

Love In Everything – 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Bible Study ~ 8/15/17

Grace Church of Lockeford

In this chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul is saying good bye. He has given his admonitions, he has answered their questions, now he is giving some last few exhortations. He has talked about visiting them, about Timothy and Apollos. He is going to mention some other believers and give greetings. But right in the middle of this section Paul exhorts the believers in Corinth to five specific behaviors. This is a kind of summation for Paul. This is how he wraps everything he has told them into a neat package. They first need to...

Watch

“Watch” is the Greek word γρηγορέω (grēgoreō) meaning *be awake; be on the alert. To beware, conceived of as staying awake*. This is an active imperative. Paul is giving them something to be performed. In the context of 1 Corinthians, this is fascinating. The Corinthian church has been beset by sin. Pride, arrogance, sexual immorality, abuse of the Lord’s table, abuse of spiritual gifts, and more. These believers need to be on guard! They need to be watching and aware of how Satan will attack.

In Paul’s second letter to the Corinthian church he writes about the need to forgive *“lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices”* (2Cor. 2:11). Peter gives a similar exhortation when he writes *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”* (1Peter 5:8). It is just as important for us today to be aware of Satan’s devices. To be alert and on guard because he is seeking to devour us! Be on guard! Secondly, they need to...

Stand Fast in the Faith

Though Paul has told believers to stand firm and stand fast in other portions of Scripture, he here exhorts us to “stand fast in the faith”. “Stand fast” is the Greek word στήκω (stēkō) meaning *stand; stand firm. To hold one’s ground; maintain a position; be steadfast or upright*. This too is an active imperative. What is interesting is that we are not able to stand firm on our own. Paul knows this, so his command here is to “stand fast in faith”.

“The faith” is the idea of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Interestingly enough, Paul declared that they stood in the gospel in *15:1*. Our ability to be firm and steadfast is centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Because He paid the penalty for sin and I am declared righteous in Him, I am able to stand. People are falling, unable to stand firm, because they do not know the gospel of Jesus Christ. To stand fast in faith we must be consumed with the gospel. And when trials and hard times come, be unwavering in your commitment to what God has revealed. As with watching, this is something that we do. The next two commands are different. Thirdly we find the need to...

Be Brave

While still an imperative, the command to be brave is either passive or middle. We are not entirely sure because this is the only place this particular word appears. “Brave” is the Greek word ἀνδρίζομαι (andrizomai) meaning *act courageously. To be courageous; to be manly – to be courageous, conceived of as possessing qualities befitting a man*. We are going to learn in a minute that the next word “strong” is passive. This leads me to believe that “brave” is also passive. This means that we are not brave in and of ourselves. Someone has to give us the courage we need.

In Joshua ch. 1 Moses has died. The man who led the nation of Israel for 2 generations is gone! Furthermore, the nation is about to enter the promised land which is inhabited by giants! Yet God commands Joshua to be strong, not because Joshua is so mighty, but because God will be with Him. *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9). The source of our courage and bravery is the presence of the Lord! That is why this is passive. It is a command to be brave because God is with us! Bravery is needed because there is and will be opposition, but God is with us, so stand firm and be brave. Fourthly...

Be Strong

This word is exactly what we would think it is. It is talking about power or ability. However, once again we find a word that is passive. Our strength is insufficient to do what needs to be done. We need strength from an outside source to enable us to be faithful, to keep serving, to press on when times are hard.

Immediately before Paul talks about the armor of God, He exhorts the Ephesians to be strong in the Lord. *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10)*. Notice how specific Paul is. We are only strong “in the Lord” and “in the power of His might”. This is where strength comes from! It doesn’t come from within. Strength is born out of a dependence and trust in the Lord. If we are in need of strength, we must turn to Christ! When there is opposition from without and conflict within, the body of Christ needs the strength of Christ to carry on! The final behavior Paul exhorts them to is...

Love

After just giving them a series of things to do, he commands them to do everything with love. This is, of course, agape love. All means all. Every single thing we do is to be done with love. Not in love but with love. Love is to color our actions and words. Love is to be the motivation, the life-blood of all we do.

Romans 12:9 says *“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”* Love is to be genuine and it is to be part of all we do. We take out the trash with love, we speak with love, we demonstrate love with every fiber of our being! This was the problem in the Corinthian church. There was no love! The problems they experienced could have been eliminated with love.

This means that as we watch, as we stand firm, as we are brave and strong we do these things with love. Though we are on guard, we remember who the enemy is. Though we are standing firm, we remember the need to pull some out of the fire! Though brave we show love. Though strong we are also gentle. Love must be woven through everything in the life of a believer. Remember that we love because He first loved us.

CHALLENGE: Submit to God and He will enable you to do everything with love.

V. 13

Watch – γρηγορέω (grēgoreō) *be awake; be on the alert. To be alert; be awake – to beware, conceived of as staying awake.* Finite verb, present, active, imperative, second person, plural.

Stand fast – στήκω (stēkō) *stand; stand firm. To stand (maintain) – to hold one’s ground; maintain a position; be steadfast or upright.* Finite verb, present, active, imperative, second person, plural.

Faith – πίστις (pistis) *faith. Gospel content; faith – the content of what is (and should be) believed about the good news of Jesus’ way of salvation.* Noun (prepositional object), dative, singular, feminine.

Brave – ἀνδρίζομαι (andrizomai) *act courageously. To be courageous; to be manly – to be courageous, conceived of as possessing qualities befitting a man.* Finite verb, present, either middle or passive, imperative, second person, plural.

Strong – κραταιόω (krataioō) *strengthen; become strong. To be strong – to be or become strong or powerful beyond the average or expected; whether physically or in one’s constitution.* Finite verb, present, passive, imperative, second person, plural.

V. 14

Agape – ἀγάπη (agape) *love. Love (Christian) – a strong, non-sexual affection and regard for a person and their good as understood by God’s moral character; especially characterized by a willing forfeiture of rights or privileges in another person’s behalf.* Noun (prepositional object), dative, singular, feminine.