

# The Royal Route to Heaven

## 1 Corinthians Chapter 16

This week we reach the end of this amazing letter to the Corinthians, this letter filled with love, with correction, with rebuke and with encouragement. In Chapter 16 Paul continues to instruct with the words “*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong...*” In this letter we have also seen Paul’s great love for these Christians and have felt the Lord’s love flow through the written words right to our hearts. So, as we look at Paul’s final words to the church, we will look for the Lord’s instruction and encouragement to us...

Pray that this study will challenge and encourage you in your walk and remind you that God is speaking to you every time you open His word to direct you on the Royal Route.

### Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. You might want to underline them in your Bible.

1. In the last few verses a word we find that is used several times is “come”.
  - a. How many times did you find this word?
  
  - b. Write a definition below.
  
2. Make note of any other words that are repeated or that you feel are significant here and include a definition.

### Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4.

In Chapter 9 we saw that Paul was worthy of being supported, as he wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:14 “*Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.*” And yet he chose not to accept that support from the Corinthians church... *That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.* Even though he chose not to accept support himself, we do find that he instructs the church to give to those in need and tells them the proper way to have collections for giving.

Consider Paul's instructions in 1 Corinthians 16:1-4

1. From 1 Corinthians 16:3, who was the collection for?
2. Who else received this same instruction?
3. Describe how it was to be done from 1 Corinthians 16:2.
4. How was the amount of giving to be determined?

What a testimony it would be for this gentile church to reach out to the church in Jerusalem who was suffering!

**Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-12.**

In this section Paul shared his plans. This reminds us that the letter is a personal letter which, along with instruction and encouragement, includes day to day news.

1. Paul mentions several cities that will be in his travels. Write what you find about each of the cities below.

a. Macedonia (1 Corinthians 16:5)

b. Corinth (1 Corinthians 16:5-7)

c. Ephesus (1 Corinthians 16:8-9)

2. Notice that in Paul's planning he leaves it open for the Lord to direct. How does James 4:13-15 apply this to our lives?

3. In 1 Corinthians 16:10-11 Timothy is mentioned as one who may come.

a. How does Paul ask them to receive Timothy?

b. How does he ask them to send Timothy on?

c. Where will Timothy go when he leaves Corinth?

4. What did Paul write to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12 that relates to this?

5. Paul also mentions Apollos in 1 Corinthians 16:12. This is not the first time we have read of Apollos in this letter. What do the following verses remind us about him?

a. 1 Corinthians 1:12

b. 1 Corinthians 3:6

From these verses we can see that Apollos was familiar and well liked in Corinth, so we do not know why he is unwilling to come in 1 Corinthians 16:12, but it is not good to speculate here, so we will move on with the letter. We do know that Paul says he will come when it is convenient.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 16:13-18.**

Knowing this is the end of the letter, we will take some time now to look closer at Paul's final exhortations.

1. Write the very important statement in verse 13 below.

Now let's take each of these instructions separately.

2. *Watch*... What do the following scriptures have to say about *watching*?

a. Matthew 26:41

b. Luke 21:36

c. 1 Thessalonians 5:6

d. What does *watch* mean for you today?

3. *Stand fast* in the faith... Consider the following scriptures regarding *stand fast*. What do you see in each one?

a. Philippians 1:27

b. 2 Thessalonians 2:15

4. Again looking at the exhortation to *stand fast*, consider the following thoughts.

a. What is it we are to stand fast in?

b. What does this mean to you?

5. *be brave*... What do the following verses have to say about being brave, or having courage?

a. Joshua 1:9

b. Psalm 27:14

c. Why might Paul exhort them to be brave?

d. How does this exhortation apply to us today?

6. *be strong*... How do the following scriptures tell us to be strong?

a. Ephesians 6:10

b. 2 Timothy 2:1

7. 1 Corinthians 16:14 contains an instruction that has been repeated throughout this letter, but Paul obviously thought it important enough to say once again. Consider the words of verse 14 as you write them below.

8. Paul now talks about several of the brethren who worked alongside him in the ministry.

a. What do find out about Stephanus in 1 Corinthians 16:15-16?

b. What did Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus do for Paul and for the Corinthians?

**Read 1 Corinthians 16:19-24.**

1. Paul sent greetings in 1 Corinthians 16:19-20. Who are these greetings from?

2. Paul had someone else write the letter up to this point.

a. How does Galatians 6:11 provide a possible reason for this?

b. Why would it be important for these last few lines to be written in Paul's own hand?

3. 1 Corinthians 16:22 is a very strong statement: *"If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed."* As we consider what Paul meant by this, let's look at the Strong's concordance meaning for the Greek word *anathema*: a (religious) ban or (concretely) excommunicated (thing or person):—accused, anathema, curse,

a. Considering the problems Paul addressed in this church, specifically the immorality they had accepted within the body, how would the meaning of "a religious ban or excommunicated" thing apply as a reminder to the Corinthians?

b. Considering the meaning of being "accused, cursed", how does Romans 6:23 support this?

c. No matter which meaning we take, the foundational truth we must walk away with is that loving Jesus Christ is absolutely essential to being a Christian, no matter what the outward actions or words. How should this love be evident in our lives?

4. “*O Lord come!*” or “*Maranatha!*” is really the final statement of this letter before his blessing. Why is this important for both the Corinthians and for us to look for?

5. The last two verses are Paul’s blessings to this church that is so important to him. Write out each verse below and share your thoughts on the importance of each.

a. 1 Corinthians 16:23

b. 1 Corinthians 16:24

### **In closing...**

As we come to the end of this letter and the end of our study, take some time to consider all we have read and how it applies not only to the church in Corinth, but to each one of us today.

1. Thinking back over this study, what do you want to remember about the following topics? *You might choose just one or two.*

a. The body of Christ

b. Sin in the church

c. Christian liberty

d. Gifts of the Spirit

e. Love

2. As we leave this study, we don’t want to leave what we learned behind, but rather to be sure it continues to be applied to our walk on this Royal Route. What has the Lord spoken to you from this letter that you want to be sure to keep with you?