

"THE END: Paul's Corinthian Farewell"

1 Corinthian 16:10-24

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do. 11 Therefore let no one despise him. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren. 12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time. 13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done with love. 15 I urge you, brethren--you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints-- 16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. 17 I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. 18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. 19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. 20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. 21 The salutation with my own hand--Paul's. 22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! 23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. 24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen."*

In this chapter, Paul teaches us to manage 3 areas of resources:

- *All Christians Manage **MONEY** for the Lord. (v.1-4)*
- *All Christians Manage **OPPORTUNITIES** from the Lord. (v.5-9)*
- ***All Christians Manage **RELATIONSHIPS** in the Lord. (v.10-24)***

10 *"And if **Timothy** comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also do. 11 Therefore **let no one despise him**. But send him on his journey in peace, that he may come to me; for I am waiting for him with the brethren."*

- Timothy was the young protege of Paul, and had a special **CALLING** into full-time ministry. It took many years, but he eventually understood that he was called to be a pastor, serving the Lord full-time in Ephesus.

Eph 2:10 - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

- Timothy was a **faithful, available, like-minded, and a completely loyal** partner to Paul the apostle in ministry.

Phil 2:20 - "For I have no one **like-minded**, who will sincerely care for your state." - "**ἰσόψυχος**" or "**isopsychos**" meaning to be "of the same soul, same heart, same mind" is used by Paul only of Timothy!

"Every Paul should have a Timothy, every Timothy should have a Paul!"

- Apparently, Timothy suffered from both a **lack of confidence** and a **lack of respect** from the people he ministered to:

1Tim 4:12 - "**Let no one despise your youth**, but be an example to the believers in **word**, in **conduct**, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

- The Early Church was very cautious towards false teachers: They wrote and circulated the "**Didache**" or "**Teaching**" which showed clearly marks of False Teachers and impostors.

12 "Now concerning our brother **Apollos**, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite **unwilling to come at this time**; however, **he will come when he has a convenient time**.

- **Apollos**, is mentioned among the other apostles in 1Cor 1:12, 3:22. **Apollos** was a **GIFTED** teacher and public speaker, very knowledgeable in the Scriptures, and bold for the Lord (Acts 18:24). He was aware of his gift from the Lord, and he developed and used it for the Lord!

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle." - Anonymous
"What a wonderful opportunity it is to teach these little ones to love God with all their heart and to serve fellowman throughout their lives. There is no higher calling than that!" - James Dobson

John 18:37 - "Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, **that I should bear witness to the truth.**"

- **Apollos had a very different ministry that Paul** - he was a "**waterer**", while Paul was a "**planter**." (1Cor 3:5-8)
Do YOU know what God has called YOU to? Are you trying to be just like someone else? Or are you seeking to discover YOUR

unique gifts, talents, and calling from the Lord? (Eph 2:10)

"People often say, "You can be anything you want to be! Be a butcher, a sales rep if you like. An ambassador if you really care. You can be anything you want to be—if you work hard enough." But can you? I wonder... if God didn't pack within you the meat sense of a butcher; the people skills of a salesperson; or the world vision of an ambassador; can you be one? An unhappy, dissatisfied one perhaps. But a fulfilled one? **No. Can an acorn become a rose, or a whale fly like a bird? **Absolutely not!** You cannot be anything you want to be. But you CAN be everything GOD wants you to be!" - Max Lucado**

13 **Watch, stand fast** in the faith, be **brave**, be **strong**. 14 "Let all that you do be **done with love**."

- **These are military commands:** stay awake; hold your ground; be courageous and strong in the face of your enemies!
"Courage, above all things, is the first quality of a soldier." - **General Von Clausewitz**
"The battle does not belong to the strong alone, but to the vigilant, the active, the brave!" - **Patrick Henry**
"Spartans do not ask How many are the enemy?" but rather Where are the enemy?" - **Greek Proverb**
- In a sense, each of these mean the same thing, simply saying it in a different way. **Christians are to be like strong soldiers**, on guard, watching for their Lord's return.
The terms in this verse are all military: *Watch ye, watch, and be continually on your guard, lest you be surprised by your enemies...Stand fast in the faith - Keep in your ranks; do not be disorderly; be determined to keep your ranks unbroken; keep close together...Quit yourselves like men - When you are attacked, do not flinch; maintain your ground; resist; press forward; strike home; keep compact; conquer...Be strong - If one company or division be opposed by too great a force of the enemy, strengthen that division, and maintain your position...summon up all your courage, sustain each other; fear not, for fear will unnerve you."* - **Clarke**
- **The LIFE of the Christian is not "like a war" it IS a war!**
Eph 6:11-12 - *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities,*

against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly places."

