

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Be a Part of What God is Doing
1 Cor 16

Last time...the very foundation of the Christian faith – the Gospel (Ch 15:3-4)

Is it true, reasoned and reasonable?

Categorically!!!

- Historically/eyewitnesses
- Logically
- Theologically

Since it is true, what does it mean to us?

Resurrection unto eternal Life in a heavenly/spiritual/glorified body

This time...Paul wraps up this letter with

- Final instructions
- Greetings

From which we can glean an exhortation: Be a part of what God is doing!

We are in 1 Cor 16

v1-2 In view here...in Paul's heart and therefore in the heart of the Holy Spirit...
is the Church at Jerusalem

They have been cast out of the Temple by the Jews, "cast out" of Jewish society,
resulting in social rejection and economic "excommunication"

They are facing intense persecution

Living conditions for the Church in Jerusalem are very difficult

Therefore, Paul directs the Church at Corinth, as he has the churches in Galatia,
to take up a love offering, a financial collection to help brothers and sisters
who need help

God sees and knows the need in Jerusalem and He will act/provide
Paul is calling upon the church to be a part of what God is doing

By giving

- cheerful, willing, and led of the Holy Spirit
- not to be confused with "tithing" (Law of Moses, legal relationship)
but a matter of the heart (Law of Love, loving relationship)

Paul instructs the Church at Corinth to

- set aside in reserve the weekly “firstfruits” of what God has provided for them
- give cheerfully as they have been given cheerfully by the Lord
- take care of this collection before he arrives

v3-4 This financial collection and gift, like all financial matters of the church, must

- have accountability...administered by those who are trustworthy and accountable to deliver the church's generosity to the needy saints
- be above reproach...Paul cannot be accused of fleecing the flock for Self-gain
 - the collection to be done by trustworthy others before he arrives
 - the offering handled by others, not by him
 - be a part of the delivery team only if needed

v5-7 Using himself as an example, Paul is calling the Church to be a part of what God is doing

By being Spirit-led

- Paul's plans are the plans of the Holy Spirit
- Paul goes where he is sent by the Lord
- The agenda and the itinerary are the Lord's, not Paul's
- ala Israel in the wilderness –
 - when the pillar of smoke/fire moved, they moved
 - when the pillar stayed, they stayed
- Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

To be a part of what God is doing by always being open to the Lord's direction

v8-9 Paul is in Ephesus as he writes this letter

There he will stay until the Feast of Pentecost...because
that is precisely where the Lord wants him to be right now

A door...wide, very active, and to much effect...has been opened by God in Ephesus to
do the Lord's work

Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

2 Cor 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to *preach* Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord

Col 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ

Rev 3:7-8 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Be a part of what God is doing by walking thru the open doors He puts before you
Be moving, in motion
Come to a door (the heart of another person or a decision point) and knock
If it opens, walk thru without hesitation, speaking and doing
If it remains closed, keep moving until a door opens

And expect opposition from adversaries

Ch 15:32

demonic beasts and brute beasts (unregenerate men in the eyes of God)

v10-12 Corinth was a very tough place to minister...,very worldly, very idolatrous, "Sin City"

If Timothy, Paul's son in the faith, comes to town, care for him as you would for me
Comfort and encourage him, do not let him be fearful and do not let anyone despise him
(for his youth)

Then send him on to me, for I and the brethren are waiting for him

Regarding Apollos, a dear brother in the Lord, Paul implored him to go to Corinth to minister to that church.

But Apollos' will was to not go there until it was a convenient time for him

When in this world hostile to the Gospel is there ever a convenient time to our flesh to do the Lord's work?

The agenda and itinerary and the message are the Lord's, not ours

We are to walk being led of the Spirit, not our flesh

"Your will be done, not mine."

God's work of sanctification (Rom 8:29) in our hearts

Be a part of what God is doing...now, not when it is convenient for you

v13-14 Be a part of what God is doing...in you and thru you

In you:

1. Watch

Stay awake!

Be vigilant!

Matt 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (like a thief in the night)

Matt 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Rom 13:11-14 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

We are living in the last days...understand the times to know what the people of God ought to do (1 Chron 12:32)

Must be watching to see the deception that does abound in the world

2. Stand fast in the faith

Unmovable, knowing what you know and knowing that you know –
the Gospel is categorically true!

With this great hope (certainty), persevere thru all trials and tribulations

Ch 15:58

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

3. Quit you like men

Act like mature followers of Jesus Christ, not like children/spiritual infants
Grow up in your relationship with the Lord

Grow beyond the milk of the Word to the meat,
studying and digging deeper!

Ch 3:1-2

Heb 5:12-14 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

4. Be strong

Prov 24:10 *If* thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength *is* small.

