

1 Corinthians chapter 16

No copyright materials are used in this text

The summary and interpretation of the specific chapter and verses are from the Bible, they are religious text that is in the public domain.

Free to Copy and Distribute: Spread the Word!

"All messages are fact-checked and rectified by AI."

(Peter Lok)駱沅祺

lokpeter@outlook.com

Bibleao.com

"If anyone does not love the Lord, he can curse and curse. The Lord will come!" Is it too extreme?

This sentence may seem harsh and even "too extreme," but if you look at the overall theology of the Bible and Paul's situation at that time, it actually has its background and deep meaning. The Corinthian church faced many problems, including partisanship, moral corruption, false teachers mixed in, and denial of the resurrected truth. Paul wrote to right errors and to keep the truth. In chapter 16, he enters the conclusion, which is not a random curse, but a final warning and judgment to those who reject the Lord Jesus

Being cursed and isolated from God means having no share with God's kingdom. "The Lord will come soon" has the dual meaning of judgment and hope.

It is a reverent and serious declaration that not loving the Lord and not accepting the gospel is to cut oneself off from God's grace.

Is it extreme? Or is it out of truth and love? This sentence may indeed seem intense from the perspective of modern people's "tolerance" and "freedom". But in the perspective of eternal truth, it's a call of love: like a doctor telling a patient, "If you don't treat it, you will die." This is not a curse, it is a reminder and a warning. Paul's words are for people to recognize that love for Jesus is not an option, but the foundation of life.

Isn't God love? Why is there still a curse? God is love, but He is also holy and righteous. Rejecting the source of love is the Lord Jesus, which is equivalent to choosing to separate from God, which is itself the result of a "curse." This is not Paul's emotional curse, but a profound spiritual warning that those who do not love Jesus will not be able to stand when the Lord returns. The Bible describes 1 Corinthians chapter 16

In 1 Corinthians 16, Paul commanded the Corinthian church to collect donations for the poor believers in Jerusalem. He suggested that every Sunday dedication, accumulate a small amount, and send it to Jerusalem by reliable personnel. Paul said he planned to go to Corinth after passing through Macedonia, perhaps for a while. He stayed in Ephesus for the time being, because the door was open for him and there were many opportunities to preach.

Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be kind to Timothy because he was also a faithful servant of the Lord. Apollos will not go to Corinth for the time being, but it may go in the future. Paul reminds believers to be vigilant, strong, strong, and to act in love in all things. He also mentioned the Aquila couple and their church, as well as the churches, greeting the Corinthians. Serious Warning and Conclusion (vv.21–24)

Paul greeted him with his own handwriting and said, "Cursed is anyone who does not love the Lord. The Lord Will Come" concludes with grace and love. Key reminders: The teaching of Sunday dedication, the interaction between Paul's mission plan and the church, reminds believers to live a strong and loving faith, and finally encourage each other with the grace and love of the Lord.

We pray

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You for giving Jesus Christ as the foundation of our faith. Lord, in this turbulent world, strengthen our hearts so that we can stand firm and not be shaken by circumstances or tempted to take away our loyalty to You. Lord, as You said through Paul, "Be vigilant, stand firm in the faith, be strong men, and be strong. Whatever you do, do it in love." We beg You to teach us to be steadfast in our faith; help us be brave and strong in the face of challenges; More importantly, let us live out love in everything, whether we are with our family, friends, brothers and sisters, or even with our enemies. May our faith be not just words, but deeds; May our strength not be self-righteous, but rely on the power of the Holy Spirit; May our love not be a fleeting emotion, but come from Your cross.

In the victorious name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Amen.

1 Corinthians 16

Amplified Bible

Instructions and Greetings

16 Now concerning the money collected for [the relief of] the saints [in Jerusalem], you are to do the same as I directed the churches of Galatia *to do*. ² On the first day of every week each one of you is to put something aside, in proportion to his prosperity, and save it so that no collections

[will need to] be made when I come. ³ When I arrive, I will send whomever you approve with letters [of authorization] to take your gift [of charity and love] to Jerusalem; ⁴ and if it is fitting for me to go too, they will accompany me.

⁵ I will visit you after I go through Macedonia, for I am only passing through Macedonia; ⁶ but it may be that I will stay with you [for a while], or even spend the winter, so that you may send me on my way to wherever I may go *afterward*. ⁷ For I do not wish to see you right now *just* in passing, but I hope to remain with you for some time [later on], if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will stay in Ephesus until ^[a]Pentecost, ⁹ because a wide door for effective service has opened to me [in Ephesus, a very promising opportunity], and there are many adversaries.

¹⁰ If Timothy comes, see to it that [you put him at ease, so that] he has nothing to fear in regard to you, for he is [devotedly] doing the Lord's work, just as I am. ¹¹ So allow no one to treat him with disdain [as if he were inconsequential]. But send him off [cordially, and speed him on his way] in peace, so that he may come to me, for I am expecting him [to come along] with the *other* brothers.

¹² As for our brother Apollos, I have strongly encouraged him to visit you with the other brothers. It was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has the opportunity.

