
2 Corinthians 13:11-14

After sharply reproofing the church at Corinth, Paul now closed his letter like a caring and loving spiritual father, gently admonishing them to NOT ONLY walk with Christ, but to CONTINUE to walk with Christ... reiterating certain truths and imperative commands that he had previously taught them. One of the primary marks of being born-again by the Spirit of God is... YOU WILL CONTINUE in the Word, and in your walk with Christ! Paul feared there were MANY at Corinth who were in danger of falling away!

In his parting words, he encouraged them to continue in their Christian lives. This was one of the first NOTABLE things that Luke saw in the lives of the 3,000 that were saved at Pentecost. Acts 2:41-42.

Romans 2:6-11, Acts 14:19-22, James 1:22-25, John 8:31

"Finally, brethren, farewell". When I first read this, I initially thought, there's not much here, Paul is just saying good-bye.

But there is MUCH here to consider in Paul's "farewell" to the church. The word "farewell" is a compound word, it is a combination of (2) words, FARE and WELL. The meaning is, go on prosperously, be glad, be of good cheer, rejoice and be happy in the Lord as you go forth.

In other scriptures, the Greek word is "actually translated" to the English word, JOY, REJOICE, or BE GLAD!

So, Paul was not just saying "see you later" or "good-bye", BUT, FARE-WELL brethren, my dearly beloved in the Lord! Be prosperous, be glad in the Lord, all my best prayers and wishes to you in your walk with Christ!

What a wonderful exhortation when we separate from each other's company and go on our way! FARE-WELL!

Next, Paul encouraged the church with (3) "BE'S". "BE perfect, BE of good comfort, BE of one mind".

First: "BE PERFECT". Paul was not setting before them something that was unattainable, he wasn't commanding them to be "sinlessly perfect", that's not possible on this side of eternity... but by God's grace in us, we should sincerely desire to live without sin in our Christian lives. 1 John 2:2

Do you remember the woman who was caught in adultery, whom Jesus revealed Himself to? What did He tell her after He told her, I do not condemn you. "Go, and sin NO MORE". And... the crippled man, who was at the pool of Bethesda, after Jesus healed him, when he found the Lord Jesus in the temple, He told him: "Behold thou art made whole, SIN NO MORE, lest a worse thing come upon thee".

So, Paul was encouraging the church to SIN NO MORE! Be what you should be in Christ, MEND, REPAIR, REPENT of the sins have

ruined and damaged your lives... so that you may be whole, useful, and befitted for the "Master's" use... complete as a Christian. Matthew 5:48

"BE YE therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect". LOVE your enemies, DO GOOD to those that hate you, PRAY for those who despise and despitefully use you. TREAT THEM like your heavenly Father treats them!

As a church, stop all the envy, strife, contention, and fighting. Be who you should be in Christ. Be perfect, love each other, do good and pray for each other! Genesis 17:1, Psalm 37:37, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"BE OF GOOD COMFORT"

In all your difficulties, trials, and afflictions, remember what I wrote to you in the beginning of this letter; your Heavenly Father is always PRESENT to comfort you.

Therefore, take comfort in Him!

BUT know that your Heavenly Father's comfort comes through your faith in Him. I remind you what we read (Wednesday) in Hebrews 11:6: If we would be comforted by "Our Father", we MUST believe that "HE IS" and that He will comfort us!

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Have you ever been in that place in your heart, when you said: "My soul refused to be comforted" even by God! BTW: Psalm 77:2

Brethren don't refuse your Heavenly Father's comfort, which He has promised to you. John 14:15-18, 15:26-27, 16:6-7

Be ye comforted in your God and Heavenly Father!

"BE OF ONE MIND"

One of the problems in the church at Corinth was there was envy, strife, contention, divisions, and factions between brethren. Paul's command here was that they would BE OF ONE MIND!

1 Corinthians 1:10-11, Acts 2:44-46, 4:32, Romans 12:16, 15:5-6, Philippians 1:27, 1 Peter 3:8-9

And how will this come to pass in our fellowship? Philippians 2:5.

If you are indwelled by the Spirit of God, you ARE all OF the same Spirit. If that be the case, how can we NOT be likeminded?

"Live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

This OUGHT ALWAYS be one of your primary pursuits...

.....Hebrews 12:14

But you know, the world is filled with those who love to disagree and argue. Instead of seeking peace, they seek to quarrel, they aren't satisfied unless they are contending and fighting with you about something!

Genesis 13:7-9, Psalm 34:13-14, Proverbs 16:7, Romans 12:18

In a world filled with so many peace-breakers, what a blessing to be among them as a "peacemaker"!

The holy kiss! The greeting from the saints!

To this day, whenever I see Brother Joe Maldonado, he greets me with a kiss, right here on the side of my face. This is still a custom in many middle eastern countries.

The saints of Macedonia sent their greetings to the Corinthians!

2 Corinthians 13:14: The trinity!