

Church Gone Wild: Week 16

## Money & Men

1 Corinthians 16

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### 1 Corinthians 15:1

Collections, or offerings, are a part of church life. They should never dominate the worship service. They should never get more attention than Jesus.

Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa), who sits on the Senate Finance Committee, has requested financial documents from six nationally-known Christian ministries as a part of a Senate investigation into possible financial misconduct.

The name "Jim Bakker" is synonymous with failure and scandal. The 1987 fall of his PTL ministry has become the most damaging event in the modern evangelical Church. At the height of their ministry, PTL had a \$30 million payroll for their over 3,000 employees.

While in prison Bakker turned back to Jesus and repented of his wrong thinking and sins. He writes:

*At PTL, I was always looking for a new spiritual sensation, a new truth, a new revelation, preaching a gospel "of stuff," when all the time, I was missing one of the most basic truths of all: Jesus wants us to have an intimate relationship with Him.*

*Not that we did not emphasize Jesus at PTL. We did! And millions of lives were impacted as a result. That's the good news. The bad news is that because we were trying to do so much in our own energy the attention often got sidetracked from Jesus and placed on men and women and their human achievements.*

Jim Bakker  
*I Was Wrong* (1996)

A "gospel of stuff" had replaced the gospel of Jesus.

Jim Bakker's story serves as a reminder to keep money in its proper place. Money is important, but money can never be more important than Jesus.

In talking about money, clothes, and food, Jesus said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33 ESV).

### 1 Corinthians 15:2

"Store it up" implies thinking through what you want to give. Giving should be deliberate and planned.

#### **Can I pray for God to prosper me financially?**

##### **1) Pray for a content heart (Philippians 4:11-12)**

Materialism has become a national past-time to where people find their identity in their car, clothes, house or their collections of junk.

##### **2) Pray for a giving heart (2 Corinthians 9:7; Luke 12:15)**

Greed – a selfish desire and pursuit of money – will never provide you with the life that Jesus offers.

##### **3) Pray for God to prosper you financially (2 Corinthians 9:8)**

### 1 Corinthians 15:3

The collection was for a specific purpose. It was a gift to help some Christians who were struggling financially in Jerusalem. It is good and right to designate collections for a specific purpose.

### 1 Corinthians 15:4-7

Paul said his desire was to spend time with the Christians in Corinth. This desire is a sign of healthy local church. You should want to spend time with the people in your local church.

### 1 Corinthians 15:8-10

The work of the ministry is hard work. When you choose to serve in ministry whether as a paid-person or volunteer, you will face adversaries. So when you have the opportunity to invite someone over, invite one of our leaders over to your house and "put them to ease."

### 1 Corinthians 15:11-14

Timothy & Apollos were men in the church that were strong leaders and a huge benefit to Paul and the work of the ministry.

In talking about these good men, Paul gives the church in Corinth this final encouragement: be watchful, stand firm in faith, be strong, do everything in love...in other words act like men!

This need for good men is why we launch Men's Fraternity. We want to join God's work of producing strong, courageous, useful men....men like Jesus.

**What does authentic manhood look like?**

- 1) Be watchful** :: be focused and alert to what is happening around you; don't be oblivious to your family, kids, wife, neighbors
- 2) Stand firm in faith** :: fight any enemy that attacks your faith
- 3) Be strong** :: Every man is asking, "Am I strong enough?" Allow your strength to come from a passionate relationship with the triune God.
- 4) Do everything in love** :: Love is not weakness, but self-sacrifice.

**1 Corinthians 15:15-18**

Recognize men in the church

**1 Corinthians 15:19-20**

Practicing the "holy kiss" in the life of the church

**1 Corinthians 15:21-24**

The letter was written by a scribe, but the closing greeting was written by Paul himself.

In his personal goodbye, he includes a warning and a prayer.

Warning: Jesus haters are accursed.

Prayer: Our Lord, come! (Aramaic: Maranatha)

The same phrase is used at the end of Revelation (Rev 22:20). It is a prayer and declaration that the Jesus we read about, sing to, pray to, follow, love, and worship is coming back.

Paul ends his letter with a hearty "AMEN!"



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