

The Practical Matters – Part 4: Travel Plans

1 Corinthians 16:5-12; Coast Community Church; Earl Miles; 4-28-2024

Travel Plans

Any travel plans this summer? How do you think about those plans? How do you talk about those plans? How might what you think and how you talk about your travel plans reveal what you believe about God and your relationship to Him? Today, we will look at 1 Corinthians 16:5-12 which is a passage about travel plans. Listening closely to what people say about ‘everyday events’ in their letters, texts, emails, etc., can be a window into one’s theology.

The Practical Matters

At the end of 1 Corinthians, Paul deals with various practical matters as he brings his letter to a close. He deals with practical matters because *the practical matters*. – Galatians 5:6

Throw Away Passages?

Conclusions of letters and books (even genealogies) can be seen as throw away passages, insignificant details, housekeeping matters or skim reading material. But they should be seen as hidden treasure, diamonds in the rough, windows into a theology of life and guardrails against wrong assumptions. – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Paul’s Travel Plans and Walking with God

One of the pictures of our relationship with God in the Bible is that of ‘walking with God’. – Genesis 5:22, 24; 6:9; Micah 6:8

1. The ‘I Will Come to You After ...’ of Walking with God: *But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia; (5)*

The best of Christians make plans that may or may not work out as expected. – Proverbs 16:9; 19:21

2. The ‘Perhaps’ of Walking with God: *and perhaps I will stay with you, (6a)*

The Christian life is filled with ‘the perhaps of life’ regardless of how godly we may be. – 1 Samuel 14:6; 2 Samuel 16:11-12; 2 Kings 19:3-4; Jonah 1:6; Romans 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Corinthians 1:15-17; Genesis 18:20-33

3. The ‘Spend the Winter’ of Walking with God: *or even spend the winter, (6b)*

Using common sense is part of the Christian life. – 1 Timothy 5:23

4. The ‘So That You May Send Me’ of Walking with God: *so that you may send me on my way (6c)*

Depending on others is part of the Christian life. – Galatians 6:1-4

5. The ‘Wherever I May Go’ of Walking with God: *wherever I may go (6d)*

Uncertainty is part of the Christian life. – 2 Samuel 12:21-23; Psalm 131:1-3; Matthew 18:1-4

6. The ‘I hope’ of Walking with God: *For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time (7a-b)*

The Christian life is filled with good hopes and desires that may or may not work out. – Matthew 20:21; Romans 15:24; 2 Corinthians 1:13; 2 Samuel 10:12; Philippians 4:12-13, 19

7. The ‘If the Lord Permits’ of Walking with God: *if the Lord permits (7c)*

The plans and hopes of the godly are subject to the wise and loving, sovereign providence of God. – Matthew 19:8; Luke 8:32; 9:59; John 19:38; Acts 21:39; 27:3; 1 Timothy 2:12; James 4:13-16; Hebrews 6:1-3

8. The ‘I will remain’ of Walking with God: *But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost (8)*

Christians discern what to do in light of Scripture and circumstances. – Acts 16:9

9. The ‘Wide Door’ of Walking with God: *for a wide door for effective service has opened to me (9a)*

What we should do in life will depend on open doors or opportunities. – Galatians 6:10; Colossians 4:3

10. The ‘Many Adversaries’ of Walking with God: *and there are many adversaries (9b)*

God’s will for our lives often includes hard things and opposition. – John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12

Theology of Open Doors

We need a theology of ‘open doors’ or opportunities:

- Opportunities are just that, opportunities! – Galatians 6:10; Colossians 4:3, 5
- Opportunities are not obligations. – 2 Corinthians 2:12-13; Matthew 26:16; Ephesians 4:27; Galatians 5:13; Luke 21:13; 1 Corinthians 3:5; Galatians 6:10
- Opportunities and opposition go together. – 1 Corinthians 16:9; Joshua 1:6; 11:18
- Opportunities are to be looked for, prayed for and evaluated. – Galatians 6:10; Colossians 4:3, 5; 1 Corinthians 7:38-39

Are you looking for and praying for and evaluating opportunities/open doors to love/do good?