

Small Group Discussion

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 16 TOGETHER THEN DISCUSS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BELOW.

QUESTION #1—The word “watch” in this passage is the same word used in the passages below. As Christians what are we to be on the “watch” for?

Matthew 24:43 *43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.*

Colossians 4:2 *2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*

1 Thessalonians 5:6 *6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*

1 Peter 5:8 *8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Revelation 3:2-3 *2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.*

3 Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

QUESTION #2-The Command to “stand fast” is a command found elsewhere in Scripture (see below). What are those Spiritual truths that we MUST stand fast in and upon?

Galatians 5:1 *1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.*

Philippians 1:27 *27 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.*

Philippians 4:1 *1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.*

2 Thessalonians 2:15 *15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.*

QUESTION #3-The Command to “Be Brave” is translated in the KJV “quit ye like men” or behave like men. What aspects of the Christian life require us to “man up”?

Part 34 | Parting Words

1 Corinthians 16:13-18

First Corinthians...Sinners Yet Saints

The Apostle Paul ends the letter to the Corinthians in much the same way as he ends the book of Romans...with a barrage of weighty and robust commands alongside some parting words of commendation and praise for fellow ministers. As we look at Paul's parting words to the Corinthian believers we see a spiritual parent (Paul) filling his spiritual children with words of truth, hope and purpose!

- 1) **WATCH-BE AWARE OF THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE AROUND YOU**
Mt. 24:43, Col. 4:2, 1 Thess. 5:6, 1 Pet. 5:8, Rev. 3:2-3
- 2) **STAND FAST-HOLD TO WHAT IS TRUE**
Gal. 5:1, Phil. 1:27, 4:1, 2 Thess. 2:15
- 3) **BE BRAVE—MAN UP**
- 4) **BE STRONG-KEEP GROWING UP IN CHRIST**
Luke 1:80, 2:40, Eph. 3:16
- 5) **LOVE-LET EVERYTHING BE DONE IN LOVE**
John 13:34-35
- 6) **SUBMIT-FALL INTO RANK UNDER YOUR LABORERS IN MINISTRY**
Luke 2:51, Eph. 5:22
- 7) **SUPPORT-ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SPIRITUAL WORKERS**
Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24

Paul's parting words are a great encouragement when we consider the laundry list of sins that Paul had to address ranging from disunity among the brothers to gross sexual immorality. In spite of the multiple sin issues that Paul had to address in Corinth, he still was able to begin and end the letter with words of encouragements and hope.

Paul's parting words remind me of his words to the Ephesians, "*but speaking the truth in love...Let all bitterness, wrath, anger clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice. And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you,*" Ephesians 4:15a, 31-32.