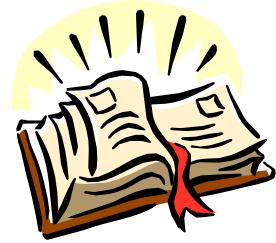


Welcome to: -

Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

1 Corinthians 16.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

1 Corinthians 16.

Topics.

- The collection for the saints.
- Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.
- The global church of Christ.
- A holy kiss.
- I, write this greeting with my own hand.
- If anyone has no love for the Lord Jesus Christ let them be accursed.
- Why believers say Amen through Jesus.

The Previous Chapter.

In the previous chapter Paul spoke of the resurrection of the dead, sleeping in Christ, the new and eternal body and said, we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. He ended the chapter by triumphantly making the victorious statement, O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

- In certain chapters this letter is written as though Paul is having a conversation with the Corinthians (i.e., he asks them a question and then answers it etc.).
- Though Paul's letter is directed to the Corinthian church the content applies to any church or believer in the same situations.

The Collection for the Saints.

1 Cor. 16:1-9 -----

¹Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. ²On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come. ³And when I arrive, I will send those whom you accredit by letter to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable that I should go also, they will accompany me. ⁵I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, ⁶and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹for a wide door for effective work has opened to me and there are many adversaries.

Paul was aware that those in Christ in the city of Jerusalem were suffering extreme hardship and had therefore told brothers and sisters in the Galatian churches (prior to writing this letter to the Corinthian church) to put aside some money as they prospered (meaning as they were able) on the first day of every week (Sunday).

He now tells the Corinthian to do the same thing and save it until he arrives so that he would not have to take a collection while he was with them.

Paul's motivation and wisdom in asking them to do this was most likely so that he would not have to place a great burden on them when he arrived by asking for a large donation since if each gave a little each week it would accumulate to quite a sizable sum by the time he arrived and no-one would have been excessively burdened since they were all giving as they were able each week.

It is interesting to notice two things in these verses: -

1. Paul does not say, 10% but as they prospered, which means after they had covered their financial survival needs, i.e., bought their food, paid their taxes, mortgage, rent, rates, electrical and school fees etc.,
2. The monies saved were to go toward brothers and sisters in Christ who were suffering extreme hardship.

Paul's plan was to be in Ephesus at the time of Pentecost travel through Macedonia and then spend winter with the brothers and sisters in Corinth. While there he would give them the collection money he had previously collected from the churches in Galatia and if the Corinthians wanted him to accompany those they trusted to take the money to Jerusalem he would travel with them.

For further information on giving see the title: -

- Tithing (ON WEBSITE MENU) (discover why tithing is not for today).

Paul comment, "In Ephesus a wide door for effective work has opened to me and there are many adversaries" (v9) the adversaries most likely refer to Demetrius who made silver shrines of Artemis and the workmen in similar trades, since when they saw that Paul's teaching that gods made with hands are not gods had not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia turned away a great many people from the temple of the great goddess Artemis.

The silversmiths for fear of losing their business and their wealth stirred up the whole city of Ephesus and for about two hours they cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" (Acts 19:23-34). In the previous chapter when referring to Ephesus Paul said, "He fought with beasts at Ephesus?" (1 Cor. 15:32).

Timothy and Apollos.

1 Cor. 16:10-12 ----- 10 When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. 11 So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers. 12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

Timothy: means, Dear to God since Timothy had been taught the sacred writings from childhood he was highly skilled in the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:15). Paul in a letter to Timothy told him, "Not to let anyone despise him because of his youth" (1 Tim. 4:12) and now Paul seems to be concerned that the Corinthian brothers might look down on Timothy (most likely because of his young age) so he pre-empts this by telling them not to despise him, but rather make him feel comfortable (meaning relaxed, accepted and at ease within the assembly).

Paul no-doubt was concerned that those who were boasting, esteeming and exalting themselves and each other (1 Cor. 3:4-6) would look down on Timothy as a person of little importance and of little knowledge because of his youth and therefore not accept him as being a man of God who was well acquainted with the Scriptures and who fully understood the 'Good News' of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Apollo's: was an Israelite and a convert at Corinth, Paul tried to convince Apollo's to go and visit the Corinthians, but it seems he had other commitments so was not willing to go at this time, but would when he was able.

There is a good lesson for us all to learn in this, i.e., Paul strongly wanted Apollo's to go, but Apollo's was unable since he had other commitments. The lesson is that we cannot always follow what others want us to do but rather should follow what God leads us to, for some that maybe supporting the one God has called to be the Lord's minister on earth as was Paul, but for others it may mean doing something totally different to the norm.

Each one of us should be aware that God could be calling us to support a ministry or to be the ministry in our own unique manner using the talent or gift the Lord has blessed us with.

NOTE: ministry is not limited to a church building it is not bound by walls, consider the following: -

- A brother or sister may be gifted with a voice so majestic that it takes their life into the secular world of music, their ministry to the Lord would be to those they meet in this world (sometimes a person gift is so unique the gift determines the calling).
- Others may have such a charitable heart they join a secular group in a third world country and spend their life helping the poor, their charitable heart has determined their calling (sometimes the passion of a person heart determines the calling).
- Still others may be gifted with knowledge and oratory skills so they teach the word of God (in this case it is intellectual knowledge and oratory skills that determines the calling).

