

- I) V13-14 INTRO: Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong Let all that you do
Throughout this book, Paul has needed to bring both rebukes and correction
REVIEW
- II) Paul had received a report from the house of Chloe that things weren't going well
The church was experiencing things that were undermining its effectiveness
- III) Division, comparison of teachers, and an issue of sexual immorality existed
The church had questions about authority, church leaders, sexual immorality, marriage, idolatry, the role of women, communion, gifts, the resurrection, and personal stewardship that needed to be answered
INTERESTINGLY
- IV) The church thought themselves to be tolerant and culturally sensitive
They had sin in the church that wasn't even spoken of by the pagans
By tolerating it, they thought themselves to be more loving (ch 5)
- V) Paul corrected them by pointing out that **they did not even know what love is**
This is what motivated his writing ch 13: love needed to be defined for them
- VI) As the founding pastor Paul had a great concern for this Church
They had come to faith through his ministry, and he loved them deeply
- VII) Though he planted the church, some were claiming equal authority to him
Because of this, Paul wrote a reminder for them as to who he was
1 Co 4:15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel
- VIII) After writing so many corrections he concludes with five commands
Each of these commands can be seen as the logical conclusion of this letter
BEGIN STUDY
- IX) V13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong Let all that you do
He begins by commanding them to **watch**, a word used 22 times in the NT
It can also be translated be vigilant; awake; on guard; on fire
It is a word that is opposed to being indifferent and asleep
- X) We have seen how they seemed to be **spiritually asleep** as a church
They were divisive, relied on human wisdom, were immoral, litigious, unconcerned for the spiritual welfare of others, misused spiritual gifts, and were unloving

- I) They seemed to be completely oblivious to the spiritual climate around them
This seems to be a common and lasting problem among followers of Jesus
- II) When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane He told His men to watch and pray
He left Peter, James, and John and went a distance away, to pray
Mt 26:38 He said to them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and **watch with Me**
- III) After spending time in prayer, He returned to them and **found them sleeping**
Mt 26:40-41 (He told Peter) What? **Could you not watch with Me** one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak
- IV) In Mt 13, Jesus gave the parable of the wheat and tares
Mt 13:24-25 The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; **but while men slept**, is enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way
When did the enemy sow tares? **While men slept**
- V) The enemy slips in and plants tares amongst the wheat
He does this to produce counterfeit believers, normally by bad doctrine
He also infects the church by encouraging lukewarm belief
- VI) Let me give you something that will possibly upset you: in CA
Girls can be boys, boys compete against girls, and boys in girls locker rooms. Tampon dispensers are in boys bathrooms, and litter boxes for “furries” have been supplied. Schools don’t have to tell parents when children are gender confused, don’t notify parents when their daughter wants an abortion. Pride month is celebrated, history classes are nonexistent or biased, taxes are highest in the nation, and CA ranks around 37th in primary education nationally. Officials say it will take \$106-133 billion to finish the project of building a high speed rail from LA to SF that was supposed to cost \$33 billion, and nothing is finished since the project was approved in '08. Homelessness is the highest in the nation, healthcare costs are the highest, home prices have been driven up, cost of living is sky high, crime is rampant. We are in a draught in California yet 95% of rainwater runs into the Pacific Ocean yearly, which makes up around 740 billion gallons of water and fires have devastated entire cities. We are even being told that by 2035 we can’t buy gas powered vehicles and 100% of new cars and trucks are to be electric or hybrid plug ins, though this is being challenged. More people left Ca in 2025 than any other US state, with over 10 million leaving since 2010.

- I) Newsom won in 2022 with a vote count of 6,470, 104
Approximately 6 million evangelical Christians in California are not registered to vote. This alarming statistic highlights that about half of the estimated 12 to 16 million evangelical Christians in the state are disengaged from the voting process. Additionally, a broader study indicates that while 66% of voting-age adults identify as Christian, only about 51% of these individuals are expected to participate in elections. This translates to millions of Christians potentially sitting out elections, which could significantly impact political outcomes
- II) The things I listed have a spiritual origin
They are moral problems that the church should be aware of
Instead of making our voices heard, we remain silent and this is the result
- III) Because of this, the church is to remain awake and on the alert
Paul first commands them to be on the alert (to wake up!)
- IV) Over time we can come to believe the Lord is delaying His coming
This makes it all the more important to remain awake and on the alert
Ro 13:11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to **awake out of sleep**; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.
QUESTION: WHAT ARE THEY TO BE ALERT AGAINST
- V) **First:** They must be constantly on the alert against Satan
They must be aware that Satan is seeking to destroy them, and us as well!
- VI) This is precisely where many believers make a tremendous mistake
They really don't believe that the devil exists and desires to bring them harm
! Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
HIS TACTICS: LUST OF THE FLESH, EYES, PRIDE OF LIFE
- VII) Be on the alert against temptation
Paul already made it clear that they were to guard against a false confidence
1 Co 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall
- VIII) An unguarded strength is a double weakness: pride will result in failure
- IX) We need to **be on the alert** against lukewarm indifference
Like a frog in a kettle, the culture around us lulls us into accepting sin as normal

- I) We can become callused and begin to accept it as just the way it is
This can cause us to believe we are judgmental and unloving by speaking truth
Lu 21:34 Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing,
drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.
- II) Be on guard against apathy: it leads to acceptance instead of resistance
Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather
expose them
- III) Believers should be on the alert for false teachers
The infiltration of the church by false teachers is the sign of the last days
1 Ti 4:1 Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn
away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from
demons.
2 Ti 4:3-4 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and
wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will
tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase
after myths.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE WATCH FOR?

