

The Gospel is for Everyone, Everywhere

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David Palmisano

Description

Join us this week as we learn how our mighty God works through us messy people to bring The Gospel to everyone, everywhere. God has invited you to join Him in His mission, today!

Transcript

God bless you. Let's get into the Word of God. You have your Bibles. If you want to turn with me to **1 Corinthians chapter 16, 1 Corinthians 16**. And for those of you watching online, our digital disciples, we welcome you from wherever you are joining us today. And if you want to turn in your Bibles as well, **1 Corinthians 16**.

As we are making your way there, I want to just take a step back and highlight what has this journey through **1 Corinthians** been like? And we can see up on the screen here, if we were to break down **1 Corinthians** in categorical chapters, right? We would see chapters 1 through 6 describe who we were. 7 through 14 is who we are. Chapter 15, we've covered over the last two weeks, is what we shall be. And that should get us excited. And we find ourselves in chapter 16. Well, what do we do in the meantime? Who we were, who we are, what we shall be. And what are we to do between now and what we shall be? We're going to learn this morning from our text that Paul's concluding remarks, his final instructions to the church at Corinth, were to be a people who lived in such a way that they understood the gospel is for everyone, everywhere.

The title of our message this morning is just that, **the gospel is for everyone, everywhere**. And as we look at **1 Corinthians**, we see that that is really the theme that bookends this entire book. If you look with me up on the screen, **1 Corinthians chapter 1**, right at the beginning, chapter 1, verse 2. Paul writes to the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those where? Nice and loud. Where? **Everywhere** who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. So we see right at the beginning, Paul has a heart and a vision that the church would have a global view for the gospel. And then concluding right here in chapter 16, we see no less than five geographical locations listed. He writes to the people of Galatia, Judea, Macedonia, Achaia, Asia. And then he leaves it totally open-ended, right? And wherever I go, the gospel is for everyone, everywhere.

So what are we to do in the meantime, between where we are today and what we shall be in the future? We're going to learn four keys that will be helpful for you and I as believers in Jesus Christ to live in such a way that we take the gospel to everyone, everywhere. You're in your text, **1 Corinthians 16**. Let's read together verse 1. Paul writes, **Now about the collection for the Lord's people**. It's really interesting because chapter 15 is all about heaven and the resurrection and the new bodies, right? And he like pivots real quick. It's like, hey, we got to talk about giving. About the collection for the Lord's people. Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up so that when I come, no collections will have to be made. Then when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable for me to go also, they

will accompany me.

So our first key, if we're to live in light and live in such a way of the gospel for being for everyone everywhere, we want to understand that **our giving is a heartfelt act of worship**. Our giving, your giving, is a heartfelt act of worship. Now, Paul, remember, he is largely responding to questions that the church of Corinth had asked them. Apparently, they had questions about giving. And maybe you have questions about giving. The text addresses those questions right here. He says, about the collection of the Lord's people. Do what I instructed the Galatian churches to do. So what did Paul instruct the Galatian churches to do? You can read it in its full context in **Galatians chapter 2**. But in summary, it's chapter 2, verse 10. All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing that I had been eager to do. The direction that Paul was giving the church at Galatia was to help support the persecuted church in Jerusalem. That same instruction, he is also giving the church at Corinth. He says that your gift is going to Jerusalem. The church at Jerusalem was the first Christian church. And since its planting, since its founding, it had faced hardship after hardship, persecution after persecution, famine, poverty. The church in Jerusalem needed help.

And if we were to say, well, how does that apply to us here today? This direction that the church of Corinth and the church of Galatia is to help another church. We would say this, right? Paul's direction is for churches to help churches. And that's what we want to be about. We don't want to be the island of Calvary Chapel, Melbourne. We want to recognize that this is the one of many of the great churches that serve the Lord Jesus Christ. And we want to partner with other churches that serve the Lord Jesus Christ, because the church is what? It's the people. It's the bride of Christ. We're together. We're family in Jesus Christ. The psalmist writes in **Psalms 84**, he says, **my people go from strength to strength**. We're to help other churches get stronger, just as we're to receive help from other churches.

