

Week of November 9, 2025 - Our Lord, Come! Small Group Lesson 40

Connect

When you think of "the Christian life," what's the first word or phrase that comes to your mind?

Verses - 1 Corinthians 16:13-24 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

13 Be alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. 14 Do everything in love.

15 Now, brothers and sisters, you know about the household of Stephanas: They are the firstfruits of Achaia and have devoted themselves to serving the saints. I urge you 16 also to submit to such people, and to everyone who works and labors with them. 17 I am glad about the arrival of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence. 18 For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore recognize such people. 19 The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla send you greetings warmly in the Lord, along with the church that meets in their home. 20 All the brothers and sisters send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. 21 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. 22 If anyone does not love the Lord, a curse be on him. Our Lord, come! 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 24 My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. Paul issues four key commands in v.13: "Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong." What do each of these specific commands together mean? Why would Paul sum up his final instructions like this?

2. Immediately after the commands for strength in v.13, Paul gives a final, overarching command in v.14: "Do everything in love." How does love act as the foundation and goal for all the other commands?

3. What specific actions did the household of Stephanas take that earned Paul's recognition (v.15)? What does Paul's instruction to "submit" to such people (v. 16) teach us about honoring service and leadership within the church?

4. Paul concludes his message with "Our Lord, come!" (v. 22). How does keeping this future hope in mind give us the strength and focus to live for Christ today?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi opened by comparing 1 Corinthians to Mt. Fuji—a massive topic that looks different depending on your perspective. Howard Hendricks said, "How big is your God? The size of your God determines the size of everything." How does a "big" view of God (like Paul's) change how we see "the Christian life" and face our daily challenges?

Discuss 2:
According to the "3 Trees Diagram," the path to change is bringing our "idols" to the cross, "standing firm in the faith." What does it practically look like to seek God that results in being set free from our idols? How do we avoid behaviorism while doing so?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.