Be Watchful, Stand Firm in the Faith, act like Men, be Strong.

1 Cor. 16:13-14 ----- 13Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14Let all that you do be done in love.

The words, "Let all that you do be done in love" (v14) is the key to walking in Christ, the calling for all those that belong to Christ is to do everything they do in behaviour and speech in a manner that will benefit and enhance the life of others. When any of us are in doubt as to what to do in any given situation the simple rule in Christ is to ask ourselves the following three questions: -

- What is the loving and kind thing to do?
- What will protect this person from hurt and harm verbally, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally and spiritually?
- What can I do that well best benefit those involved in this situation?

NOTICE: all these questions have a common thread which is that they are putting the well-being of others before self.

It is interesting that Paul says, be strong like men, but then immediately says, do all things in love thus being strong like men does not mean to rule with domineering and forceful authority, but rather to put others before self.

Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus.

1 Cor.16:15-18 ----- 15Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints 16be subject to such as these and to every fellow worker and labourer. 17I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, 18for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition (Acknowledge in KJV) to such men.

Paul is obviously excited to see Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus not only because he knows them personally or because of their faithfulness and commitment to Christ, but also because while in their company he felt a calmness and peacefulness in his spirit (refreshed).

This is a great gift to someone who is in constant leadership since most of the time they are involved in dealing with other peoples struggles and hardships, so to be in the comfort of others who are as strong in the faith as they are is restful since they can enjoy each-others company without being drained mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Paul encourages the Corinthians to get to know Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus and become completely acquainted with them, meaning make them feel at home and at ease and learn as much as they can while with them.

NOTE: some scholars think that Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus may have delivered the letter, which was sent by the Corinthian church to Paul.

Aquila and Prisca.

1 Cor. 16:19-21 ----- 19The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. 20All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. 21I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.

Paul tells the Corinthian brothers and sisters that the churches of Asia, Aquila and Prisca and all those in Christ say hello.

New Testament Churches: it is interesting to notice that the church is in the house of Aquila and Prisca, this was common practice throughout the New Testament, other than Jewish synagogues there is no mention of a church building in any of the books of the New Testament, all Christian churches were in the homes of those who believed.

The Global and Worldwide Church of God.

There is in the secular global world today a mindset that the church is a Sunday meeting in a religious building but the church should never be limited to the established religious institutions, denominations or church buildings though they may form a part of the body of Christ they are not the only part.

There are many individual Christians in all countries of the world who meet in coffee bars, social outings and mostly their own homes (as the early church did) to give thanks to Christ and share their discoveries of God's word and their spiritual experiences with Him. Many of these people are helping others and simply manifesting the reality of their faith to the people that come into their lives.

God is not limited to any one pattern or organisation; He is far too creative for that. Jesus church is global and is manifested in a vast variety of ways across the face of the earth. In many third world countries church is held outside under a tree (for shade) with its members sitting on the dusty ground often with dogs, chooks and other animals roaming around.

It is also important to be aware that the word church does not embrace everyone simply because they confess to be Christians (Matt 7:21-23). When the Bible uses the term church it primarily refers to those who belong to Christ and those who do the will of his Father.

The will of God in this context is summed up in Jesus words: -

- Love your neighbour as yourself (Matt 22:37-39) (Mark 12:29-31).

In the New Testament this is called the, Royal Law (James 2:8) and means do-good to others. Those (especially those who belong to Christ) who deliberately harm people physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally or spiritually and those who use others for their own selfish gain and greed are referred to by Christ himself as workers of iniquity.

The Bible teaches that some will be cast out of God's Kingdom which means not everyone who confesses to know Christ is part of his church there are those in his present Kingdom who he calls wicked servants. They use God's grace, Jesus good name and his Gospel for their own selfish gain and line their own greedy pockets with the wealth and riches of this world by making merchandise of those who do belong to Christ. Nevertheless Jesus knows those who are his and those who are not and will not only reject anyone who uses his message of grace, mercy, compassion and love for their own selfish gain, but when he returns will deny them entry into his eternal Kingdom. (Matt 8:12) (Matt 22:13) (Matt 25:30).

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. My sheep
hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
(John 10:14) (John 10:26-27).

Building God's house is not about financing opulent mega million dollar buildings, but rather it is about people gathering together to share their faith in any place they are able, nevertheless a building maybe required for practical purposes (i.e., the size of the congregation etc.), but if it is built by cleverly twisting and distorting Scriptures to manipulate the congregation to give from guilt or built upon vast amounts of borrowed money so that the oversight and the congregation are put under extreme financial oppression then the building is not in the will of God.

The book of Proverbs states: -

- The borrower is the slave of the lender (Prov. 22:7).

Building God's House (Temple) is about becoming more Christ like, and living in the will of God. New Testament Christianity is fluid and not restricted to a particular building or even a special day.

