

**Paul transitioned from the doctrine of the resurrection of Christ AND the truth and hope of the resurrection of the saints...TO THE CARE OF THE CHURCHES. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4**

Paul's care for the churches was NOT ONLY preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ, he also ministered to their earthly and physical needs, sicknesses, and afflictions. What a valuable lesson for me as an "under-shepherd" in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ!

*Caring for the church (beloved) goes far beyond preaching the Word; Pastors should also care for God's flock in other ways.*

There are multiple cares and burdens that will arise (in the church from day to day) among the saints, who will suffer from trials, afflictions, sickness or poverty; OR....the saints will require a different type of oversight; from prosperity, spiritual laziness, pride, carnal mindedness, backsliding, or worst of all, being tempted to forsake their faith in Christ!

Then, there is the unseen work of study and prayer, that God would help and strengthen me (your Pastor) for this work. That God would make me an able minister of the NT, (for you) the church, to minister to your needs, beside {the work} of making sure my own heart is right before God, and that God would help me in my own struggles to mortify and put off the old man out of my life.

**In our text: Paul spoke from the vantage point of being an Apostle of Christ. I have the care of (1) church, Paul, had the care of all the churches in their infancy!**

Consider everything that came with his calling as an Apostle of Christ, to include being cast in prison, beaten (5-times) with 39 stripes. And then, he was beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, attacked by false brethren, as he wrote in 2 Corinthians 11:28:

*"Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches"*

When you follow Paul's life through the NT, you see that Paul's APOSTOLIC CARE for the churches went beyond his preaching and teaching behind a pulpit. In this passage, Paul spoke {specifically} of the care of the church and saints at Jerusalem, who were in a time of poverty and affliction.

Therefore, here, there is Paul's care for a suffering church, and his care that "other churches" would come to their aid. Romans 15:24-33

**Those of us who were here in August 2016 certainly know the blessing of being ministered to by other churches, who came to our aid, sending bountifully to us, that we might rebuild our sanctuary.**

The blessings were so bountiful that I sent out a message encouraging the brethren to stop sending aid. Not only did the saints send enough, they send too much! Exodus 36:1-7

In 2 Corinthians 8 & 9, Paul taught the Corinthian Church about ministering and giving in the churches, from the saints, specifically for the

care of other churches and saints in need from the example of the liberality of the churches of Macedonia. 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, 9:1-15.

**1 Corinthians 16:5-9: Paul was always planning to go and look to the welfare and wholeness of the saints of many churches:**

Paul's did his work as an apostle and evangelist visiting the churches, confirm their faith in Christ, and ensuring they were building upon no other doctrinal foundation but Jesus Christ and Him crucified:

Acts 14:19-22, 15:30-35, 39-41, 18:21-23, 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4

What Paul and all of the apostles and servants of Christ did in that time, God has called Pastors and Deacons to do today in local NT Churches.

Titus 1:5, 2 Timothy 2:1-2