And I want to share with you, a few months ago, I think it was the beginning of May, we had a few men up here on stage, and they were from the town or the city of Torino, Italy. Maybe you remember them. They were church planters. Here we go. And they were sharing about what God is doing through Calvary Chapel Torino, Italy. And through your generosity, Calvary Chapel Melbourne has partnered with them to help Calvary Chapel Torino become permanently established in the city of Torino, Italy, of where they will be one of five evangelical churches in a city of two million people. It's amazing. But we see how that works. So that is not possible without your faithful giving and your generosity. So thank you. Thank you for sowing into the kingdom of God. Thank you for investing into the kingdom of God. Why? Because we understand what? The gospel is for who? **Everyone, everywhere**. This side, **everyone**. That side, **everywhere**. Go. Go. So good.

He says, you're to give, or when, on the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money. So the early church, right, they participated in weekly worship. And during that weekly worship service, Paul instructs them to take up an offering, take up a collection. So there's a direct connection between our worship and our giving. We see all throughout Scripture, if we were to develop, I mean, what is a theology about giving? Theology is simply what God thinks about something. We see all the way back in the wilderness tabernacle, the people of God brought their gifts to the tabernacle. Fast forward several hundred years. The temple of Solomon is constructed. The people of God brought their gifts to the temple. Fast forward a few hundred years more, we have Jesus. Jesus does not oppose the giving to the temple. Fast forward a couple decades after Jesus, we have the early church. And the early church is instructed to what? The people of God to bring their

gifts to the church of God. So we see that there is a theology from Old Testament to New Testament of giving the people of God, giving unto the work of the Lord.

So the question then is, who is to give? And we find the answer to that in the middle of verse 2. The text says, **Each of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up so that when I come, no collections will have to be made.** So who is to give? Each of you who has an income. And we're to give how much? Well, it's a percentage in keeping with your income. So it's a percentage of your income. We call that the tithe. A tithe is 10%. We believe that giving starts at 10%. And what I'm learning, and this is me speaking personally, I am learning personally, that when I give to God out of a heartfelt act of worship, I can't outgive him. You can't outgive God. It's all his anyway. God loves, the Bible tells us, a cheerful giver. Dr. Adrian Rogers, he is in heaven now, but he has this saying, and I want to share it with us. **Any Christian who would give less under grace than a Jew would give under the law is a disgrace to grace.** That could step on some toes. But what is being communicated here is absolutely true. Because when we step back and we think about, when we reflect on our giving being a part of our worship unto Lord, and we think what Jesus has done for us, the grace that he has extended to us, that every single person, regardless of their upbringing, their background, their socioeconomic status or whatever it might be, every single person has sinned. The Bible tells us in **Romans 3:23**, for all have sinned and all fall short of the glory of God. And **Romans 6:23** says, for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God, is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. So every person, because of sin, is ultimately deserving of hell. But God, in his grace, motivated by love for you and for me, stepped out of heaven and took upon himself the penalty of our sin, of my sin, and of your sin. And the Bible tells us, for it is by grace that you have been saved through faith.

So when we recognize what Jesus has done in the scope of all eternity, we give back to him as an act of worship. Here at Calvary Chapel, we've got what we call our discipleship values. We've got seven of them. I want to highlight them throughout the morning. And what we see here in our text is we see two of our discipleship values. We see the early church gathered for worship. We want to gather for worship. That's what you're doing right now. Great job. We also see that the early church invested their resources into the kingdom of God through the local church. I want to thank you for your generosity, for your sowing into the kingdom. Paul tells the Corinthians, as well as he also told the Galatians, he said your gift is going to a specific purpose, right? And in our context, it was going to help the church in Jerusalem. So Paul, he was transparent with the finances and the generosity of the givers. We want to be transparent with you also. We believe in fiscal transparency. We believe that you should know how your gifts are being used.

