

I CORINTHIANS
Chapter 16:10-24

VERSES 10-11:

When Paul heard of the problems at Corinth he sent young Timothy to deal with the situation. The letter that was going by sea got there before Timothy who went by land. Paul prepared the church for the visit of Timothy.

He gave the church four specific instructions as to their proper reception of his representative:

First, they were not to cause him any – **“fear”** or anxiety. By nature, Timothy was timid, and in addition, he was very young - **I Timothy 4:12**.

Second, they were to treat him as a co-worker with Paul, and with God.

Third, they were not to – **“despise him”**. To **“despise”** means to think absolutely nothing of a person. Paul knew that the carnal Corinthians could take advantage of Timothy's youthful sincerity, deep humility, and lack of experience.

Fourth, they were to give him a peaceful and financial farewell. Paul expected Timothy to rejoin him at Ephesus before the apostle himself left.

VERSE 12:

Paul also wanted them to know that there was no strife between Apollos and him. Apollos was being used in the faction in the church at Corinth and he did not want to go at this time. Paul had founded the work, and Apollos didn't want to come and cause more feelings, but wanted to wait until the time would be more suited for him to come.

VERSES 13-14:

Five imperatives are given to the church. The first four are actually military terms:

First - **“watch”** or be on the alert, to be awake, to watch, to be watchful, attentive, vigilant. The Corinthians as well as all Christians should be aware of what was going on around them. False teachers and practices had begun to gain ground within the church of the Lord Jesus Christ and therefore Paul tells them to - **“watch.”**

Second - they were to - **“stand fast in the faith.”** Paul did not want them to be moved by false doctrines or loose morals. To - **“stand fast”** means to stand, to make a stand, set, place. The exact word is found in **II Thessalonians 2:15** where Paul said - **“So then, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which were taught, whether by word, or by epistle of ours.”** Rather than retreating in time of conflict, Paul admonishes them to take a stand on God's Word.

Third - **“quite you like men.”** This simply means - to make a man of; to come to manhood, behave like a man. The apostle wanted them to grow up, to mature, and not to be childish. Following the context of watching for enemies of truth and standing fast against them, now the Christian is to take such a stand in a courageous manly way.

Fourth - **“be strong”**. In the face of satanic and human persecution, Paul wanted them to be bold. Let fears of the workers of Satan flee the Christian. Each Christian is to be empowered with the Word of God, the grace of God, and filled by the Holy Spirit for the battle to be fought.

Fifth, in relationship to one another, **"love"** - **Colossians 3:14**. In the battle Christians must fight, **"love"** must be the motivation for each action by the sword of truth. We are to care for the physical and spiritual well being of brethren because we love them - **I John 3:16; 4:10-17**. If there is any other motivation such as envy, strife, or jealousy, it is neither the work nor the battle of the Lord's, it is the flesh.

VERSES 15-19:

After the exhortation, Paul beseeches them to give themselves unto the Lord and to every one that is doing the work of the Lord. Some of the members had come to Paul and refreshed him in the work at Corinth. He beseeches them to cooperate with them and work together under his leadership of the Lord.

"Stephanas" - is recommended as a very faithful worker and well experienced in the work as he was one of the first to be saved in Achaia - **I Corinthians 1:16**. Paul felt that he and his household was a good example for them to look to in the work of the Lord.

"Fortunatus" and **"Achaicus"** were also good faithful men who were ready to help in the work, and had come to Paul to supply that which was lacking. Just what is meant here is not known, but it could be money, information about the church, or anything of this nature. The coming of these three men to Ephesus was an encouragement to Paul and because of their faithfulness they should honor and respect them for the work they are doing for the Lord.

"they have refreshed my spirit" - Their coming, and the very sight of them gave him joy, pleasure, and encouragement. He was refreshed by Christian conversation and fellowship, but especially for the account they brought of this church.

VERSES 20-24

All of the sister churches were interested in the church at Corinth and sent greetings by the letter from Paul. They were not glad because of the strife and friction by thinking they could get some of their members, but wanted them to prosper in the Lord.

"Aquila and Priscilla" - (a man and wife) were two very faithful Christians, who sent personal salutations along with the church that was meeting in their house. All the brethren were concerned and sent greetings, and Paul wanted them to greet one another with the affection of love, a holy kiss. This was a practice of the East and is still a custom of our day.

This letter could not be mistaken as to who was the writer, Paul signed it with his own hand. He then gives unto them his final warning. If any do not love the Lord let him be accursed and have nothing to do with him. The final benediction was that which manifests his love for them and his desire to see the church grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I CORINTHIANS 16:10-24
Worksheets

1. Who did Paul send to Corinth to handle the problems the church was having?
2. He gave the church four specific instructions as to their proper reception of his representative:
 - a. First,
 - b. Second,
 - c. Third, they were not to – “ _____ **him**”.
 - d. Fourth,
3. What does the word “**despise**” mean?
4. Who was one of the Pastors of Corinthian that Paul also wanted the church to know there was no strife between he and this brother in the Lord?
5. Name the four imperatives Paul gave to the church.
 - a. First -
 - b. Second -
 - c. Third -
 - d. Fourth -
6. Now give definitions of each of these imperatives.
7. To whom was the member of the church to give themselves unto?
8. Who was “**Stephanas**” ?
9. Who were “**Fortunatus**” and “**Achaicus**”?
10. What did Paul mean by the following statement - “**they have refreshed my spirit**”?
11. How can we help others today to have their spirit refreshed? Explain!
12. Who were “**Aquilla and Priscilla**”? *When and where did he first meet them?*
13. Who wrote the book of First Corinthians?
14. What was the final warning to the church of Corinthians?