

This chapter concludes Paul's letter to the Corinthians. He has written them as brothers and sisters in Christ. He gave them words of encouragement and inspiration. He has answered their questions and instructed them in a better way. He has taught them again about the hope that is in them and warned them to stand strong, focused on the truth they know. Now he draws his letter to a close. But like most teachers who say "in closing" he had a few more important things to share. We want to look closely at this chapter and glean all we can from it.

Pray and ask God to open your heart to what he has in store for you as you study his word carefully. This chapter is much more than a mere good bye at the end of a letter.

Read this chapter at least twice before starting.

Let's look at verses 1-4

- 1. Paul reminds them of those in need in Jerusalem. What does he call them? Vs. 1**
- 2. Why would he not want to simply refer to them as the poor in Jerusalem?**

How were his words consistent with what he taught them in chapter 12:12-26 and in chapter 13?

- 3. How do you respond when someone is taking an offering for the poor in general?**
- 4. How do you respond when someone is taking an offering for a family in your church with a great need?**
- 5. Note who Paul instructs to participate in this offering._____**
- 6. When an offering is being gathered for a need in the body of Christ are you ready to have a part in it?**

7. When are they to give their offering? To put it aside?

8. Have you noticed how large your giving seems at the end of the year when you look back at the total?

If someone asked you to give one time would you be able to give the same amount? What does this teach about helping others?

9. What is the primary purpose of the Sabbath?

- **Gen. 2:2–3** And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.
- **Ex. 20:8** Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work,

10. What is different about your Sunday than other days of the week?

It is not my intention to sound judgmental, but the commandments have not changed. I believe one of the reasons that so many families are stressed and worn out is the lack of a true Sabbath. Several years ago I realized this and made a choice to honor this day as the Lord's. I do not treat it as any other day; I am amazed at the change this has made.

Now let's look at verses 5–11 Paul's plans for travel

11. Even after this long letter of correction Paul longs to see them and not for just a quick stop. How long does he plan to be with them? Vs.6

12. What wonderful opportunity does Paul want to make the most of before coming to them? Vs.8

13. Will it be easy?

14. Are you on the lookout for open doors of opportunity in your ministry?

15. You do know you have a ministry, right? What are we all to be busy doing?

16. Paul had adversaries that were already in line to come against him in Ephesus. What reason would they have to oppose him like this? What was Ephesus like? If you were with us in our study of Acts you may recall, if not look up Acts 19

17. In verse 11 Paul encourages them to welcome Timothy, notice his exact words. ESV “let no one despise him”; NIV “No one, then, should refuse to accept him” Why would they?

18. We find out why in 1 Tim.4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity

Often in the ministry it is difficult for young men and women to feel accepted and warmly brought into leadership. Of course we should be careful about elevating someone to a position without proper maturity, but we should never hold their age against them.

19. What is your response when you see a young man in the pulpit on Sunday morning as a guest speaker? Give him a chance you might be surprised what God has in store.

I have a friend whose grandson was saved about 1 year ago and now he is at a seminary in Dallas, Texas. I was amazed when I read his testimony and the blogs he has posted over the last year. He is saturating his mind and heart with the Word of God, and God is blessing him with wisdom far past his years. My prayer is that he continues to seek God first. Rom.2:11 “God is no respecter of persons.”

Now let's look at verses 12–24 Final instructions

20. Why do you think Paul would have to encourage Apollos to go to Corinth? Why would Apollos not want to go? 1 Cor.1:12

21. What final instructions does Paul give them for their daily walk of faith? Vs.13

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

22. Paul ends his letter with a very strong statement. In vs. 21 he makes it clear that these things were written by him. Then in vs.22 he leaves no guessing or wondering. Anyone who opposed the Lord and the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ) let him be accursed. The Gr. word is “anathema” impossible to redeem, dedicated or set apart to evil, objects of loathing, they are unrepentant of a crime that merits the severest condemnation.

23. In verse 23 he say's “the grace of the Lord Jesus be with you”. What do you believe he meant by this statement? Do a word study on “grace” as it appears here and then place your definition back into the text to see what Paul is saying.

24. In closing vs.24 he sends his love. How does Paul feel about those he personally led to Christ? 1 Cor. 4:14–15

25. Even though they have had much correction, how do you think the Corinthians felt toward Paul? How do you respond to correction?