

Paul's Charge to the Corinthians

1 Cor. 16:13

Introduction:

- A. Paul's language is like of a military leader addressing his troops.
 - 1. Often used military terms (2 Cor. 10:4; 1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:3; Eph. 6:11,13)
 - 2. Paraphrased: "Be on guard, be firm as brave men, be strong."
- B. The war against the forces of evil still rages — need words of text more than ever.
 - 1. All the ancient enemies: Fleshly lusts (1 Pet. 2:11); Immorality, Judaism, Lukewarmness, etc.
 - 2. Many modern enemies: Humanism, denominationalism, ecumenicalism, etc.
- C. Paul's charge consists of four parts:

Discussion:

I. Vigilance.

- A. "Watch": The opposite of Carelessness, indifference and laziness.
 - 1. Soldiers must not be slothful or sluggish (Heb. 6:11, 12).
 - 2. Soldiers must not sleep on the job. (1 Thess. 5:4-8)
 - 3. Soldiers must know the enemy. (Cf. Gal. 2:4)
- B. Such vigilance is in our interest when we consider:
 - 1. The subtlety of the enemy. (2 Cor. 11:13-15).
 - 2. The perilousness of our position.
 - a. Passing through enemy country — "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4).
 - b. Where Satan is always on the prowl (1 Pet. 5:8).
 - 3. The deceitfulness of our own hearts (Jer. 17:9)
 - a. Strongest overcome, wisest deceived, holiest ensnared and boldest intimidated.
 - b. Look at Samson, David, Solomon, and Peter.

II. Steadfastness.

- A. "Stand fast in the faith": Do not abandon post of trust and honor.
- B. Stand fast:
 - 1. On the foundation of the faith, Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20).
 - 2. On the standard of faith, the Scriptures (Rom. 10:17; 2 Tim. 3:16,17).
 - 3. In the exercise of faith (Jas. 2:17, 24, 26; Rom. 1:5; 16:26).

III. Manliness.

- A. "Quit you like men" (KJV) = "Be a man.", strong, brave and mature.
- B. Prudent as men (1 Cor. 14:20).
- C. Stable as men (Eph. 4:14)
- D. Courageous as men — not timid and fearful.

IV. Strength.

- A. "Be strong": Not in selves but in the Lord. (Eph. 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:1; Phil 4:13)
- B. Let us become:
 - 1. Increasingly strong (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet 3:18).
 - 2. Practically strong — bring all strength to bear on duties and difficulties.
 - 3. Perseveringly strong. (1 Cor. 15:58)

Conclusion: Let us do these thing because:

- A. Our cause is good - "good fight of faith." (1 Tim. 6:12).
- B. Our Captain is great - "Captain of their salvation" (Heb. 2:10)
- C. Our armament is powerful (2 Cor. 10:4)
- D. Our victory is certain — "more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37).
- E. Our reward is glorious — "Eternal life" (1 Tim. 6:12); Crown (2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:10).