I want to start off by sharing what our financial mission statement here is at Calvary Chapel. **We are to conservatively steward our God-given resources with integrity, faith, and accountability in a kingdom-focused manner, striving to become financially free and intentionally generous.** We want to be people who steward God's resources well, who know that we ultimately are going to give an account to the Lord for how his resources were used. We want to steward them with integrity, in faith, and with accountability. Every year, we go through several financial audits, independent financial audits from an outside third party. They've got no vested interest in the church. The firm is Batts, Morris, Wales, and Lee. You can look them up. They're based in Orlando. And every year, they do several financial audits on us, some for our school. We have a school here about how our tuition dollars are spent, how scholarships are spent, every penny we give an account for. They do another audit on the church side, how all of the tithes and offerings are used, how gifts are used, how every

penny is accounted for. Every year we get an audit report. That report is generally produced end of December, more like mid-January. And every year, I want to share this with you, it's absolutely clean. We have an amazing accounting team, an amazing finance team here who tracks every single penny. **Amen. Amen.** Our lead accountant is sitting right over here. I won't call her out, but she leads an incredible team. We take the finances seriously. We want to steward them well. They're not ours. They're the Lord's.

Here's how our finances, the Lord's finances are used here. Here's just an overview of our budget. This is what it looks like. I want you to know it's important that you know how your generosity is being used. **44%** of the budget goes towards ministries, and we'll talk about what those ministries look like in just a few minutes. Missions and outreach. Missions and outreach, right? So that is church planting. Those are missionaries. Those are local outreaches that we do. That's the spreading of the gospel beyond the walls of Calvary Chapel, Melbourne. Servicing the debt, yuck. We're going to get rid of that by the grace of God, and we're going to put **14%** of the budget back into spreading the gospel. But we also believe that God's best for his people is not to be enslaved in debt. So we want to become financially free. Administrative costs, facilities costs, some of those facilities costs we're all enjoying right now with air conditioning and lights. Thank you. Praise God. But that's just an overview of the budget. Let's take a quick look at how those ministry budgets are broken out. You can see here the ministry budgets. Again, these are categorical. It's not drilled down to individual line items, but we can see our services, our worship, young adults, kids, discipleship, men, women, Espanol, security IT, campuses. That's how those ministry budgets are broken out, that **44%**.

We want to be transparent with you. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for sowing into the kingdom. Thank you for entrusting us. Your faithful giving doesn't just stay here right. It also partners. We talked about Calvary Chapel Torino. It also partners with many other churches and many missionaries. We have our missions wall right outside. There you can see the missionaries that all of you are helping to support, and one of those is a Lydia's mission. Maybe some of you have been to Lydia's mission South Africa. Maybe you have one of the stuffed animals from Lydia's mission that we provide in the bookstore. I'm actually blessed to be able to be a part of a team of 14 of us that are headed out to Lydia's mission this Wednesday, so pray for us. But we partner with missions organizations, and that's part of your generosity to help take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

When it comes to giving, let's take a look at a couple more things. Turn with me in your Bible. It's important we understand this. You're in **1 Corinthians**. Let's just skip forward to **2 Corinthians chapter 8**. **2 Corinthians chapter 8**. We're going to pick up in verse 7, and we're going to read a little bit of a chunk together. **2 Corinthians chapter 8, verse 7**. Paul writes, **But since you excel in everything, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in love, in the love we have kindled in you, see that you also excel in this grace of what? Giving.** Verse 8, **I'm not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.** Now, what is he talking about, this richness? Heaven. And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give, but also to have what? The desire to do so. Now, finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it. How? According to your means. For if the willingness is there, right, if the heart is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. What's the word of God telling us? God's not

interested in the amount, he's interested in what the heart behind it. God loves a cheerful giver.

We're going on this trip in a couple days. One of the folks going on the trip called me Thursday evening. He said: I gotta tell you the story. He was getting his haircut, right, his pre-missions trip haircut. If you haven't been on a missions trip before, get a haircut before you go. And he was just getting his haircut, and he just started talking to the person cutting his hair about what God was doing in his life, and about this missions trip coming up. And one thing led to another. He started sharing about Lydia's mission and all of that. And then when he went to go pay, and he paid and then gave his tip, the person cutting his hair took his tip, opened up a little zipper purse, pulled out their day's worth of tips, gave it back, and said, **please give this to the missions organization**. Isn't that amazing? See, that's the right heart. Praise the Lord. And what do we see here? We see living on mission does not require a passport. Living on mission is just talking about what God is doing in your life, throughout your daily life, with those whom God puts in front of you. It can happen right there at a barber's chair, because you never know what God is doing in the life of the hearer. You never know. So take that step of faith. Talk to others about what God is doing, and see how God will partner with the gospel because the gospel is for who? **This side? Everyone everywhere.**