- IV) On a more encouraging note, we should be on the alert for the return of Jesus
Mk 13:34-37 The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man
going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the
work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. You, too, must
keep watch! For you don't know when the master of the household will return—in the
evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. Don't let him find you sleeping when
he arrives without warning. I say to you what I say to everyone: *Watch* for Him!

SECOND

- V) Stand fast *in the faith* (be firmly planted in proper doctrine)
Hold firmly to revealed, doctrinal truth: It is not a matter of opinion only
- VI) In a time when people preach that all faiths are the same, what are believers to do
The believers were being moved by various teachings that infiltrated the church
- VII) This common and Paul warned believers constantly
Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit,
according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not
according to Christ

I) Instead of swallowing everything that is fed to us, we need to exercise discernment
Jude 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

II) This is the purpose of being students of God's word
Eph 4:14 (says) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting

THIRD

III) Be brave (be a man) This speaks of being mature in your faith
They needed to grow up and to be willing to pay the price for courageous faith
1 Co 14:20 Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature

IV) As believers, we grow in grace and our knowledge of the Lord
This comes as a result of pursuing the Lord, walking in His Spirit and discipline
1 Ti 4:15 Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress

FOURTH

V) Be strong: This speaks of an inner, moral strength
We have an inner strength by yielding to the Lord Who gives it to us
Our inner strength is a confidence in the Lord
Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
2 Ti 2:1 You then, my son, be strong *in the grace* that is in Christ Jesus.

VI) Quote: Remember that you are soldiers fighting against the world, the flesh, and the devil; do not act like children, who under the least opposition become terrified and are easily overcome; instead, **be like men**, exercising spiritual courage and fortitude

VII) Be the kind of men that, when you wake up, the devil says: O no, he's awake!

FIFTH

VIII) V14 Let all that you do be done with love
Be loving: Let all that you do be done in Christ's love
1 Jn 4:7-8 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love

- I) 1 Pe 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins
- II) The motivation for all that he has just said is love for Jesus
The love we have for Jesus is fueled by our knowledge of His love for us
This love for Jesus is what produces our love for others
- III) V15 I urge you brethren you know the household of **Stephanas**, that it is the Paul's closing illustrates V14
- IV) Stephanas was very dear to Paul, as he was one of the first converts from Achaia
He and his household had been personally baptized by Paul
1 Co:16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas
- V) The household of Stephanas was a good example of love in action (V15)
They served: They devoted themselves to the ministry
They were addicted to serving the Lord as they served the people
- VI) V16 that you also submit to such and to everyone who works and labors with us
Show them proper respect for what they have done on your behalf
WHO DO WE RESPECT?
- VII) Don't take them for granted, but value them for their loving service
This heart of service earned them respectful hearing, and influence (Mt 20:28)
1 Ti 5:17 The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.
- VIII) V17 I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus
They were the messengers sent by the Corinthians in 7:1, bringing a letter
There is nothing more known of either Fortunatus or Achaicus
- IX) What is known of them is very instructive
Paul says they supplied what had been lacking
Because Paul wasn't in Corinth, they brought a taste of love from the church
- X) V18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours
The result was that he was encouraged, as they would also encourage you
- XI) V19 The churches of Asia greet you Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily

- I) The churches of Asia would include churches like Colossae and Ephesus
- II) Aquila and Priscilla were a married couple and his dear friends
Aquila was a Jew from Pontus (NE Turkey on the Black Sea)
They had lived in Rome but were driven out through persecution
- III) Ac 18 tells us that Paul met them in the city of Corinth and lived in their home
It seems they returned to Rome
Ro 16:3-5 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Greet also the church that **meets at their house.**
- IV) They were mature believers and great supports of his ministry
Ac 18:24-28 speaks of how they took a young Apollos and taught him
- V) Apollos was a Jew born at Alexandria and he had many qualities
He was able to minister to both Jew and Gentile
He was eloquent, being skilled in literature, the arts, history and speech
He was culturally sophisticated, mighty in scriptures (deep in the OT)
He was instructed in the ways of the Lord being acquainted with John Baptist
He was fervent in spirit and spoke and taught accurately as a student of bible
- VI) All of this leads to why Aquila and Priscilla were so respected
They heard this gifted young man and were able to develop his understanding
- VII) They were workers together, caring for the church that met in their house
The early church often met in homes
Ac 2:46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,
Ac 5:42 daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
- VIII) This is what contributed to a place where real relationships could be built
- IX) V20 All the brethren greet you Greet one another with a holy kiss
Paul was writing from Ephesus, and he sent love from the church
It was practiced by men, revealing deep love: hence, Judas' betrayal (Lu 22:47-48)

- I) **V21 The salutation with my own hand—Paul's
This was Paul's guarantee that he had written the letter**
- II) **There were apparently letters circulating that were supposedly from Paul
Paul dictated his letters: an example is Ro 16:22
I, Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord**
- III) **He made it clear that his signature certified this was a letter from him (2 Th 2:2)
2 Th 3:17 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing
mark in all my letters. This is how I write.**
- IV) **V22-24 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ let him be accursed
This is a very strong word against those who should not be seen as believers
If a person does not love Jesus, they cannot be a genuine Christian**
- V) **Instead of pursuing fleshly things, pursue Jesus with sincere love
The life in pursuit of the world is to be rejected, and love for Jesus is everything**
- VI) **If someone wants to pursue the flesh, then let him pursue those things
They will result in his eternal loss, which is the inevitable result of his choice**
- VII) **V22 Maranatha) O Lord, come!
Rev 22:20 Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus**
- VIII) **V23-24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with ou My love be with you
Love and encourage one another, and may Jesus come quickly**