

Funding the Work of the Church



Did the NT church have a treasury?

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Spiritual / Monetary

The church is a spiritual family of God

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- | But the church exists in a physical world

Jesus had a treasury

- | **John 12:6** This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

Jesus had a treasury

- | **John 13:29** For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor.

Study Acts 11:27-30

27 And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. 30 This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also:
2 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.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

Collection – on 1st day of the week

- | Lay something aside = decide what to give
- | Storing up = in a common treasury
- | No collections (needed) when Paul comes

What can we do with the funds?

- | Each congregation is autonomous
 - | Autos = self; nomos = law
 - | Autonomous = self-governing
- | No headquarters
- | No fees or dues to pay

What can we do with the funds?

- | **Evangelism** = mission work, travel, costs to do mission work, US or around the world
- | **Edification** = teach, support, worship; includes building, heat, AC, lights, class materials, PA system, projector, etc.

What can we do with the funds?

- | **Benevolence** = widows, orphans, brethren in need, others as able
- | **Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Issues that divide

- | **Can money be sent to another congregation to do a work?**
- | **Can one church sponsor a missionary with others sending them funds?**
- | **Can churches co-operate in a work?**

Issues that divide

- | **God's response**
- | **Place elders to make these decisions**
- | **Can funds be abused?**
- | **Can money be misspent?**
- | **Each congregation decides how and where the money is spent.**

Conclusion

- God does authorize a treasury.
- He does give principles about how the money is to be used.
- He will hold elders responsible for any misuse of these funds.