Let's keep reading. Verse 5, chapter 16, verse 5. **After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you, for I will be going through Macedonia, and perhaps I will stay with you for a while or even spend the winter so that you can help me on my journey wherever I go.** Verse 7, **for I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits, but I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door of effective work has opened for me, and there are many who oppose me.** If we're going to take the gospel to everyone everywhere, we want to expect opposition, right? But expect opposition wherever there is opportunity to advance the gospel. Know this. If you are going to live on mission for Jesus Christ, there will be opposition to that. Paul brings this message, brings his letter to a conclusion. It's 437 verses and 16 chapters in **1 Corinthians**. We learn theological truths. We learn doctrinal principles. But he brings it back to the essentials. It's people and God. It's the gospel and people. He expresses this deep desire to spend time with his friends in Corinth. See, relationships are never to be bound by time or reduced to a scheduled item on a calendar. Relationships are what matter because people matter. Jesus didn't come for a building. He came for people. He came for you. He came for me. And he came for **everyone everywhere.**

Paul says, **I hope to spend the winter with you so that you can help me on my journey.** It's incredible to think that this, the man who God used to write most of the New Testament, who planted most of the churches that we read about in the New Testament, what's he saying to the church in Corinth that he founded? He says, **I need your help.** I need your help in my journey of faith as I follow Jesus. You see, life is about people following Jesus, being disciples of Jesus Christ. It's not a solo sport. We're in this together. It's a team sport. We need one another. The Bible tells us in Proverbs up on the screen, **Proverbs 27:17: as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another**, and the question that we pose from that verse is: **who are you helping to follow Jesus?** Who are you helping? And who is helping you follow Jesus? If we're going to be successful followers of Jesus Christ, we need to do life together.

And Paul says, **wherever I go**, these three words, **wherever I go**, wherever the Spirit of God leads me. You know, in his letter to the Ephesians in chapter 6, we know it really kind of as the armor of God tucked right in the middle one of the armors of God, he says that our feet would be fit with the gospel

of peace. What does that mean? That means wherever I go, I'm taking the gospel with me. Wherever I go, the only thing that can bring peace between man and God is the gospel. I think back of the phone call I got Thursday night. Someone just living on mission, talking about what God is doing to others in their daily life. That's the way we want to live. Wherever we go, wherever we are led by the Spirit of God.

Turn with me in your Bibles. **Psalm 23**. You know the psalm wells. One of the most well-known psalms in all of Scripture. It's not going to be on the screen, but we're going to read it together. If you don't have your Bibles, listen. And I want us to, as we read this, think of those three words, **wherever I go**. Would you say that with me? **Wherever I go**. See, those can be scary words because we don't know what whatever looks like. We know what we have here. Many of us are comfortable here. Let's read **Psalm 23** together. **Wherever I go**, the Lord is my shepherd, and I lack nothing. **Wherever I go**, he makes me lie down in green pastures. **Wherever I go**, he leads me beside quiet waters. **Wherever I go**, he refreshes my soul. **Wherever I go**, he guides me along the right paths for his namesake. **Wherever I go**, even through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, because **wherever I go**, you are with me. **Wherever I go**, your rod and your staff, they comfort me. And **wherever I go**, you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. **Wherever I go**, you anoint my head with oil, and my cup overflows. **Wherever I go**, surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life. And where I will eventually go will be to dwell in the house of the Lord forever. You have nothing to fear. God goes with you.

Now, Paul writes, let's go back to **1 Corinthians 16**. If we're to take the gospel to everyone, everywhere, we're reminded, right, that there will be opposition. Because God's chosen method, chosen instrument of advancing the gospel is to do it through who? People. Through you. Through me. Even getting a haircut. God wants to use us to advance the gospel. And if God wants to use us, then we also understand that there will be opposition to that use. Satan desires that the gospel not advance through you, that it not advance through me. So there will be opposition. Let's take a look at what