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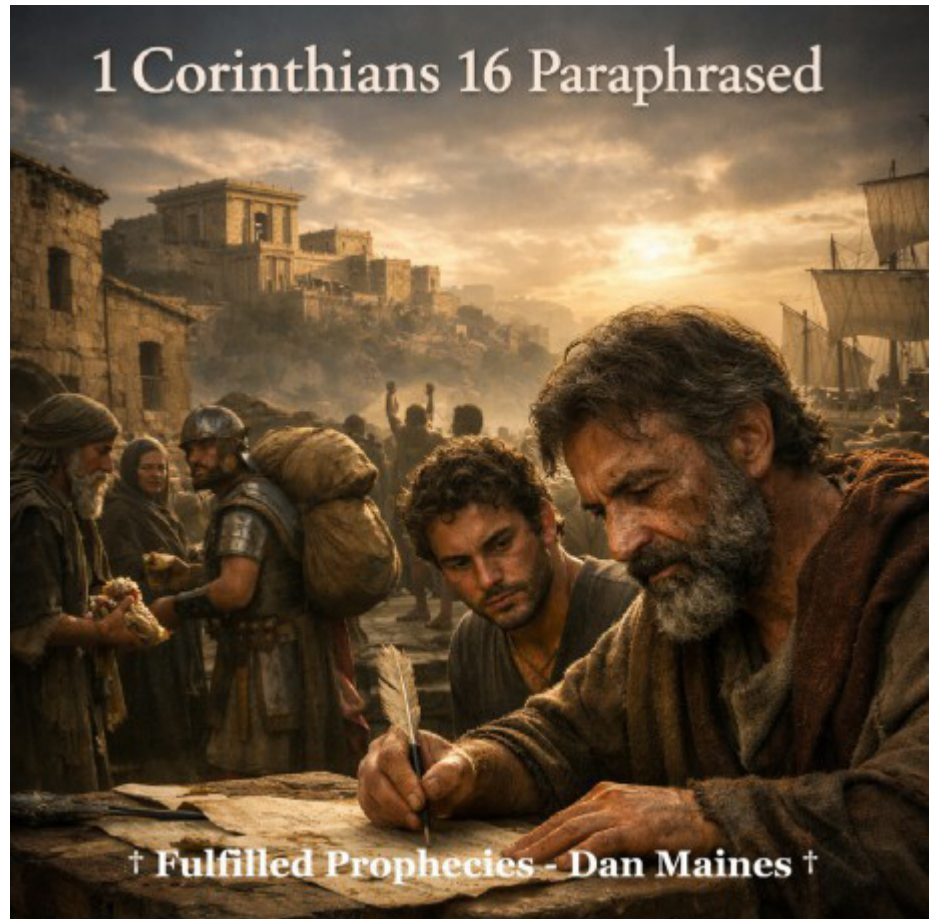
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1 Corinthians 16 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

1 Corinthians 16 Paraphrased

Introduction

† In this final chapter Paul closes his letter to the Corinthian church with practical instructions, encouragement, and personal greetings.

† The chapter shows how the early church supported one another, worked together in ministry, and stayed faithful during a time when the old covenant world was coming to its end (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).

† It also shows the unity of the churches that existed before the

destruction of Jerusalem, proving the gospel had already spread across the Roman world just as Jesus said it would (Matthew 24:14).

1 Corinthians 16:1

Now about the collection for the believers in Judea, do the same thing I instructed the churches in Galatia to do.

† The early churches regularly gathered offerings to help believers suffering in Judea during the famine and persecution (Acts 11:28-30).

† This shows the unity of the first century churches across the Roman world. They were one body caring for one another (Romans 15:25-26).

† Early Christian writer Clement of Alexandria also described the generosity of the early churches toward suffering believers.

1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week each of you should set aside something and save it according to what you've been blessed with, so that collections won't have to be made when I arrive.

† Paul instructs them to prepare their giving regularly so the help will already be ready when he comes.

