)
- The early church had no church buildings, and would meet often in private houses

# Greetings and Farewell (16:19-24)



- The house of Aquila and Priscilla was such a place of meeting  
Rom 16:23
- Holy kiss: the token of the mutual love of Christians, especially  
at the Liturgy
- St. Paul's letters were written by others (Rom 16:22), but he  
always added a salutation in his own hand as a proof of  
genuineness (2 Thess 3:17)
- False letters were circulated, as implied by  
2 Thess 2:2

# Greetings and Farewell (16:19-24)



- If any be an enemy to His person, offices, doctrines, or commands, let him be accursed (a thing devoted to destruction)
- It seems to have been customary with the Jews of that age, when they had pronounced any man an Anathema, to add the Syriac expression, Maran - atha,
- Maran – Atha that is, The Lord comes; namely, to execute vengeance upon him



# Greetings and Farewell (16:19-24)



- This weighty sentence the apostle chose to write with his own hand; and to insert it between his salutation and benediction, that it might be the more attentively regarded
- This is the salutation meant in 1 Cor 16:21, and from which unbelievers (1 Cor 16:22; 2 Jn 10,11) are excluded
- His very rebukes were prompted by love in Christ, and therefore embraced "all" who loved Him



# Conclusion

- What instructions did St. Paul give for taking up and sending collection?
- When did St. Paul plan to go to Corinth?
- What instructions did St. Paul give regarding Timothy?
- Who did St. Paul urge to go to Corinth and when will he go there?
- In verses 13 & 14, list what St. Paul tells the people of Corinth.
- How did St. Paul say everyone should be greeted?
- What serious warning does St. Paul give in this chapter?