

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty
1 Cor. 16:5-24 – closing thoughts
March 23, 2025

- I. Paul's travel itinerary (16:5-12)
- A. Paul's ministry is "international" (multi-provincial)
 - B. Paul's ministry is assisted by many people
 - His itinerary is bolstered by others—he is not a lone wolf
- II. Exhortations (16:13-18)
- A. Watch—be on the alert
 - Jesus warns us to not be deceived
Matthew 24:4 (NKJV) *And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.*
 - Peter tells us to be alert for satan
1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*
 - Paul wants us to be watchful also
1 Thessalonians 5:6 (NKJV) *Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*
 - B. Stand firm in the faith (Gal. 5:1; Phil. 1:27; 1 Thess. 3:8; 2 Thess. 2:15)
Philippians 1:27 (NKJV) *Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*
 - C. Act like men (1 Cor. 14:20; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3-5)
1 Corinthians 14:20 (NKJV) *Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.*
 - D. Be strong (Josh 1:7; Luke 1:80, 2:40; Eph 3:16, 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:1)
Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV) *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*
 - E. Let all be done in love (1 Cor.13:13-14:1; John 13:34-35; Gal. 5:14-15; 1 John 4:7-8)
John 13:34-35 (NKJV) *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*
 - F. Be subject to those devoted to the ministry of the saints (Heb. 13:7, 17; 1 Pet. 5:5; 1 Thess. 5:12-13)
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NKJV) *And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

G. Acknowledge those who give (2 Cor. 7:6-7; Phil. 2:29; 3 John 1:11-12)

3 John 1:11-12 (NKJV) *Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.*

III. Closing greetings (16:19-24)

- A. Greetings from various groups and people
- B. Greeting from Paul
- C. Greet each other
- D. Cursed are those who do not love the Lord (anathema—let him be cursed)
- E. Even so Lord Jesus come quickly (maranatha—Lord Jesus come)
- F. Grace of the Lord be with you
- G. Paul's love be with you

IV. Challenge for us

A. Wherever you go be a gospel witness—light and salt (Point 1—Paul's travel itinerary) [Matt. 5:13-16, 28:18-20; Mark 16:20; Acts 8:4]

Acts 8:4 (NKJV) *Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.*

- How about you—do you build God's kingdom by testifying of Him and His gospel wherever you go OR are you more interested in your kingdom, what you want, then what Jesus wants?

B. Live like believers do not just talk like one (Point 2--Exhortations)[Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Tim. 1:6-8; Rev. 21:8, 3:19-20]

Revelation 21:8 (NKJV) *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

- Can people tell by the way you live that you are a genuine Christian?
- OR are you just another loudmouth in the land of loud mouths that speaks one thing but lives another?
- How we live tends to display what we truly believe. What is your life saying about you?

C. Be friendly and encouraging to one another (Point 3—closing greetings) [Matt 10:12-13; Luke 24:35-36; John 20:19; Titus 3:15]

Titus 3:15 (NKJV) *All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.*

- When you greet someone do you want the best for them or is it just a social exercise of etiquette?
- Would people say we are warm, friendly, and genuine or just polite?