

1 CORINTHIANS: LESSON 53

Chapter 16: Closing Thoughts and Salutations

1 June 2018

- VSS 5-6** Paul told the Corinthians that he will pay them a visit. He may stay the winter. “**Bring me on my journey**” means that he expects that they will provide him with support to enable him to continue on his missionary journey. (See also Romans 15:23-24, 2 Cor. 1:15-16, Titus 3:13, 3 John, verse 6). Notice also that Jesus received support from some women (Luke 8:1-3).
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- VSS 7-8** Paul has a plan to spend time with the believers at Corinth, but not right away.
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- VS 9** God opened a great and effectual door to preach the gospel in Ephesus. The fact that there were many adversaries there didn’t cause Paul to quit. Many Christians assume that if they face trouble while ministering, it’s an indication that God didn’t open that door, or that He has closed the door. Clearly that isn’t the case. The Devil will logically oppose anyone who’s doing God’s work, but that’s not a signal to quit. Hardships and adversity that you face along the way are what keeps you close to God.
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- VSS 10-12** Paul does some mediating and stands up for Timothy. Timothy should not have to fear that the Corinthian church won’t respect him or love him. He is a young man who “**worketh the work of the Lord**” just like Paul does. —Do you work for God?
- Paul had hoped Apollos would travel to Corinth, but Apollos didn’t want to go. This didn’t change Paul’s love for Apollos. He was still “**our brother Apollos**.”
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- VS 13** “**Watch ye!**” Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil... (1 Peter 5:8). (Mt. 26:41).
“**Stand fast in the faith.**” Don’t let the world, the devil, or the flesh move you. (Eph. 6:11-13).
“**Quit you like men.**” Men don’t quit! When you were a child, you gave up easily. (1 Cor. 13:11).
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- VSS 14-16** Paul exhorts them to submit themselves unto those who are “**addicted...to the ministry of the saints**.” You will become like the people you spend time with. People who “must” minister and “must” tell others about the Lord are good people to learn from.
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- VSS 16-17** When the church at Corinth came short of helping Paul financially, God found some others to make up what was lacking.
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VS 18 One way you can minister to your brethren is to refresh them in their spirit. Do you lift people's spirits when they're around you; —or do you bring them down? You can tell the brethren what you appreciate about them or about someone in their family; not flattery, but true praise. Avoid negative talk, gossip, slander, and complaining.

VS 19 Aquila and Priscilla had a church that met "in their house." The churches of Asia did not meet in a house for their fellowship. There are differences of administrations and diversities of operations (1 Cor. 12:5-6). It doesn't matter where you meet, as long as you meet (Heb. 10:24).

VS 20 Greeting brethren with a kiss is common among Asians, but rare among westerners. "Holy" means that it is free from sin and sinful affections. To kiss a person, you must get close enough to become vulnerable to that person and subject yourself to possible harm. If you are willing to kiss them, it shows that you trust them.

VSS 21-22 Anathema = accursed. It is a cursed thing to not love the Lord.

Maran-atha = the Lord is coming soon! Jesus will execute Judgment upon those who don't love Him when He returns (Jude 14-15).

VSS 23-24 Notice the love of Paul toward these believers. Yes, he wrote them a harsh letter of correction, but in the end, he let them know that his charity toward them had not failed. People will take correction from you if they know you love them.
