

1 Corinthians Chapter Sixteen: Paul's Final Instructions

Opening Question: How do Paul's closing words to the Corinthians in this chapter sum up what he has instructed them throughout the letter.

Key Takeaways:

1. Paul closed his letter of strong correction for the Corinthians by instructing them to "be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."
2. Paul's instructions to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the saints suffering in Jerusalem is a reminder that the body of Christ is all believers in every place.
3. Paul will take one of the Corinthians with him to Jerusalem so that they will know he is above reproach in delivering their collection.
4. Paul again called the Corinthians to be subject to those the Lord has put in authority over them.
5. Paul again mentioned Apollos to remind the Corinthians that the two men were united in their ministries.
6. Love for the Lord is displayed through care for the brother and lack of care for the brother displays a lack of love for the Lord.
7. Paul closed his letter with the word "Maranatha" which means "O Lord come."

Discussion Questions:

1. Read together 1 Corinthians 16; Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:26-27; and 2 Corinthians 8-9. Paul took up a collection throughout his ministry for those suffering for the sake of the gospel in Jerusalem.
2. Re-read Paul's command in 1 Corinthians 16:13. Now read 1 Corinthians 3:1; 7:5, 9; 9:25; 15:1-2; 13:1; and 14:20. Connect Paul's command in 16:3 to what he had said earlier to the Corinthian church.
3. Thumb back through the entire letter and make a list of the problems in the Corinthian church that Paul was addressing. How do these same struggles impact the church today? How did Paul address those issues? Are his words still relevant today?

Practical Application:

1. Re-read 1 Corinthians in one sitting. Now go back through the chapters and explain the message of the book and how each section fits into Paul's overall argument.
2. Cite specific ways that understanding Paul's letter to the Corinthians has informed your beliefs and behavior about the Lord, other members of Christ's body, yourself. How do you now view the apostle Paul and his words?
3. What did you learn about Paul's own convictions through reading this letter? Why are Paul's instructions to the church authoritative and to be followed today? How are Paul's words the solution to the problem of divisions in the church? What must individual members of the body first believe in order to act at their own expense for the benefit of the body?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for Paul's strong words of correction to the church at Corinth. May we be mindful of our own need to understand the importance of the body of Christ so that we may act in a way that builds up the body and glorifies Christ. May our hope in our future resurrection and life with Christ at His return impact all that we do until He comes. Maranatha. Amen.