

I Corinthians 16:10-24 **Final Exhortations and Greetings**

Introduction:

I was thinking the other day about the content and manner of our emails. We usually start off to whom we are writing. And then we write what we desire to communicate, which is the body of the email and finally we offer our closing remarks with our name at the bottom.

The Biblical letters of the New Testament are somewhat different because they start off usually with the name of person who is writing. Then followed by an opening statement to whom you are writing along with a blessing. "To the church of God which is at Corinth... Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Lastly at the closing there is a wide list of greetings naming those who are friends and associates; and a signature of blessing which speaks of the grace of God to us in Christ.

I. Paul's Final Exhortation – v. 10-14

A. Timothy – I Cor. 4:17

1. Timothy must be treated with loving respect – Thess. 5:12-13

B. Apollos – v.2

1. Commissioned by the Ephesians to minister to the Corinthians – Acts 18:24-28; 19:1)

C. Five Exhortations – v.13,14

- a. "Be on the alert" (Matt. 24:42f; 25:13; Mark 13:34ff)
- b. "Stand firm in the faith"
- c. "Act like men" I Cor. 3:1
- d. "Be strong" Phil. 4:13
- e. "Do everything in love" I Cor. 13:4-7

II. Paul's Final Greetings –v. 15-24

A. Stephanas and his household – I Cor. 1:16

1. First fruits (Lev. 23:9-11; 15-17; Deut. 26:1-11)
2. Rejoicing – v. 17

B. Final Greetings

1. Aquila and Prisca – Rom. 16:5; Acts 18:1-3; Rom. 16:4)
2. All the brethren greet you – v.20 "holy kiss" Luke 22:48; Rom. 16:16; II Cor. 13:12;
3. I Thess.5:26; I Pet. 5:14)

Conclusion:

1. *In the final analysis the ultimate test of genuine faith resides in whether one truly loves the Lord Jesus Christ. (I Cor. 12:3)*
2. *Maranatha – Aramaic rendering ("Mar" means "Lord;") – ("ana" means "Our")- ("atha" means "come") Rev. 22:20*
3. *Paul's blessing upon the church is pastoral – v.23, 24; II Cor. 13:14*