

b. Detailed. Having given the example of the house of Stephanus, Paul now gives the word of exhortation. It is to "submit" to such as Stephanus. But not only to that kind of person, but to all who are fellow-workers and to all who toil in the work of the Lord. This points to order in the church of God. It is difficult to find followers who are loyal to the leaders! But God expects it. Not only has modern society denied the church, but they have denied its ordered arrangements! Those who believe the Bible will stand for both!

3. EXALTATIONS vv. 17, 18.

Paul did not conclude his letter without giving a word of praise to the Lord. He was a man who rejoiced when others could not (cf. Phil 1:12-18; 4:4 Remember he wrote that from prison!). His rejoicing concerned:

a. Men. Three of them are mentioned. Fortunatus is mentioned by Clement of Rome, but Achaicus is a total unknown. These men may have been slaves of Stephanus (cf. 1:16; 16:15). The word "coming" is the same one often used of the return of our Lord. It is transliterated as "parousia."

b. Ministry.

1) They supplied. The thought of this verb is that the three men who came from Corinth made up to Paul something which lacked by his experience of absence from Corinth. It is a glorious word from Paul in view of the problems. He wanted them, loved them, and longed for them! These men filled up the "shortcoming" or blank he felt in view of the Corinthian's absence. What grace!

2) They refreshed. That verb means to "put to rest" (cf. Matt. 11:28). They would do the same for the Corinthians as is noted by "yours." people who do such are to be noted for their service of love. This is the import of the term "acknowledge" which comes from a verb meaning to "regard". People with such qualities of supplying and refreshing ought to be well regarded of the saints!

THE BOOK OF FIRST CORINTHIANS

"Final Charges"

1 Cor. 16:13-18

Introduction

1. Closing remarks are usually well-packed phrases. Paul is not disappointing in his final words! How full and compact these truths are here. Let them get right to the cockles of your heart.

2. So hopeful is the apostle that his message will not be despised, he takes occasion to put some final helpful orders before the believers at Corinth. He does not hesitate to employ solid imperatives to indicate the authority which he, as an apostle, bears.

3. In these days of complacency and shaded devotion to the Lord, it is well to be reminded that the soldier of the cross is expected to be true to the Lord and to the faith once delivered unto the saints. God give us a heart to hearken to Him. Here are some of the commanding words of counsel:-

1. EXPECTATIONS vv. 13, 14.

Here are several imperatives in the Greek. The imperativel mode of any verb is an expression of one mind to another of its desire. Hence, here is a direct and straight forward expression of God's mind for the Corinthian church.

a. Watch. This present imperative is deeply expressive. There is to be not one single moment of relaxation, but constant vigil in the life of the child of God. It is a warning against a life of unconsciousness for the verb root means to "stay awake." The believer is always menaced by dangers and temptations; he must have his eyes open. It is suicide to go asleep spiritually! Corinth was carnal (3:1-4) and exposed to seductions because of it. This injunction says they should be ready for surprise attacks! What a word for us in these days of neo-evangelical compromise

b. Stand fast. Here is another word used with present connotations. Constant standing at

attention is the suggestion. The spiritual position which one takes is not to be given up! They were to stand "in the faith." The article points to a body of truth for which they were to stand. Particular attention must be given to the total epistle and the truths there (chaps. 1-15!!). Doctrinal purity is a must for any believer and church. ALL the Doctrines of the Bible are important. You can't minimize any area of Christian doctrine without trouble! What a word for today's spineless belief. The advice of Paul to Timothy is well taken (2 Tim. 1:14).

c. Quit you. This is an old English phrase for a glorious Greek verb meaning to "act like men." They had acted like babies in their terrible carnality (3:1-4). The word suggests the ideas of courage and energy for God. It is indicative of proper kinds of fighting for the soldier. It is opposed to cowardice. There are some believers who are easily slighted. They don't get their hands shaken; they don't get noticed as they desire; they aren't given recognition as expected and hence, they act like babies. They need to learn this final word of direction from the apostle. It is somewhat subjective for it tends to emphasize the strength of the character of the man. It is a middle voice and thus should be rendered as "show theyself a man". The term "man" is male sex. Strength of unusual sorts are suggested.

d. Be strong. The previous phrase points to something subjective; this is objective. It is force due to aid given by the Lord. Strength of this sort is gained by a variety of ways. Some of these include the following:

- 1) Fellowship. Eph. 6:10. To be strong, one must be strong "in the Lord." Walk close to Him and feed upon Him for strength. No other way.
- 2) Holy Spirit. Eph. 3:16, 17. Dependence upon the Holy Spirit is the only manner in which one may be energized for godly living. This is the key to dynamic of Christian experience (Gal. 5:16;

Eph. 5:18).

- 3) Bible. 1 John 2:14. There are a lot of arguments against the Word of God, but the child of God knows that it is there that he finds his source of strength. Weak Christians are those who just are not in the Word. The relative strength of your stand for Christ is largely determined by your study of the Bible. No matter what your judgments are, they are weak, unless you are really in that Book! No degree or experience on earth will compensate for the Word of God!
- 4) Obedience Joshua 1:7, 8. This is a vital link in the matter of strength for a believer. How many fall by the wayside because they have not been obedient unto Him. Obedience to God kept Joseph in the hour of temptation (Gen. 39:9).

e. Love. As in many instances of the Word (cf. Col. 3:14), the matter of charity or love is the covering for activities. It does not mean that love overshadows doctrine, but that one's actions and beliefs will include the matter of divine affection (Rom. 5:5). It is the sphere of love (Greek) in which one operates--that is the sense. The verb "done" is really "become" and marks the process by which a witness is given unto the Lord. The "all your things" denotes every vestige of one's life. Here is a glorious truth.

2. EXHORTATIONS vv. 15, 16.

- a. Declared The verb "beseech" (v. 15) is used in the sense: "I have an exhortation to address to you." Then follows the exhortation. Before this is given, however, there is an example provided. It is of Stephanus who is mentioned earlier (1:16). He was the first fruit of the Gospel in the province of Achaia, not alone of Corinth. Apparently the whole "house" (including slaves) had believed on the Lord. The one outstanding ministry this family performed was to others. The verb "addicted" means to devote or ordain oneself. They set themselves to this ministry.