

“CONTRIBUTION”

Often, I have been asked if I Cor. 16:1-2 was the first contribution? My answer to that question has been No! Here is why. I am always reminded of the thought: Look at the text and then the context, then the extended text and you will have the whole truth about the matter.

In the text of I Cor. 16:1-2 it is stated, *“As I gave order to the churches of Galatia, so do ye.”* From this text we learn the Galatian brethren had **already been giving on the first day of the week**. So, this was not the first time a collection was practiced. There are other thoughts on this subject that need to be explored and I trust you will follow along.

In **Acts 2:45**, *“and they sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all according as any man had need.”* **Acts 4:37**, *“having a field, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”* **Acts 5:2**, *“and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles’ feet.”* From this one will assume, necessary inference, that Acts 2:45 was laid at the apostles’ feet, in keeping with the other passages.”

Please consider farther in II Cor. 8:4 the word “fellowship” is used for the **contribution** to the needy saints at Jerusalem. The word fellowship means “joint action,” in this case it is a **giving and receiving of funds**. In Phil. 4:15, *“And ye yourselves also know, ye Philippians, that in the beginning of the gospel when I departed from Macedonia, no church had fellowship with me in the matter of **giving and receiving** but ye only,”* Here the giving and receiving of support is called, **“fellowship!”** Observe that the word “fellowship” is used in the giving and receiving in the realm of benevolence. It has to do with funds being **collected and dispersed**.

In Acts 2:42 there is the word fellowship used: *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers.”* This **“fellowship”** in Acts 2 is the collecting of funds to be dispersed in the work of Evangelism, Benevolence and Exhortation. I suggest to you that I Cor. 16:1-2 was not the first collection taken!

May I add here, the word **“Fellowship”** is never used in the bible as **eating and drinking**. Those who want to have a “fellowship hall” will have to look else were to find justification for such. The word fellowship, in the New Testament does not have a social function; nor, the building of a “fellowship hall.”

Someone has suggested, along the way, *“I Cor. 16:1-2 was for benevolence and thus, there is not authority for the collection of funds except for benevolence!”* The passage in II Cor. 11:8 and Phil. 4:15 would have funds coming from some source, it is necessarily inferred that it was from the Sunday collection, I Cor. 16:1-2. The laying at the apostles feet, the collection on Sunday and the brethren in Galatia all had collections and it is necessarily inferred that this was the Sunday Collection. There is no other gathering of funds but this and **is therefore to be associated together**.

In giving as a benevolent need it went to those who **“BELIEVED,”** Acts 2:44; those who were **“DISCIPLES,”** Acts 6:1; those who were **“BRETHREN IN JUDEA,”** Acts 11:29; **“SAINTS IN JERUSALEM,”** Acts 16:1,3; II Cor. 9:1, 12; Rom. 15:25. There is no way one can establish a ministry to the **nonbeliever**, the **non-saint**, from the funds that have been contributed to the treasury. Caa

Carl Adon Allen
1115 E. Houston Ave.
Crockett, Tx. 75835
(936) 544-3614
carladonallen@gmail.com