† This verse also shows believers gathering weekly, a practice that developed naturally in the early church gatherings (Acts 20:7).

† Justin Martyr later described these weekly gatherings where believers shared resources and cared for the poor.

1 Corinthians 16:3

When I arrive, I'll send the men you approve with letters so they can deliver your gift to Jerusalem.

† Paul ensured financial transparency by having trusted representatives deliver the gift.

† This protected both the church and the reputation of the ministry (2 Corinthians 8:20-21).

† Early church writers often praised the integrity of the apostles

in handling church support.

1 Corinthians 16:4

If it seems best for me to go also, they'll travel with me.

† Paul remained personally invested in helping the suffering believers in Judea.

† His concern shows the strong connection between the Gentile churches and the Jewish believers.

† Irenaeus later wrote about this unity between the early congregations across different regions.

1 Corinthians 16:5

I'll come to you after passing through Macedonia, because I'm planning to travel through Macedonia.

† Paul's missionary work constantly moved across the Roman provinces spreading the gospel.

† The rapid spread of Christianity fulfilled Jesus' statement that the gospel would be proclaimed throughout the known world (Colossians 1:23).

† Eusebius recorded that by the end of the apostolic age churches existed throughout the Roman Empire.

1 Corinthians 16:6

I may stay with you for a while, perhaps even spend the winter, so you can help me continue my journey wherever I go next.

† Missionary travel depended on hospitality from the churches.

† Believers opened their homes and supported the spread of the gospel.

† Early Christian writings such as the Didache also describe the practice of receiving traveling teachers and missionaries.

1 Corinthians 16:7

I don't want to just pass by and see you briefly, I hope to stay with you for some time if the Lord allows it.

† Paul's travel plans were always submitted to God's will (James 4:13-15).

† This shows humility and dependence on God's direction in

ministry.

† Early Christian leaders frequently emphasized submitting plans to God's providence.

1 Corinthians 16:8

But I'll remain in Ephesus until Pentecost.

† Ephesus had become a major center of Paul's ministry.

† From there the gospel spread throughout Asia Minor (Acts 19:10).

† Later Christian historians described Ephesus as one of the strongest early Christian centers.

1 Corinthians 16:9

A wide door for effective work has opened for me here, even though there are many who oppose it.

† Gospel expansion often came with strong opposition (Acts 19:23-41).

† Paul understood that open doors for ministry usually brought resistance from unbelievers.

† Tertullian later observed that persecution often caused Christianity to spread even more.

1 Corinthians 16:10

If Timothy comes, see that he's able to be with you without fear, because he's doing the Lord's work just like I am.

† Timothy was one of Paul's closest companions and a trusted young minister (Philippians 2:19-22).

† Paul encouraged the churches to support and respect him.

† Early church writers frequently mentioned Timothy as a faithful coworker of Paul.

1 Corinthians 16:11

So don't let anyone treat him with contempt. Help him continue his journey in peace so he can come back to me, because I'm expecting him with the brothers.

† Young leaders sometimes faced criticism, so Paul protected Timothy's authority (1 Timothy 4:12).

† The church was responsible to support those laboring in the gospel.

† Early Christian leaders often warned believers not to despise faithful teachers.

1 Corinthians 16:12

About our brother Apollos, I strongly encouraged him to visit you with the brothers, but he wasn't willing to come right now, he'll come when he has the opportunity.

† Apollos was another respected teacher who had ministered in Corinth (Acts 18:24-28).

† This shows that different leaders worked together in unity even though they had different travel plans.

† Clement of Alexandria later praised Apollos as an eloquent teacher of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Stay alert, stand firm in the faith, act like mature men, be strong.

† The church faced spiritual pressure and needed to remain steadfast.

† These commands summarize the attitude believers needed during the turbulent final generation of the old covenant age.

† Early Christian writings often encouraged courage and faithfulness during persecution.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Let everything you do be done in love.

† Paul returns to the theme of love that he emphasized earlier in the letter (1 Corinthians 13).

