A photograph of a dark, narrow tunnel with a bright light at the far end. The tunnel walls are lined with vertical wooden planks, and the floor is covered in a layer of dirt or gravel. The light at the end creates a strong lens flare effect, illuminating the path ahead. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and somewhat ominous.

**“The light at the end of the tunnel is
just the light of an oncoming train.”**

~ Robert Lowell



Welcome to the
Church in
Corinth:

The Bridezilla
of Christ!

**Two last items Paul wants to help the
Corinthians with:**

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#1 – The Collection for God's People
(1 Corinthians 16:1-4)

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#1 – The Collection for God's People
(1 Corinthians 16:1-4)

#2 – Paul's love for them

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

⁵⁴When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” [Isaiah 25:8]

⁵⁵“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?” [Hosea 13:14]

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The Collection for God's People

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

¹Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. ²On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. ³Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

The Collection for God's People

1. *"Now About"*

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1 Corinthians 7:1

¹Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.

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1 Corinthians 7:25

Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy.

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Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

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1 Corinthians 16:1

Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.

1 Corinthians 16:12

Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

The Collection for God's People

2. What's this collection all about?

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

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Acts 11:27-30

²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Romans 15:25-28

²⁵ Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷ They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

Galatians 2:9-10

⁹ James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews. ¹⁰ All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

The Collection for God's People

3. *Paul's encouragement about giving*

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

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Acts 20:7

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

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Revelation 1:9-10

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...

The Collection for God's People

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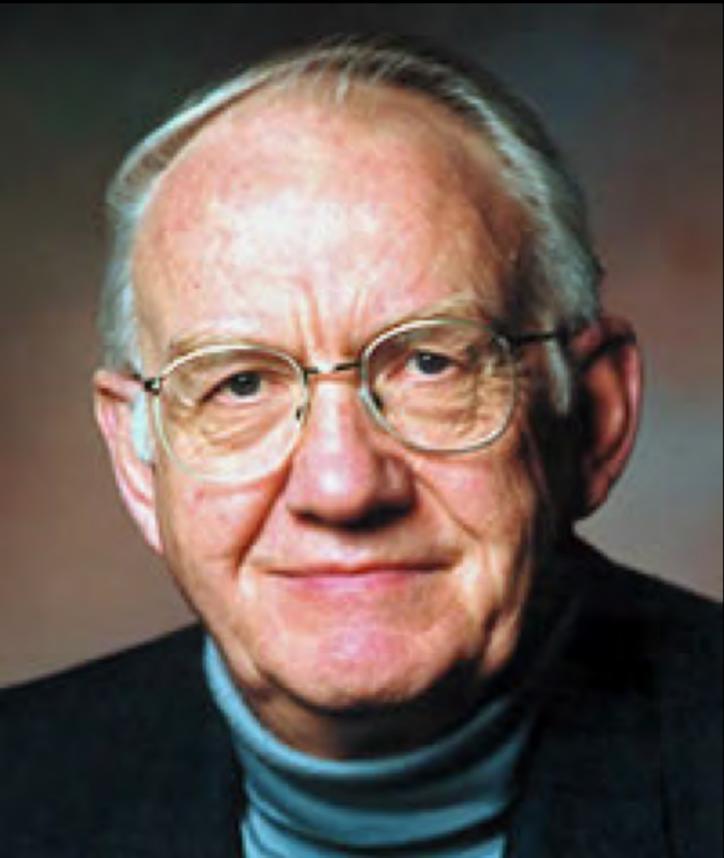
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“Although this is not a primary text in the NT on Christian giving, at least in comparison with 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 or 9:6-15, something still can be learned here. The worthiness of the project itself and the proper theological motivation for giving must be found elsewhere.

What is significant here is the very matter-of-fact way the issue is taken up.

On a weekly basis they should set money aside, as the Lord has prospered them. No pressure, no gimmicks, no emotion. A need had to be met, and the Corinthians were capable of playing a role in it.”

~ Gordon Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*, page 817.

The Collection for God's People

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What's this "giving" thing all about?

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A Biblical Theology of Giving

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A Biblical Theology of Giving

1. God Owns Everything

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

1. God Owns Everything

Deuteronomy 8:17-18

¹⁷ You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." ¹⁸ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

1. God Owns Everything

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the LORD's,
and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

2. The "tithe"

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

2. The "tithe"

Genesis 24:18-20

¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

2. The "tithe"

Leviticus 27:30

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

2. The "tithe"

Malachi 3:8-10

⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.

But you ask, 'How do we rob you?'

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

3. WARNING - A tithe can be dangerous!!

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A Biblical Theology of Giving

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Luke 18:9-14

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself:

'God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' ¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted "

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

4. Jesus doesn't want your money...

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

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Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

5. New Covenant Giving

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

5. New Covenant Giving

2 Corinthians 8:7-11

⁷ But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. ⁸ I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

5. New Covenant Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

5. New Covenant Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

"He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

6. The real issue...

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

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1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

What's this "giving" thing all about?

A Biblical Theology of Giving

6. The real issue...

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

“The antidote to materialism is giving”

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Materialism ---- > Giving

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MORALISM/LEGALISM

What is the “gospel” answer to
Materialism?

What is the “gospel” answer to
Materialism?

Why am I materialistic?



Materialism

Why am I materialistic?





Materialism

Why am I materialistic?

- Fear of unknown
- Lack of trust in God to take care of me
- Need to impress others
 - Selfishness
 - Hoarding
- Jesus isn't enough to really satisfy me

Materialism



Gospel Repentance

Turns away from what is below the iceberg and then chooses to believe that Jesus Christ is enough to satisfy me, take care of me, be my source of identity, love, support and joy!

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Giving

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*Are you gospel-centered in your
relationship with God?*

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relationship with God?*

*Are you free enough to give
your money?*