

“Let all that you do be done in Love”

Synopsis of I Corinthians 16

Paul has effectively dealt with the errors of the brethren in Corinth. Chapter 16 adds no new area of Corinthian error. This final chapter very typically approaches the brethren with words of encouragement and gives the location and date of this epistle (I Cor. 16:8-9). Paul gives instructions regarding a collection for the needy saints in Jerusalem (I Cor. 16:1-4; cf. Rom. 15:25-27). Secondly he gives his projected itinerary. Paul’s desire is to apparently supervise the final collection and send this money, with local church representatives, to Jerusalem and then head toward Rome (I Cor. 16:6). The reading of Romans 15:25-27, which was written approximately one year latter than I Corinthians, indicates that Paul would have to go back to Jerusalem with the collected funds.

The encouragement is primarily found in I Corinthians 16:13-14 where Paul states, “*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all that ye do be done in love.*” This five fold admonition summarizes to position Paul advocates in the faithful Christians at Corinth in light of all the current problems. These brethren are commanded to “*watch*” or be attentive to the errors around them and not to be deceived by any (cf. I Cor. 15:33). Secondly, they are to “*stand fast*” or take a stand against the errorist around them rather than tolerate them (cf. I Cor. 5:1ff). Thirdly, Paul admonishes the brethren to be manly, i.e., courageous in this stand against error (cf. I Cor. 6:2-3). Fourthly, the faithful Corinthians are to be “*strong*.” Let the sword of God’s word be wielded in strength (cf. I Cor. 4:14-17). Lastly, Paul commands that all these efforts against error must be conducted with a spirit of “*love*.” Love takes into consideration the betterment of man’s physical and spiritual well being (cf. I Jn. 3:16-17; 4:10-17). When those who are in error see your genuine concern for their soul it may be that they will at least try to study with you about your differences.

Paul concludes the letter with admonitions of fellowship and greetings. The churches of Jesus Christ in this first century obviously communicated with each other. They knew of their troubles (I Cor. 16:1ff) and their faithfulness or lack thereof (I Cor. 16:19). This communication was not universal organization; yet, a union together in truth. All faithful saints are united in truth and organized locally. For this cause Paul could say, “*ALL the brethren salute (greet) you. Salute one another with a holy kiss*” (I Cor. 16:20).

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