

Endnotes of Encouragement

The Last Few Bits of 1 Corinthians

Thank you...



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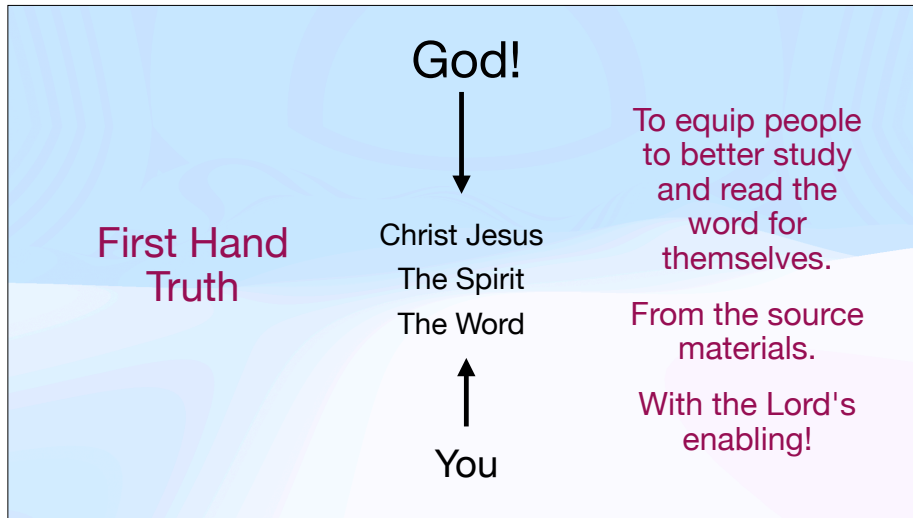
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1 Corinthians 16:12-24

Five Different Vignettes

- Apollos
- Words of Encouragement in Hard Times
- The House of Stephanas
- Greetings!
- A Harsh Word From Paul?

1. Apollos

1 Corinthians 16:12

Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

- **Apollos / Acts** / "A man of learning, powerful in the scriptures."
- **Had impact in Corinth** / knows the people
- **Encouraged by Paul to come visit** / "maybe later?"
- **Action** / do a character study of Apollos



Are we teachable?

Let us be like Apollos!

Passionate for God and yet at the same time open to truth. There are no know-it-alls.

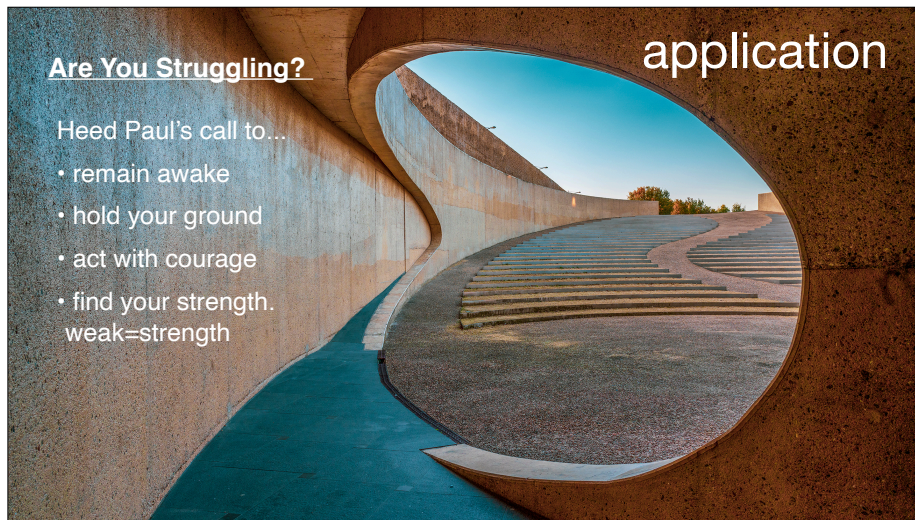
2. Words of Encouragement in Hard Times

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.



- **Be watchful** / Stay awake, be alert
- **Stand Firm** / Hold your position [Rev 2:25, 3:11]
- **Act Like Men** / act with courage, do difficult things
- **Be Strong** / surprise others, surprise yourself
- **Love** / actions motivated by love / **love** = giving of self for other's benefit.



Are You Struggling?

Heed Paul's call to...

- remain awake
- hold your ground
- act with courage
- find your strength.
weak=strength

3. The House of Stephanas / Submission

1 Corinthians 16:15-18

Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints—

be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer.

I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.

Submission
POWER

CHOOSE ONE...

A / Lording over others and getting your way is expected, encouraged and displayed as the norm for leaders in the church. The gospel is about putting people under you so you can rule them into spiritual growth.

B / Serving others and treating others as "*better than ourselves*" and as worthy of respect is displayed as the norm for leaders in the church. The gospel is about empowering others into the faith and into growth. This is of the Spirit.

SUBMISSION?

CHOOSE ONE...

A / To submit means to **do everything** that someone above you tells you to do.

B / To submit means to **listen to and consider the "righteousness" or "truthfulness" of a person's words or actions**, to use discernment, and make those things a part of your life if they agree with the Lord's desire for you and are true.

SUBMIT TO WHO?

CHOOSE ONE...

A / Submission is **one direction only** / the powerful tell the less powerful what to do.

B / Submission is a **mutual, reciprocal** arrangement of each person putting others before themselves.

Authority

The Flesh Loves Misplaced Authority

Jesus flatly rejected leaders "overlording" and authoritarianism / **Mark 10**

Jesus flatly rejected leaders coming between God and other people in terms of authority, instruction and leadership / **Matthew 23**

3. The House of Stephanas / Submission

1 Corinthians 16:15-18

Now I urge you, brothers—you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints—

- Urging / beg / Paul will urge us to take a certain action...
- Who was Stephanas? Who was his household?
- They **devoted** themselves... **set themselves** to... **pursued**...
- To the **service** of the saints...

