

Studies in 1 Corinthians

Lesson 50: Final Instructions

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. **14** Do everything in love. **15** You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. I urge you, brothers, **16** to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labors at it. **17** I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you. **18** For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

19 The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. **20** All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. **21** I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.

22 If anyone does not love the Lord—a curse be on him. Come, O Lord! **23** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. **24** My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Questions for Discussion

1. Final instructions are usually the most important one. What final instructions does Paul give in verses 13-14? Explain how each instruction would ensure the success of the Corinthian church.
2. Paul warmly commends the family of Stephanas in verses 15-18. How did Stephanas and the others exemplify the spirit of Christianity? Who is a “Stephanas” in your congregation?

3. The “churches in the province of Asia” (vs. 19) represent congregations that the apostles had planted along Asia Minor—roughly the land between Greece (where Corinth rested) and the Middle East. John mentions seven of the Asian churches in the first few chapters of Revelation. Why was it important that the Corinthians to stay connected with these churches? How can we stay in better communication with the churches in our region?

4. Verse 19 makes mention of a house church, in the home of Aquila and Priscilla. What does this teach us about the simplicity of the Lord’s church?

5. What clues do verses 20-23 give about early church culture? How does this compare with church-life today?

6. We’ve just completed fifty lessons over 12 months. What are two or three key insights you plan on taking from this study into the future?