

CGYG & LIFE Bible Study: 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

For Discussion: What opportunities do you see in your daily life to demonstrate biblical values or live out biblical imperatives? What are some of these specific principles/goals and how are they relevant for informing your response or attitude to the situations you face?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-24

For review: In 1 Corinthians 15:35-58, Paul concluded his teaching on the resurrection of believers with illustrations from nature showing that the principles of resurrection and the glorified resurrection body have already been revealed in creation. Plants and animals, the natural and the spiritual, terrestrial and celestial bodies all bear witness to different aspects of what God has done in Christ and will do in us when He returns. In the end, both the living and the dead must be transformed to bear the image of the last Adam to be fit for life in the coming kingdom. Having finished with the weightier issues of doctrine and rebuke, Paul concludes his letter with responses to some matters raised by the Corinthians, updates regarding his travel plans and those of his companions, and greetings from friends and fellow believers.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

Paul begins this section of his letter with instructions for an offering that was to be collected for the poor believers in Jerusalem. What principles can be seen in Paul's instructions for the giving and handling of monetary offerings?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-18

In the course of laying out his plans and instructions for the Corinthians, Paul mentions several people by name. What does he consider worth noting about these people? How were the Corinthians to relate to them in light of what Paul brings to their attention?

Timothy –

Apollos –

The household of Stephanas –

What summary words of instruction does Paul give to the Corinthians in verses 13-14? What makes these words an appropriate encapsulation of his teachings on which to conclude?

Read 1 Corinthians 16:19-24

Who is Paul referring to in his mention of those who have no love for the Lord (1 Cor. 5:11-13)? Why is his condemnation of them so strong?

Reflection and application

Paul's focus in this final section shows, in practice, his commitment to the values of God, which include the building of God's kingdom (expanding it as well as growing its members), promoting unity and fellowship among believers (living a "one body" life in mutual care and concern), speaking up for others (pursuing right treatment and kingdom values), and loving the saints (including those with whom he had disagreements). Even in seemingly mundane matters, Paul's own choices and instructions to the Corinthians are consistent with what he taught them. At the conclusion of his letter, the Corinthians would have many lessons on which to think back and respond. The same is true for his readers today. Let us prayerfully consider the many moments and decisions that fill our days and how God's Word speaks meaningfully to each of them, seeking to truly see life through the lens of Scripture. Then will we be able to consider even choices that seem merely routine or a matter of preference and seek God's enabling to approach them with an intentional pursuit of His glory (1 Cor. 10:31) and our growth in Christlikeness.