

July 16, 2017

## **LET THE CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH**

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Everything God has said has value in every way. So as we read these final words we will ask the Pauline questions ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)):

1. What \_\_\_\_\_ is being presented here?
2. Is there a \_\_\_\_\_ for me?
3. Is there a correction that helps me \_\_\_\_\_ in godly behavior?
4. Is there some \_\_\_\_\_ in right living?

First we read the passage ....

#### **II. TEXT 1 Corinthians 16:19–24 (ESV)**

*As I studied this passage and compared it to some other closing remarks of Paul I noticed some similarities and some differences.*

#### **III. EXPLANATION**

##### **Some Distinctives**

- A. This is the only place in his letters where he sends greetings from all the churches in a province. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- B. "The closing is unusually sharp-edged in pronouncing a curse (ἀνάθεμα, *anathema*) ... upon those who do not love the Lord ..." On its heels, Paul exclaims the Aramaic *Maranatha* formula: "The Lord come quickly."  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- C. "Only in this benediction does Paul assert his own love for a community ... ." \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

There are also 3 similarities to his other conclusions.

### Some Similarities

- A. W. Klassen in his work, "The Sacred Kiss in the New Testament: An Example of Social Boundary Lines": The "sacred kiss" was a physical sign of respect etc. but within the Church its "use among fellow believers *underlined and nurtured the mutuality, reciprocity, and oneness of status and identity which all Christians share across divisions of race, class, and gender.*"  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- B. Paul's ministry in letters often had the ring of correction in them so it would be wise to authenticate the reality that he, himself, is communicating. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- C. Paul is well known for his closing remarks pointing to grace. I interpret God's grace this way: *God's undeserved resources to create, sustain and empower the Christian life.* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## IV. APPLICATION

So from these closing words, let me leave you with 5 points of application. If we were reading this closing greeting and asking the questions from 2 Timothy 3:16, perhaps this what the Holy Spirit would impress on us.

1. At this point do we consider the Body of Christ, globally and internationally? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do we greet one another in a way that expresses the truth we are one in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. When we are called to criticize, rebuke or correct do we confront personally and do we confront lovingly? Are we careful to say, “I love you” along with “you are wrong”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. When others look at Elk Point Baptist Church, do they say, “My, those people really love the Lord?” If not, what needs to change?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Does our life and conduct represent the truth of Chris Tomlin’s song: “Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me.”

\_\_\_\_\_

## V. THE CLOSE

*“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:3–9, ESV)*

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