

Stewardship pt 2**1Corinthians 16:10-24**

Funds, Fate & Friends....Paul often uses Roman military as metaphor to illus spiritual life—Roman soldier: helmet, belt, breastplate, shield, sandals, sword. *Unity* of body 13,14 to Roman **Phalanx** undefeated-fell apart from w/in. Church more than conquerors defeat is from w/in.

Paul was a man who loved people & made lifelong friends. These friends found their way into Christian service. **DL Moody** did this-his fruit Ira Sankey, G Campbell Morgan, Henry Drummond, F.B. Meyer are among those he inspired.

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 *Let no one therefore despise him. But send him on his way in peace, so that he may come to me; for I expect him with the brethren.*

Timothy was young & somewhat timid—hard to follow in Apostle Paul foot steps '*Let no one despise/look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.* 1Tim 4:12

Raised in Godly home--convert of Paul '*my own son in the faith.*'--close companion *Phil 2:20 I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare.*--Paul's missionary partner w/ Silas after split w/ Barnabas—stayed at Ephesus after Paul left—*afraid*-lacking natural confidence (*proud read him & look down*), physical problems (stomach). *Despised*-set aside as nothing, least esteemed (*David*), contemptible--w/ no respect

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.*

Apollos – dynamic speaker, more fully taught by P/A, ministered at Corinth & had following--Paul not jealous or competing but asked Apollos back to Corinth for further ministry.

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Apollos--his own man didn't feel timing was right so declined & Paul not wield authority but freedom for others to hear from Lord. Paul a tender-hearted leader, full of grace. *Good leader needs to have the heart of a woman.*

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.

Five exhortations: 1-alert/watchful-enemy out there-our adversary 2-firm in faith-immature believers easily led astray 3:1 *'I could not speak to you as spiritual men but to men of flesh as to babes in Christ* no wonder 3-act the man/mature not like immature children-act it out, be it-living in time where mature leadership lacking so you 4-be strong as a leader, not a dictator but tempered w/ 5-love ch 13

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/addicted 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 And 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.

Stephanas & house – first converts at Corinth-Achaia a So. province of Greece, Paul baptized 1:16, Leaders in church, *'devoted'* Lit.

appointed themselves--not pushy but saw the need & met it w/o waiting to be asked. *Labor-Toil to point of exhaustion* for the Lord.

Here a whole family involved in ministry--work of the Lord Cindy

17,18 These three w/ Paul in Ephesus refreshed him. Often we deal w/ the bad & the burdens in saints lives--it's nice to be recharged by the good happening in those we minister to. *10 lepers only one returned* Corinthian church is to respect & honor & *hupostasso*-under & to order--- place yourselves under spiritual authority.

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19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

Aquila & Priscilla – Hus/wife team co-laboring w/ Paul in ministry--met at Corinth--tent makers, banished from Rome (**Claudius**) to Corinth--began assisting Paul (*fate/providence*), names occur 6 times, four Priscilla first, she took spiritual lead.

Paul in Ephesus--they moved business & went w/ him, Paul left them in charge as he went Antioch, they helped Apollos in scriptures, church met in their house, risked lives for Paul (*riot in Ephesus?*), to Rome--church in home, back Ephesus to assist Timothy.

Husband/wife teams in the church are God's blessing to the ministry.

20 All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

21 The greeting is in my own hand-- Paul.

22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed. Maranatha.

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

24 My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Kiss women w/ women—men w/ men pure & holy sign of love of Christ in the heart. **Paul** signs w/ his own hand after dictating to scribe, Tertius Rom 16:22

People are the greatest asset to a church, w/o them funds & fate are of little value. Jesus spent 3 1/2 years pouring His life into His disciples--***foxes have hole, birds of the air have nests but the son on man has no place to lay his head.*** Answer to eager follower He didn't promise fame or fortune but he did promise fruitful ministry & prepared them for it.

May God give us favor in the Islands & around the world as He makes us good stewards of our **funds**-financial resources—**fate**-providence--opportunities that present themselves & **friends** who co-labor in ministry w/ us--seeing God's kingdom come & His will be done. Paul divides believers and those who aren't-----

Accured-devoted to destruction or **Maranatha**-the Lord cometh