

- ♦ Maranatha means 'Come, O Lord' or 'Come quickly Lord. Why would Paul want Jesus to come back quickly and soon?
- ♦ Why would this call for the return of Jesus be a warning to the church at Corinth?
- ♦ Vss. 23-24 After writing such a tough letter dealing with the ten problems how does he try to finish the letter so as to unite the church there to follow his instructions?

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THE CONCLUSION OF THE LETTER TO THE CHURCH AT CORINTH

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FINAL INSTRUCTION AND GREETINGS

1 Corinthians 16.1-24 ^{NASB}

Collection for the Church in Jerusalem

- ♦ Read Acts 11.27-30 What are the believers in Antioch made aware was going to happen to the church in Judea?
- ♦ How did they respond?
- ♦ Read Romans 15.26-27 What fact do we learn about the church in Jerusalem?
- ♦ What do the believers do here to help the believers in Jerusalem.

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[1 Cor. 16:1] Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also. [2] On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come. [3] When I arrive, whomever you may approve, I will send them with letters to carry your gift to Jerusalem; [4] and if it is fitting for me to go also, they will go with me.

- ♦ What need was being taken care of by various churches?
- ♦ What was Paul asking them to do as their part to help?
- ♦ How much was he asking each believer to give?
- ♦ When was the offering to be taken up? Why?
- ♦ When was the offering going to be taken to Jerusalem?

A Planned Visit to Corinth

[1 Cor. 16.5] But I will come to you after I go through Macedonia, for I am going through Macedonia; [6] and perhaps I will stay with you, or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way wherever I may go. [7] For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits. [8] But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost;

- ♦ How could Paul mentioning Apollos, Aquila and Priscilla help cement the power of the message he was trying to get across to the church at Corinth?

Paul's Final Personal Greeting

- ♦ Read 2 Corinthians 12.7 What type of problem does Paul say he has?
- ♦ Read Galatians 6.11 Knowing that Paul had a physical problem, why might Paul have to write in such large letters.

[1 Cor. 16.21] The greeting is in my own hand—Paul. [22] If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha. [23] The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. [24] My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

- ♦ Vs. 21 What is one way they would have know Paul was writing this part himself and not using his personal scribe to write for him?
- ♦ Vs. 22 How does Paul feel about anyone who does not love Jesus?

- ◆ Vs. 16 How does Paul want people like Stephanas treated?
- ◆ Vs. 17 What did these men do for Paul that the church at Corinth did not do? (Hint: Remember the sixth problem in the church at Corinth)
- ◆ Vs. 18 How could they acknowledge and help men like these who were in the ministry?

Greetings from Old Friends

[1 Cor. 16.19] The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca (Priscilla) greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. [20] All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

- ◆ Churches in Asia would include those in present day Turkey. Colosse, Laodicea and Hierapolis along with the other churches mentioned in Revelation 2-3.
- ◆ Aquila and Priscilla are mentioned six times in the New Testament. (Acts 18:2,18,26; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19) They ministered along side of Paul in Corinth for 18 months as he founded the church there. They went with Paul to Ephesus where they remained when Paul continued his journey. Why would a greeting from Aquila and Priscilla be important to the church at Corinth?

[9] for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

- ◆ Vss. 5-6 What were Paul's plans concerning a possible visit to the church at Corinth?
- ◆ Vs. 7 Why was he not going to stop and visit them right away?
- ◆ Vss.8-9 What were his immediate plans?
- ◆ Acts 20.3 refers to a visit Paul makes to Greece or the region that include Corinth. It is possible he spent a winter with them before being forced to flee because of the Jews.

How to Treat Timothy

[1 Cor. 16.10] Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am. [11] So let no one despise him. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brethren.

- ◆ Paul knew that the young Pastor Timothy was going to pass through Corinth on the way to visit him. What are Paul's concerns about how the church might treat Timothy?

- ◆ Why do you think Paul was concerned about Timothy getting the respect and care he deserved? (HINT: remember the first problem in the church.)

About the Visit of Apollos

- ◆ Read Acts 18.24-28 What do we learn about Apollos?
- ◆ Read Acts 19.1 Where did Paul and Apollos meet?
- ◆ Read 1 Corinthians 1.12-13 How did some of the church members at Corinth view Apollos?
- ◆ Read Titus 3.13 This is the last mention of Apollos. From this what can we say about his ministry after leaving Corinth behind?

[1 Cor. 16.12] But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity.

- ◆ What do we learn about Apollos and his relationship with the church at Corinth?

- ◆ Why do you think he might not want to visit them?

Final Personal Instructions

[1 Cor. 16.13] Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. [14] Let all that you do be done in love.

- ◆ How are Paul's final instructions a challenge to the status quo of the Church at Corinth.
- ◆ If they followed his instructions do you think the church at Corinth would be different in the future? How?

Directions for Helping other

- ◆ Read 1 Corinthians 1.16 What special relationship did Paul have with the household of Stephanas?

[1 Cor.16.15] Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), [16] that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors. [17] I rejoice over the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have supplied what was lacking on your part. [18] For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.