The Christianity Christ taught is so exciting and real, it cannot be contained. It has no limitations and overflows into every moment of a Christian's life, thus the New Testament house of God is global, moving and manifested in the lives of all those who are faithful and who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ

For further information see the title: -

- Church (The Definitions of a Church) in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

A Holy Kiss.

A Holy Kiss is a kiss that you would greet a biological brother, sister or family member with in contrast to a romantic or sensual kiss.

I, write this Greeting with My Own Hand.

The words, "I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand" (v21) may refer to the entire letter Paul wrote to the brothers and sisters in the Corinthian church or just this final greeting from verse nineteen onwards.

If anyone has no Love for the Lord Jesus Christ let them be Accursed.

1 Cor. 16:22-24 ----- 22If anyone has no love for the Lord Jesus Christ let him be accursed (Anathema Maranatha in KJV) Our Lord, come! 23The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 24My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Accursed: (Anathema Maranatha in KJV) refers to a religious ban in this context it carries the idea of a person being excommunicated from a religious group organisation or church.

Maranatha: means, our Lord has come it is an exclamation of the approaching divine judgment of God.

Paul's words in verse twenty-two could be written, "If anyone has no love for Jesus Christ let them be excommunicated from the church until the Lord comes for judgment."

The Global Majesty of the Word Amen.

Before we begin to find an answer to this question let's take a moment to look at the fascinating history and global glory and majesty of the word amen.

Amen means: -

- Verily, firm, so it is, so be it and may it be fulfilled.

It is used at the beginning of a discourse to proclaim that what is being said is, surely a truth and when used at the end of a discourse carries the thought of what has been said is certain and asking for it to come to pass and be fulfilled.

It was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues to the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or offered up solemn prayer to God, the others responded by saying, "Amen" and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own.

The word amen is a most remarkable word translated directly from the Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and into English and many other languages, so that amen is practically a universal word. It has been called the best known word in human speech. Amen is directly related and almost identical to the Hebrew word for believe (aman) and faithful, thus, it came to mean sure and truly and to be an expression of absolute trust and confidence.

At the end of a discourse, conversation and dialogue amen means: -

- So it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled.

It signifies the end of that discourse or subject, similarly amen at the end of a paragraph tells the reader this is the end of the previous subject and now the story will bring a new subject into focus.

Why believers say Amen through Jesus.

Paul says, "Yes and no is not in Jesus Christ because in Jesus it is always yes," for the following reason; all the promises of God find their yes in Jesus since God establishes believers in Jesus and has redeemed and saved them through Jesus and put His seal on them because of their faith in Jesus. God has given those who belong to Christ His Spirit and His love in their hearts as a guarantee of salvation and eternal life that is why believers say Amen in Jesus name because all of God's promises concerning salvation and eternal life are in the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 1:19-22).

MIRACLES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

It is interesting to notice that miracles throughout Old Testament history were not something that was happening every day as the following records show.

From Creation to the time of the Flood

- There were no miracles until nearly 100 years after creation and that was the translation of Enoch.

From the Flood to the time of the Patriarchs.

- The only miracle sign was the judgment of the Tower of Babel.

From the Patriarchs to Moses.

- Sign miracles were very rare, then through 400 years of bondage in Egypt there was not one word from heaven let alone a miracle.

From the time of the Exodus with Moses and Joshua.

- There is a sudden burst of miracles then later sign miracles became very rare again.

From the time of Solomon all the way down to Nehemiah.

- There were no miracles.

Stunning News.

Here are two surprising facts; firstly, throughout the Bible miracles did not happen every other week or to every other person in fact they are among the rarest events in the history of the world in fact so rare that over the entire history of mankind

miracles were almost non-existent, the only exceptions were Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha and Jonah and secondly; some of the godliest men i.e., Ezra, Nehemiah and Zerubbabel never experienced one sign miracle and when the end of the Old Testament came to a conclusion there followed a four-hundred year period traditionally known as Gods silence.

MIRACLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

During the New Testament it is interesting to notice that John the Baptist who Jesus said was, "The greatest prophet," never did one sign miracle and to notice that only the apostles and three others they appointed (Stephen, Phillip and Barnabas) actually performed any miracles.

Even more stunning is to realize that the thousands they saved never did any miracles and that the miracles Jesus and the Apostles did do left no doubt that they were miracles of God since many were not even dependent on the sick person's faith as many were simply acts of compassion and for many it did not even matter whether they were Christians or pagans.

The Purpose of Miracles.

Paul explains in the following verse why Jesus did miracles: -

- Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested (approved of God in the KJV) to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know (Acts 2:22).

Attested and approved in this context carries the idea that something is affirmed, and declared by God to be true. This clearly shows, that the primary purpose of miracles was too authenticated and confirm the following two things: -

- That Jesus was sent by God.
- That the twelve apostles were true apostles of Christ and of God.

We know this because Paul says: -

- The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works" (2 Cor. 12:12).

Clearly showing that the miracles the apostle's performed were to authenticate that they were true apostles sent by God and by Christ.

End