Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good of the promise made unto the fathers…" (Acts 13:32)

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Authoritative Pointers For The Church's Treasury

(Jerry Fite)

Christians are to be good stewards of their money. Providing for the needs of one's family, sharing with others in need, cheerfully giving as one has been prospered are all authoritative pointers directing our way to God-pleasing stewardship *(I Timothy 5:8, 6:18, 2 Corinthians 9:7, I Corinthians 16:2).*

When individual Christians in Jerusalem laid their money *"at the apostles' feet"* the "collected bounty" formed a "single treasury" *(Acts 4:34-35).* Upon the first day of the week, a treasury was formed in the church at Corinth *(I Corinthians 16:2).* Individual Christians combined their respective weekly contributions into a single treasury awaiting the arrival of the apostle Paul. It is necessarily inferred that a treasury was formed with such weekly contributions because Paul wanted it ready to the extent that *"no collections be made when I come."* He wanted it already collected, so he could, without delay, expedite the funds to their intended use.

Following God's authoritative pointers to have a local "church treasury," we also have the authoritative purpose for the use of the local church's treasury. Our two examples of a "treasury" also offer an authoritative use. With so many entering Jerusalem at the time when the church was first established *(Acts 2:1,5),* the many who became "believers" helped each other in time of need. Some already established in Jerusalem, *"sold lands and houses,"* and laid the monetary proceeds at the apostles' feet for *"distribution...according as anyone had need" (Acts 4:35).*

Those in Corinth who "heard the word, believed and were baptized," became "saints," set apart from the world of sin. *(Acts 18:8, I Corinthians 1:2).* Their individual contributions forming a treasury was for the "needy saints in Jerusalem" *(I Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 8:4, Romans 15:26, 31).*

The local church's treasury is not only authorized to meet the physical needs of fellow Christians, the New Testament also authorizes its use in evangelism. Local churches sent proceeds from their treasury to support preachers in preaching the Word. For example, the church in Philippi supported Paul, supplying funds for his needs in his preaching of the Gospel *(Philippians 1:5, 14-16).* Paul received *"wages"* from more than one local church to support him in his evangelistic work in Corinth *(2 Corinthians 11:8).*

The authorized work of the church also involves continual work of "building up" the local church spiritually *(Ephesians 4:16).* Assembling together is God ordained and produces spiritual fruit *(love, and good works)* in our daily lives *(Hebrews 10:24-25).* Being together, we can edify and admonish one another, speaking to one another through songs of praise unto God *(Ephesians 5:18-19).* Congregating together weekly, Christians partake of the Lord's supper *(Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 11:18).*

Assembling together necessitates a place. One Christian could pay for a building one week, and another could supply the funds the next. Another could pay for lighting, and another could pay the other utilities to accommodate the necessities of the gathered body. Such would be lawful, but not necessarily expedient. From one source, the church's treasury can supply funds necessary in the church's work of benevolence, evangelism, and edification.

As evangelism could not be accomplished without preaching the Word, weekly edification by assembling could not be accomplished without a place. Both the preacher, and the place are therefore authorized, worthy of church support from its treasury.