

# The Collection

## Introduction:

- A. Some members want to balance the church budget by giving less and spending less.
- B. This illustrates the necessity of preaching on giving. - Acts 20:26-27
- C. What is the New Testament pattern for financing the work of the local church? - 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

## I. What? - “the collection for the saints”

- A. Some contend the church should only take a collection for needy saints.
- B. Others contend the church should only take a collection when a need arises.
- C. Many passages authorize the local church to have a treasury. - e.g., 2 Corinthians 11:8
- D. Other passages also authorize other uses for the church’s money. - Ibid
- E. When all the lost are won to Christ, all needy saints are cared for, all Christians have been built up to the stature of Christ, and Christians no longer need to assemble to worship, **then** there will be no need for a collection.
- F. This is the only passage that shows **how** the church is to raise its money.
- G. Thus, this passage is the New Testament pattern for how the local church is to raise its money. - 2 Timothy 1:13
  - 1. This is an apostolic command. - “as I have given orders”; cf. 1 Corinthians 14:37
  - 2. It is general in scope. - “to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also”
- H. Thus, it is wrong for the church to raise money in any other way. - 2 John 9

## II. When? - “upon the first day of the week”

- A. There should not be a collection for the church on any other day.
- B. There should be a collection for the church every first day of the week. - “On the first day of every week” (NASB)

## III. Who? - “each one of you”

- A. The “you” are the members of “the church of God which is at Corinth.” - 1 Corinthians 1:2
- B. The members of each local church are responsible for financing the work of that local church.
- C. Each one of us as a member of this local congregation has fellowship in the collective work of this church to the extent he gives of his means toward these endeavors. - 2 Corinthians 8:4

## IV. How? - “lay something aside”

- A. Some contend this is simply a private laying up at home.
- B. But Paul specifically calls this a “collection.” - verse 1  
*We find it used chiefly of religious collections for a god, a temple, etc., just as St. Paul uses it of his collection of money for the ‘saints’ at Jerusalem.* (Adolf Deissman, **Light from the Ancient East**. 105), so Kittel, **Theological Dictionary of the New Testament**. 4:282-283.
- C. Storing up at home would violate Paul’s purpose - “that there be no collections when I come.” - verse 2
- D. The phrase “lay something aside” emphasizes the individuals members are to purpose ahead how much to give, rather than to give haphazardly. - cf. 2 Corinthians 9:7a

V. How Much? - “storing up as he may prosper”

A. The Old Testament rule was the tithe. - Hebrews 7:5

B. Christ gives us principles to go by. - 2 Corinthians 8:12; 9:6-7

VI. Why? - “that there be no collections when I come.” - verse 2 (an orderly arrangement for the finances of the local church so that no emergency collections are needed)

**Conclusion:**

A. Are you aware of what we are trying to do as a congregation? Are you trying to help meet these goals?

B. We can do so much! - Matthew 9:36-38

C. Are you having fellowship in this great endeavor?