



## Closing Remarks (1 Cor. 16:5-24)

1 Corinthians draws to a close as Paul makes some final remarks about his plans, the plans of others, and some final words of exhortation to the church.

### I. Paul's Travel Plans

As Paul draws his letter towards a close he expresses his desire to visit the church again. His original plan was to visit Corinth and then travel on to Macedonia. After that he planned to return to Corinth and then travel to Jerusalem.

Though Paul desired to visit Corinth after going through Macedonia, he was not sure what would happen. The word that he used is translated as “perhaps” in verse 6. Then in verse 7 he goes on to say, ***“For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.”*** Paul wanted to make a substantial visit, not just a brief one. Still, the Apostle Paul with his close relationship with the Lord used words such as perhaps, if and hope. In no way does this show a lack of faith, but it does demonstrate an attitude of flexibility and shows his complete reliance on the Lord as he planned his activities.



Plan as we might, pray as we can, and trust as we should we still find that sometimes plans will not work out exactly as we anticipate. Sometimes, what happens shows us that there is a much better way. On the Apostle Paul's second missionary journey he wrote that his plans were to ***“return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are”*** (Acts 15:36). While they were able to go to many of these places the Holy Spirit specifically forbade them ***“to speak the word in Asia”*** or ***“to go into Bithynia”*** according to Acts 16:6,7. Instead, God sent them to Macedonia where they were the first to preach the gospel in Europe.

1. **Where was Paul and why was he going to wait there until Pentecost? (vss. 8-9)**
2. **How can it be that there was both an open door and many adversaries? (vs. 9; 15:32; 2 Cor. 1:8)**

### II. The Proposed Visits of Timothy and Apollos

3. **How were the Corinthian Christians expected to treat Timothy if he was able to visit? (vss. 10-11)**

**4. What do we learn about Timothy in verses 10-11?****5. Did Paul wish for Apollos to visit the Corinthians?****6. Why hadn't Apollos yet made the trip to Corinth?**

Previously in chapters 1, 3, 4 Paul had expressed that some in the church followed a faction attributed to Apollos. While Apollos would have been appalled at this factionalism, he may have felt that a visit would have been more detrimental than beneficial. Paul was also named as one of the factions, but we see that Paul and Apollos were close and no division or party spirit existed between them.

**III. Final Instructions****7. What five short instructions are given in verses 13-14 and what do they mean?****8. Who were the first converts in Achaia?**

Paul called on the church to listen and be subject to men like Stephanas who was faithful in service. Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus had come to Paul and helped him. These type of people should be recognised for their service.

In 1 Corinthians there is no instruction to the elders or any other leaders in the congregation. We are left to speculate if there were too few men qualified to serve as leaders in this factionalised, immoral, and confused congregation. There were families like that of Stephanas who were worthy of following, but perhaps no one or too few met the qualities needed in shepherding the church.

Paul sends greetings from the churches in Asia. Paul was currently in Ephesus which was the capital of the Roman province of Asia.

**9. Who were Aquila and Prisca (or Priscilla) and what was happening in their house?  
(See also Acts 18)**

The holy kiss was a common greeting in first century Gentile churches and is mentioned here in verse 20 as well as Romans 16:16; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; and 1 Pet. 5:14. Though a few churches have adopted this in modern life there is no reason to conclude that it was anything other than a warm culturally acceptable greeting.

**10. Why did Paul find it necessary to say that he had written with his own hand?**

Perhaps accounting for the factional spirit found in Corinth, Paul's last words are harsh. Love was the greatest of all gifts and Paul calls on all to exhibit love. Any who did not love the Lord were to be cursed. This is literally calling on the wrath of God upon that person.

The great hope of the church is in the Second Coming. Paul had written about the resurrection and the Second Coming in chapter 15. Now he says with earnest desire, ***"Our Lord, come!"*** It should be the hope of every Christian that the return of Jesus would come.

**11. What does it mean to ask that the grace of the Lord be upon them?**

**12. Why does Paul pen the final sentence assuring the Corinthians of his love in Christ for them all.**

**13. What is the meaning of the word Amen?**