

1 Corinthians 16:5-24 – Final Instructions

I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, ⁶ and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷ For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. ¹⁰ When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am. ¹¹ So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers. 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. ¹³ Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done in love. ¹⁵ 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— ¹⁶ be subject to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer. ¹⁷ I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence, ¹⁸ for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such people. ¹⁹ The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. ²⁰ All the brothers send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. ²¹ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. ²² If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. ²⁴ My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

1. What stands out to you as the main point of this passage? Through your reading and reflecting on this passage and the message on Sunday, what has God been laying on your heart?
2. How do you interpret the call to “Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong” in v.13? Why do you think Paul connects this to the call to do everything in love in v.14?
3. How are your faith and strength being tested right now? What is causing you to stand firm and be strong?
4. Read v.22. What does Paul identify here as the defining characteristic of a Christian? Why do you think Paul chooses to focus on this rather than anything else (belief, faith, obedience, etc)?

5. What is the difference between simply believing in the truths of the gospel and God's word vs. *loving The Lord*? How can we foster deeper love for Jesus beyond just believing things *about* Him through spiritual/everyday practices? How does your love for Jesus manifest and flow out into your everyday life?

6. How does the truth of this passage stir up our love for God and drive us to pursue Him as a community of faith?

7. How is God asking you to respond to His word – First, in confession and prayer? And then in action empowered by God's Spirit?

Spend time praying together as a group as the Holy Spirit has prompted you through the truth of this passage.