† Love was the defining mark of true Christian behavior (John 13:35).

† Early Christian writers repeatedly emphasized love as the foundation of Christian life.

1 Corinthians 16:15

You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia and they've devoted themselves to serving

the believers.

† Stephanas and his family were among the first converts in that region (1 Corinthians 1:16).

† They had become devoted servants of the church.

† Early Christian tradition often honored the families who first received the gospel in different cities.

1 Corinthians 16:16

I urge you to submit to people like them and to everyone who works and labors with us.

† Respect for faithful workers in the church helped maintain unity.

† Leadership in the early church was based on service rather than status.

† Early Christian leaders frequently warned against pride and division.

1 Corinthians 16:17

I'm glad Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have come because they've supplied what was lacking from you.

† These believers had traveled to assist Paul personally.

† Their visit strengthened communication between Paul and the Corinthian church.

† Early Christian communities maintained close contact through traveling representatives.

1 Corinthians 16:18

They refreshed my spirit and yours also, so recognize people like them.

† Encouragement and fellowship strengthened the early churches.

† Paul encouraged believers to value those who strengthened the body.

† Early Christian writings often emphasize the encouragement believers brought to one another.

1 Corinthians 16:19

The churches of Asia send their greetings. Aquila and Prisca warmly greet you in the Lord, along with the church that meets in their house.

† Many early congregations met in homes rather than dedicated buildings (Romans 16:5).

† Aquila and Priscilla were key helpers in Paul's ministry (Acts 18:2-3).

† Early Christian historians confirm that house churches were common throughout the first century.

1 Corinthians 16:20

All the brothers greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

† This greeting symbolized unity and brotherly affection in the early church.

† It reflected the deep fellowship among believers.

† Early Christian writers such as Tertullian mention this practice in church gatherings.

1 Corinthians 16:21

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

† Paul often dictated letters but added a personal closing in his own handwriting (Galatians 6:11).

† This confirmed the authenticity of the letter.

† Early church historians preserved many of Paul's letters as authoritative teachings.

1 Corinthians 16:22

If anyone doesn't love the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come.

† This warning shows the seriousness of rejecting Christ.

† The phrase Our Lord come reflects the early church's expectation of Christ's coming judgment on that generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Early Christians lived with the expectation that Christ's promised judgment was near.

1 Corinthians 16:23

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

† Paul closes with a blessing of grace.

† Grace was the foundation of salvation and Christian life.

† Early Christian writings consistently end with similar blessings.

1 Corinthians 16:24

My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

† Despite the corrections in this letter, Paul deeply loved the Corinthian believers.

† His final words emphasize unity in Christ.

† Early Christian writers often emphasized love and unity among believers.

Historical References

† Clement of Alexandria described the generosity and unity of early Christian communities.

† Justin Martyr recorded weekly gatherings and support for the poor among early believers.

† Irenaeus wrote about the unity of churches across different regions in the apostolic age.

† Eusebius documented the spread of Christianity across the Roman Empire in the first century.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Believers are still called to support one another and care for those in need.

† Faithfulness in small acts of service strengthens the whole body of Christ.

† The unity of the early church reminds us that the gospel has already triumphed and continues to transform lives.

Q & A Appendix

Q Why did Paul ask the churches to gather money weekly?

A To support suffering believers in Judea and demonstrate unity

among the churches (Acts 11:28-30).

Q Why did the early church meet regularly?

A Gathering strengthened fellowship, teaching, and support among believers (Acts 20:7).

Q Why did Paul emphasize standing firm in the faith?

A Because believers faced opposition and needed courage to remain faithful (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Q What does Our Lord come mean in this verse?

A It reflects the early Christian expectation of Christ's coming judgment during that generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

Q Why were house churches common in the early church?

A Believers gathered in homes for worship, teaching, and fellowship (Romans 16:5).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† 1 Corinthians 16

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Justin Martyr, First Apology

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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