

## The Collection - cont.

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... (Malachi 1:14; 3:8).

We can follow through with our plans to give (2 Corinthians 8:11). We can move past *talking* about giving more and actually give more.

We can desire to be unified with other Christians in giving (Acts 2:44; 4:32). We can work with other brethren in the local church to give together to the Lord's work and be an intimate part of that work.

We can understand the different types of giving and give only in the way that is pleasing to God (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). We will not engage in stingy giving. We will not engage in angry giving. We will not engage in forced giving. Rather, we will engage in bountiful and cheerful giving (note the "good pleasure" of giving in Romans 15:26-27).

We can follow for our own giving the example of generous giving by Jesus (2 Corinthians 8:9) and by God (2 Corinthians 9:8,14). We can focus on the "fruit" that is produced from our giving (Romans 15:28; Philippians 4:17-18). And, we can be mindful of the stewardship of our money (Luke 16:1).  
- Chris Reeves -

## Sentence Sermons

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- It is better to slip with your foot than with your tongue.
- One of the main ingredients in sin is selfishness.
- Don't blame God for the harvest when it was you who did the sowing.
- You are the happiest when you are the busiest.
- Oh how I love your law!

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## Worship Series: The Collection (Part 5b)

*But this I say, He that sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Let each man do according as he hath purposed in his heart: not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.  
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 -*

We have been examining the basics of New Testament church worship over the past few weeks in the Warfield bulletin. With this article, I would like to conclude our study with some closing material about the collection. Let's answer two final questions: What is the collection and how can we improve our collection?

### What Is the Collection?

There are two main passages of scripture that address the collection in the local church: 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 8:1 - 9:15. We examined 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 in our last article. Let's consider here what we can learn from 2 Corinthians 8-9 about the collection. There are six Greek words that we want to be familiar with in this text that teach us about the nature of the collection.

First, giving into the collection is a

“grace” (Gr. *charis*) – 8:1,4,6-7,16,19; 9:8,14,15. Giving offers a favored (gracious) and thankful gift to others. Giving blesses, both the giver and the receiver.

Second, giving into the collection is a “fellowship” (Gr. *koinonia*) – 8:4; 9:13. Giving has fellowship with, or shares with, the saints in their needs and in their work.



Third, giving into the collection is a “ministry” (Gr. *diakonia*) – 8:4; 9:1,12,13. Giving is an act of service toward the saints. It serves their needs.

Fourth, giving into the collection is a priestly “service” (Gr. *leitourgia*) – 9:12 [see also Romans 15:27]. All Christians today are members of God's spiritual priesthood (1 Peter 2:5) and their giving is an act of priestly service to God.

Fifth, giving into the collection is a “blessing” (Gr. *eulogia*) – 9:5-6. Giving bestows a bountiful, blessed gift to the saints who are in need.

Sixth, giving into the collection is a “test” or “proof” (Gr. *dokime*) – 8:2,8,22,[24]; 9:13. Giving proves one's obedience to God and one's love toward other saints who are in need.

### How Can We Improve Our Collection?

Like the other acts of worship studied in this series of articles, our giving into the collection can always be improved. One thing we can do to improve our giving is to give ourselves to the Lord more, before we give our money to the Lord (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). We can be more faithful in our attendance, our Bible study, our prayer life, and our service to God and others. This will improve our giving.

We can also plan ahead and budget for God first (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). Instead of giving God the “left-overs”, we can set aside in advance what we purpose to give and don't deviate from that. We can give each week and not skip the collection like others do. We can resolve never to “rob God” ...