3. The House of Stephanas / Submission

1 Corinthians 16:15-18

be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer.

- **URGED** to "be subject" to the servants... follow the leading...
 - "Listen to their way of life" / "emulate"
- **AND...**
 - **Every** / all / pas
 - **Fellow Worker** / synergeō / those who work together w you
 - **Laborer** / ones who work to exhaustion

3. The House of Stephanas / Submission

1 Corinthians 16:15-18

I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people.

- **Three individuals** / Stephanas, other members of his household.
- **Refreshed my Spirit** / took away some of the burden.
- **Give Recognition** / acknowledge, point out, emulate, honor

Be Like Stephanas

- Dedicate yourself to Serving Other Believers...
- It is a Christian expectation to expect the same respect returned to you.

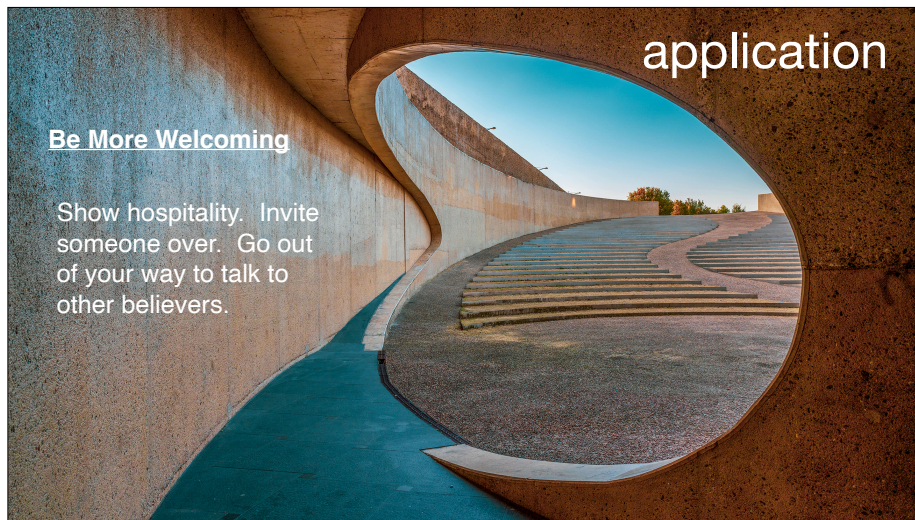
application

4. Greetings

1 Corinthians 16:19-20

The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

- Greetings, common in the Epistles.
- Speaks of fellowship of believers.
- More to it than saying hi / speaks of welcoming, accepting others / respect / hospitality / love of strangers



5. A Harsh Word from Paul?????

1 Corinthians 16:21-24

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

- What is this? Seems jarring.
- If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed.
 - Is Paul wishing that everyone who didn't know the Lord or show him proper love should be **damned**?
 - Seems contradictory to what we know of Paul.

• Expect Some Difficulty in Interpretation of Scripture

- Written in a different **time**
- Written in a different **language**
- Written in a different **culture**
- Written **by** a person **different than you**
- Written **to** a person **different** than yourself
- Written **by** someone who had a **purpose** in the writing

• How Would I Go About Solving a Meaning That is Difficult...

- Consider the **entire NT** message...
- Consider the **context of the book** that the phrase occurs in...
- Consider the **immediate context** of the passage... Determine what the paragraph is trying to communicate as a whole...
- Consider the **usage** of the **words** / other occurrences of that word elsewhere...
- Refer to people who have studied it more [ancient] [modern]
 - Commentaries
 - Journals

—The Greek word is “**anathema**,” which properly means...

“a person or thing which has been devoted to God; and especially something which he who devoted it has solemnly **pledged** himself to God to destroy”
[I want to **end** this thing]

But it is also used **without any reference to an offerer** or to a vow, and signifies
“a person or thing which is accursed”

What did St. Paul mean by the expression, “let him be accursed,” as applied to the false teachers?

He cannot mean that he would have them wish for the curse of God to come down on them.

He would rather have prayed that these unhappy men might be converted and saved; as he himself, once a persecutor and blasphemer, and as the Galatians, once gross and wicked idolators, had been.

His meaning appears to be simply this,

“let him be regarded by you as one accursed of God.”

There is only one other place in which we find this expression in this exact form, 1 Cor. 16:22

—“If any man love not the Lord, let him be anathema, maranatha.”

Can we imagine that Paul wished all professing Christians who did not love the Lord to be accursed? It is impossible to suppose such a thing.

He can only mean, surely, that if any one **proved** that he had no real love for Christ, then...

— whatever his profession and his knowledge and his gifts might be —

the Corinthians were to **regard him as an unconverted man**, and therefore as one who had no personal interest in the salvation of Christ, but was still under the curse of the law.

(John Venn, M.A.) Joseph S. Exell, The
Biblical Illustrator: Galatians (New York;
Chicago; Toronto; London; Edinburgh:
Fleming H. Revell Company, n.d.), 27.

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- **BIG IDEA** / If a person acts like a non-believer, believe his actions and not his words. Treat him like he acts -- this is not to say "hate them." Rather / love them with boundaries. Know them for who they are.
- **Maranatha** / O Lord, Come!
- **Grace** / undeserved love of God
- **Love** / God's love be expressed to each other in *agape*!

Believe People When They Show You Who They Are

- Actions Speak Louder than Words. *What is your life telling others?*
- Some "believers" still need the gospel.
- Pray for the Lord to Come!
- Grace
- Love / agape!

application

