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1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

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SOME FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

1 CORINTHIANS 16:5-24

Our final study here in First Corinthians.

- As the Corinthians awaited Paul's next visit, they were directed to be on their guard against spiritual dangers.
- Stand firm in the faith, behave courageously, be strong, and do everything with kindness and in love.
- This list could be called a Last Days Manifesto.
- Today, as believers awaiting the rapture of the church, we should follow the same instructions.

OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES v. 7-11

- In a sense, Paul kept his eyes on the trail ahead and didn't worry that it went uphill—at times, both ways. 😊
- Letting God open and close doors as He sees fit in ministry and life will improve our success rate.
- Paul was not afraid of opposition; instead, because God had opened the door, Paul let opposition fuel him to complete the ministry God had given him.
- Paul viewed each obstacle as an opportunity to see God do great things.

LABORING TOGETHER IN MINISTRY v. 12

- We are not meant to be lone rangers in the work God has called us to; we need help. What Apollos couldn't do Timothy could and would.
- We should encourage others, work alongside them, and ask for and accept their help.
- To work with others illustrates teamwork in the marvelous spiritual organism called the church of Jesus Christ. We are at our best together!

WE MUST BE ON LOVING GUARD DUTY v. 13-16

- Standing guard is part of the calling of every church.
1 Thess. 5:6, 10; 1 Peter 5:8
- They needed to stand true to what they believed, and so do we; that is the gospel and correct doctrine.
- They had to be courageous so that they could stand against false teachers and deal with sin in the congregation.
- We should do everything with love (**1 Cor. 13**), because without love, they would be prideful noisemakers.

SOME GREAT EXAMPLES v. 17-19

- Stephanas and his household were mentioned in **1 Corinthians 1:16** as people whom Paul had baptized. Paul held up this “household” as an example of Christian living.
- Along with Fortunatus and Achaicus, these honorable men were a wonderful encouragement to Paul.
- Aquila and Priscilla had opened their home, their hearts, and their helping hands to Paul.

PAUL'S FINAL GREETINGS v. 20-24

- The word “*all*” is comprehensive; perhaps this indicates all the house churches in Ephesus.
- Paul wanted his readers to express their love and unity to one another—a kiss, a hug, a handshake—something to make it personal.
- To a church mired in a pattern of divisiveness and personal competitiveness, Paul issues a simple order: Knock it off, Jesus is coming soon. Maranatha!

DO YOU SHARE PAUL'S EAGER ANTICIPATION OF THE LORD'S RAPTURE AND RETURN?

- Those who love Christ are looking forward to that wonderful time of His rapture and return. **Titus 2:13**
- But for those who did not love the Lord, however, Paul says to let them be cursed; and we surely do not want that for anyone!
- Maranatha! Jesus is coming soon. We have no time to waste.

LET'S BE BUSY LOVING AND LIVING AS JESUS LOVED US.