

- Introduction:**
1. The situation in Corinth... a number of issues raised that must be addressed...
 2. Paul shares his personal travel plans vs. 5-9 and makes reference to a number of people vs. 10, 12, 17
 3. He gives practical exhortations pointing us to four great principles of the Christian life... vs. 13
 4. Especially relevant for us in light of the significance of baptism... *Romans 6:4*

I. Vigilance... “Watch...”

A. Be on your spiritual toes... *I Peter 5:8 cf. Mark 13:32-37*

B. There is such emphasis because of...

1. The adversary of our soul... *I Peter 5:8*
2. The deceitfulness of our heart... *Jeremiah 17:9*
 - a. The heart is changed in regeneration... *Ezekiel 36:26*
 - b. Nonetheless the root of sin remains in us...

Observation: The heart will seek to deceive us in regards to spiritual exercises... “watch over your heart...” *Proverbs 4:23*

II. Faithfulness... “...Stand fast in the faith...”

A. An issue raised by Paul earlier... *I Corinthians 1:18-21, 26-27; 2:1-5, 12-13; 3:18-20*

B. There is always the danger of being drawn back to old thinking and ways...

- Observation:**
1. The exhortation of faithfulness is always relevant...
 2. There is a great deal at stake...
 - ** The honor of the Son...
 - ** Our eternal well being... see *Luke 9:62 with Matthew 10:22 and I Corinthians 15:1-2*

III. Courage... “...act like men...”

A. Be a person of courage...

B. Faithfulness demands courage...

1. To stand for the reality of God in a world that denies Him...
2. To stand for the authority of God...
3. To stand for the revelation of God...

Application:

IV. Strength... “...be strong.”

A. Courage in not enough...

B. God is our strength... *Psalm 46:1; 91:1-2*

C. We must know God more and more...

1. By prayer... *Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 119:28*
2. In the Holy Spirit... *Zechariah 4 6; Ephesians 6:10*

- Application:**
1. Consider the importance of balance in the Christian life... *I Corinthians 16:14*
 2. Paul directs us to love... see *I Corinthians 13*