Is 40:28-31 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Luke 24:49 *And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high*

The “epi” ministry of the Holy Spirit

Eph 6:10-18

Deut 31:1-6
Gal 3:10-14

1 John 4:4

Faith strengthens

Jacob in Gen 47

A strange people in a strange land during strange times...
with unwavering faith that strengthened and
comforted

Neh 8:10

Joy is possible only with faith, here behind enemy lines

Thru you:

A life governed by *agape* love of God

Matt 22:36-40

John 13:34-35

James 2:8

v15-16 The house/family of Stephanas

- firstfruits of Achaia...first believers in the Roman province where Corinth is
- role models of doing the Lord's work in the church
- "men" in v13
- such as they are to be submitted to in the labor of love that is the Lord's work
(God's order is based on humility and submission)

Why?

They are addicts!

Addicted to ministering to the saints!

The only good addiction is a life given over to serving the Lord

Get addicted to Jesus and be a part of what God is doing in and all around you

v17-18 Something else about Stephanas...and Fortunatus and Achaicus:

- saw a need in the church, were able to meet it, and cheerfully met it
- a blessing and not a burden to the church

Get acquainted with, draw close to, emulate people such as this

Be a part of what God is doing in your church

- See a need and if able to meet the need...meet the need!
- Be a blessing to others and not a burden to others

v19-21 Paul is “signing off”

First, with the greetings to the church at Corinth from others

- the churches in Asia (modern day Turkey)
- Aquila and Priscilla, who labored in the Gospel with Paul there in Corinth
- the church that meets in Aquila and Priscilla’s house...
a healthy house church, small and intimate, which was the standard in the early church unlike today in the modern Church
- all the brethren in Ephesus
- his personal greeting

Therefore, greet each other!

Culturally then: a holy kiss

Culturally now: hand shake or “side hug”

v22 Paul “signs off” secondly, with a dire warning lovingly shared

The Gospel is true!

Jesus spoke the Truth

John 5:24

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

And the flip side is equally true!

1 John 5:10-12 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

If any person

- does not have personal affection for
 - is not personally devoted to
- the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be
- anathema...accursed
 - maranatha...in the approaching Divine judgment

As has always been the case, God has invited all persons to choose Life in His Son

Deut 30:19-20 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days (eternity).

v23-24 Finally, Paul “signs off” with great tenderness for this very tough crowd of saints in Corinth

1. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ accompany you everywhere
2. My love (*agape*) goes with you everywhere you and I go

Application/Exhortation

Be a part of what God is doing

The world is in absolute upheaval

China and Russia want to lead the new world order...godless nations both!

The heart of man is on full display before the whole world:

- Unspeakable evil by Russia in Ukraine
Note: per 2 Thes 2, evil is still being restrained!
- Shameful cowardice and fear and inaction by the other nations

Russia’s economy lives or dies on oil and gas...

Russia’s ruling class prospers or languishes based on oil and gas

Russia has Europe in a choke hold because of oil and gas

But an escape for Europe may come from...Israel

Is Russia threatened by the huge reserves of oil and gas owned by Israel?

What is keeping Russia from invading Israel?

What event could change that?

What is happening with Israel (our prophetic timepiece) just this past week?

- Going on right now is another exodus of Russian (from the “north country”) Jews to Israel...more in the last 2 weeks than in all of 2021
- The President of Israel was welcomed this week in...Turkey (Muslim)!
 - The flags of Turkey and Israel were paraded side-by-side in Ankara
 - Erdogan: “Israel ties are vital for regional stability.”
Q: wolf in sheep’s clothing?
- Israeli Foreign Minister met with King of Jordan (Muslim) in Amman
- The Prime Minister of Israel attempted to mediate the end of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine (not successful, but what other world leader so attempted?)
- Now, Russia and Ukraine open to negotiations being held in...Jerusalem
- Deut 26:19 (to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the LORD thy God) moving before the Lord pours out His Spirit upon Israel...
after the Rapture of the Bride of Christ?

The OTL God of Israel, the God we love and serve, is moving!!!
Be a part of what He is doing in these momentous last days!

v9

v13-14

We are exhorted to be a part of what God is doing in these momentous last days

1. in our giving...a matter of the heart
2. in our daily plans...He directs and leads, we follow
3. by walking thru open doors...Jesus opened it for you
4. now vs when it is convenient for us...His time not ours
5. in us and thru us...each of us and all around each of us
6. with a Godly addiction...be an addict to serve the Lord
7. in our church...see a need and cheerfully meet it if you are able

Because

- we know we are of God and the whole world lies in wickedness (1 John 5:19)
- the time is short (Ch 7:29)
- the fashion/condition of this world is passing away (Ch 7:31)
- it is time to attend upon the Lord without distraction (Ch 7:35)