- **The ENEMY of the Christian is real, is dangerous, and is on constant prow!**

1Pet 5:8 NLT - *"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."*

- **The WEAPONS of the Christian are real, and very powerful in the Lord!**

2Cor 10:3-4 NKJV - *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.."*

*"Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!" - **Chaplain Forgy, Pearl Harbor***

*15 I urge you, brethren--you know the household of **Stephanas**, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints-- 16 that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us."*

- Stephanas, and his family, were **the first Christian converts** in the region of Achaia - 1Cor 1:16
- They were **SERVANTS**, diligent and "addicted" to the ministry and serving Christ's kingdom. Serving the Lord is an essential and important part of the living like a disciple of Christ.
 - *"If you don't want to be forgotten about when you die, either write books worth talking about, or do things worth writing about." - **Voltaire***
 - *"It is high time that the ideal of success should be replaced with the ideal of service!" - **Albert Einstein***
 - *"Do all the good you can, by all the people you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can, for as long as you can!" - **John Wesley***
 - *"**I WONDER**" - "You know, Lord, How I serve you with great emotional fervor in the the limelight. You know how eagerly I effervesce when I promote a fellowship group. You know my genuine enthusiasm at a Bible study....But how would I react, I wonder, if you pointed to a basin of water, and asked me to wash the calloused feet of a bent and wrinkled old woman, day after day, month after month, in a room where nobody*

saw and nobody knew?" - Ruth Calkin

- **Matt 20:26-28 NKJV** - "*Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*"
- Paul says that such dedicated & zealous leaders, like the **deserve the respect and honor** of the saints.
- **Heb 13:17 NKJV** - "*Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*"

17 "*I am glad about the coming of **Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus**, for **what was lacking on your part they supplied**. 18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore **acknowledge such men.**"*

- These were **the 3 men who brought the questions** of the Corinthian Christians to Paul. As Paul sends them back with this letter, Paul asked that they be **received as devoted servants of the Lord**. Apparently, Stephanas was the head of the household, and Fortunatus and Achaicus were two household slaves of his, who accompanied him on his visit to Paul. Fortunatus and Achaicus were common names for slaves or freedmen (former slaves).
- These men were **GIVERS** to the ministry of Paul, and made up for what lacked from others. Paul said they **deserved to be acknowledged and honored** for their sacrificial financial support of God's work.
 - "If you want to keep your money, then save it. If you want to harvest more money, then plant it." - Thomas Fuller*
 - "A stingy man is always poor." - French proverb*
 - "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give!" - Winston Churchill*

19 "*The **churches of Asia** greet you. **Aquila and Priscilla** greet you heartily in the Lord, with **the church that is in their house.**"*

- "**The churches of Asia**" refers to modern day Turkey.
- This couple were **LEADERS** in ministry. Aquila and Priscilla were by profession tent-makers like Paul, and served with him in Corinth (Acts 18:1-3, 18:24-28). Now they were in Ephesus with Paul and sent their greetings to the Corinthian Christians. They are a beautiful example of a **COUPLE** that was collectively **dedicated to serving the Lord** thru their family, and in their HOME regularly.

- *"The greatest use of this life is to spend it on something that will outlast it!" - William James*
- *"I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord, real service is what I desire. I'll sing you a solo any time, dear Lord, **just don't ask me to sing in the choir!** I'll do what you want me to, dear Lord, I like to see things come to pass. **But don't ask me to teach boys and girls, O Lord!** I'd rather just sit and relax. I'll do what you want me to do, dear Lord, I yearn for your Kingdom to thrive. I'll give you my nickels and dimes, dear Lord. **But please, don't ask me to tithe!** I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord, I'll say what thou want me to say; but I'm busy with myself dear Lord, **I'll serve you some other day.**"*
- **"the church that is in their house."** - The Early Church didn't have buildings for approx. 200 years, since it was illegal. Churches were really **house churches**, as in many persecuted countries today, such as China and Cuba.

20 *"All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with **a holy kiss**. 21 The **salutation with my own hand**--Paul's."*

- Paul had a secretary write the letters as he dictated them. Often he added a personal note at the end in **his own handwriting** - which seemed to be poor, according to Galatians 6:11.

22 *"If anyone **does not love the Lord Jesus Christ**, let him be **accursed**. **O Lord, come!**"*

- Paul again stresses the importance of love, pronouncing a heavy curse on those who **talk of commitment** to Jesus, but have **no genuine love for Him** or **obedient service to Him**.
James 2:14,17 NLT - *"What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ... 17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless."*
- Paul uses the very strong word **"accursed"** or **"anathema."** This is a very strong word, and to the religious Jews was the third of three levels of discipline in their house of worship, the synagogue. The first level was a simple separation of a man from the synagogue for 30 days. If one did not repent in the 30 days, he was under the second degree of discipline, giving him still an undefined time to repent, but warning him of the dire consequences to come. The third level was

- the anathema, and with that all hope of reconciliation and repentance was cut off. The man could never be reconciled to the synagogue, and was no longer accounted as a Jew at all.
- **Paul anxiously awaited the soon return of Jesus.** He uses the words "**Marana tha**" is Aramaic for "O Lord, come!" This was one of the earliest words in the Christian vocabulary.

23 "The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. 24 **My love** be with you all **in Christ** Jesus. Amen."

- **The letter ends with Paul pronouncing a blessing of grace** and love towards the Corinthian Christians. Paul's final words do much to reveal his heart of love, even though he had to rebuke these Corinthians strongly.

Paul's love, for Jesus and His Church made him a great apostle.

Love, expressed through humble service, makes us great in the Kingdom of God, too!