

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Donna Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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## Acts of Worship - Part 2

By Derek Long

Early Christians gathered together to worship God on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). In their gatherings on the first day of the week, they remembered the Lord's death by partaking of the Lord's Supper. Another action Christians are commanded to do upon the first day of the week is to give as they have prospered. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 states, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week, let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me" (NKJV). What can we learn about the collection mentioned in this passage?

The amount a Christian is to give is not specified. Principles are given to help a Christian determine how much to give. 1 Corinthians 16:2 points out one's giving is "as he may prosper" (NKJV). If an individual does not prosper, then he obviously has no way to give. A person who prospers and is blessed with more has the ability to give more. At times the Bible does speak of people who were in poverty though who

gave generously and more than might have been expected (2 Corinthians 8:1-4). Another principle given to guide a Christian's giving is found in 2 Corinthians 9:7. 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (NKJV). The amount one gives is to be decided by the individual. I have heard of denominations wanting to see how much income a person makes to determine if they are giving the right amount. God's word does not teach churches are to engage in such activities. A person ought to make a conscious decision though about the amount they are going to give. A person should not just come to the first day of the week and give whatever leftovers he might have. Remember how God felt about those who offered Him worship that was not their best in the Old Testament (Malachi 1:6-14). God also expects the individual to give cheerfully. It is possible to give with the wrong attitude and as a result not be pleasing to God. Romans 12 speaks about different gifts individuals have. One area where some have a gift or ability is in the area of giving. Romans 12:8 teaches the person who gives to do so with liberality. The concept of giving with liberality would mean to give freely. Giving of the type God wants comes from people who first give themselves to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:5).

The New Testament only authorizes one means by which the church raises funds to carry out the work God has given it to do. The only authorized way for a church to raise funds is by a free-will offering of Christians on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:7). Churches which engage in money making schemes such as yard sales, business ventures, etc. are not following the Lord's plan for His

church. One might also notice the instruction is specific as to the day when such a collection is to take place. The collection is to take place, "on the first day of the week." Churches which take up collections to support their collective work on other days of the week are operating outside of what the word of God authorizes them to do.

The collection is to be gathered in a place where it will be available when a need arises. Paul does not want the church at Corinth to have to take up a collection when he comes but to already have the money gathered together and ready. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4 thus serves as a passage authorizing a local church to have what might be called a treasury.

The monies gathered on the first day of the week are no longer the private property of the individuals who gave them (Acts 5:1-4). The monies are not allowed to be used for just anything an individual might use his money for. There are certain things individuals can do with their money which the church is not authorized to do with its money (1 Timothy 5:16). The church is authorized to use the money collected on the first day of the week to carry out the work God has given the local church. It can be used to help spread the gospel (1 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:15) including the support of gospel preachers (1 Corinthians 9:1-14; Philippians 4:14-19). It can be used to help edify the saved (Ephesians 4:11-16). Edification involves the building up spiritually of the saved. It can be used to take care of needy Christians (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 6:1; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; etc.). Churches which use their funds for things which are not authorized by the word of God are not functioning as Christ would have them function.