¹³ Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound]. Act like [mature] men *and* be courageous; be strong. ¹⁴ Let everything you do be done in love [motivated and inspired by God's love for us].

¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, you know that *those of* the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to ^[b]God's people—now I urge you ¹⁶ to be subject to such leaders [treating them with courtesy and respect], and to everyone who helps in the work and labors [for the benefit of yourselves and the church]. ¹⁷ I rejoice because Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus have arrived, for they have made up for your absence. ¹⁸ They have refreshed my spirit as well as yours. So fully acknowledge such men *and* deeply appreciate them.

¹⁹ The churches of Asia send you their greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church [that meets] in their house, send you their warm greetings in the Lord. ²⁰ All the believers greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ This greeting is in my own hand—Paul. ²² If anyone does not love the Lord [does not obey and respect and believe in Jesus Christ and His message], he is to be accursed. Maranatha (O our Lord, come)! ²³ The grace of our Lord Jesus [His unmerited favor, His spiritual blessing, His profound mercy] be with you. ²⁴ My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Detailed Explanation of 1 Corinthians 16


1 Corinthians 16 is the final chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. It shifts from theological discussions in earlier chapters to **practical instructions, personal updates**, and a **final blessing**. Though less doctrinal, it still reflects deep theological insights about **Christian generosity, leadership, unity, and love**.

Outline & Summary

1. Instructions about the Collection for the Saints (vv. 1–4)

Paul gives detailed directions for a financial offering intended for the poor believers in **Jerusalem**:


- The Corinthians are to set aside money on the **first day of the week** (Sunday).
- This is to be done **systematically and proportionately** ("as he may prosper").
- Paul will send trustworthy people to deliver the gift, possibly going with them if needed.

 **Implication:** The early church was united in concern for others. Giving is an act of worship and solidarity in the Body of Christ.

2. Paul's Travel Plans (vv. 5–9)

Paul shares his **tentative travel plans**:


- He plans to visit Macedonia, then Corinth.
- He wants to **spend time** with them, possibly staying through winter.
- For now, he will stay in **Ephesus** because of effective ministry and **opposition**.

 **Implication:** Paul models flexibility in ministry under God's guidance. He sees **open doors and adversity** as normal in Christian mission.

3. Commendation of Timothy and Apollos (vv. 10–12)

Paul urges the church to:

- Receive **Timothy** kindly and not despise him, since he does the Lord's work.
- Understand that **Apollos** has chosen not to visit them yet, despite Paul's encouragement.


 **Implication:** Unity in ministry doesn't mean uniformity. Paul respects others' spiritual discernment. Leaders must be received with **respect and love**.

4. Final Exhortations (vv. 13–14)

A rapid-fire series of commands:

- **“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”**


- “Let all that you do be done in love.”

 **Implication:** Faithfulness in the Christian life requires **alertness, courage**, and most importantly, **love**—the overarching Christian virtue (cf. 1 Cor. 13).

5. Acknowledgment of Church Leaders (vv. 15–18)

Paul commends the household of **Stephanas**, the first converts in Achaia, and urges submission to such devoted workers.

- He also praises **Fortunatus** and **Achaicus**, who refreshed his spirit.

 **Implication:** Servant leadership and mutual encouragement are vital. The church is called to **recognize and submit** to faithful ministry.

6. Final Greetings and Benediction (vv. 19–24)

- Greetings from churches in **Asia**, especially **Aquila and Priscilla**.
- A holy kiss is encouraged as a symbol of unity.
- Paul writes a final **warning**:
“If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed (anathema). Maranatha!” (v. 22) –
“Our Lord, come!”
- A final blessing and expression of love from Paul.

 **Implication:**

- Deep **Christian affection and unity** among early believers.
 - Seriousness about love for Christ—without which a person is **under judgment**.
 - A longing for Christ’s return is a normal part of Christian life.
-

Theological Inferences

1. Generosity as Worship

The instruction to give financially (vv.1–4) shows giving is a **spiritual discipline**, not just charity. It reflects unity in the global church and dependence on God’s provision.

2. Mission Is Both Strategic and Spirit-Led

Paul’s travel plans (vv.5–9) demonstrate flexibility and **strategic thinking**, but he remains sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading and the needs of the churches.

3. Love Is Essential

Verse 14 (“Let all you do be done in love”) ties back to Chapter 13 and emphasizes that love is the **defining mark of Christian life and community**.

4. Respect for Spiritual Authority

Paul expects the Corinthians to respect leaders like Timothy and Stephanas. Christian maturity includes **humble submission to godly leadership**.

5. Judgment for Rejecting Christ

Verse 22 is one of the **strongest warnings** in the New Testament: not loving Jesus places someone under divine curse. Yet, it also reflects Paul’s hope and **eager longing for Christ’s return (Maranatha)**.

6. Unity in the Body of Christ

The greetings from other churches show early Christians viewed themselves as part of a **global, interconnected Body of Christ**.

Key Verses

- **1 Corinthians 16:13–14** – *“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”*
- **1 Corinthians 16:22** – *“If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!”*