

Be Encouraged Finally!

Reading: [1 Thessalonians 4:1-8](#)

Text: [2 Corinthians 13:7-14](#)

Introduction:

Final Words are important!

- When someone dies: The final words of one fellow, “You’re standing on my oxygen line”
- When someone moves away

These are Paul’s final words to the Corinthians: [2 Corinthians 13:7-10](#)

1. Be For Honor, Not For Appearance

There was always a struggle

- Paul was not one of the original apostles
- It was difficult for everyone to accept him
- It was difficult because of what he did BEFORE he was an Apostle

It was never a trick!

- Annanias was very leery, even being told by the Lord, [Acts 9](#)

[Acts 9:26](#) And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.

- He had been truly converted to Christ!

Not for his own honor, but theirs

- It wasn’t a matter of trusting their hearts, but GOD!
- They knew Paul’s story and they knew what was right!
- They simply needed to DO IT!
- That was the challenge! Not only to know right, but to do it!

[James 4:17](#) to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

- It’s not simply a matter of avoiding wrong, but DOING RIGHT!

2. Be For The Truth, Not Against The Truth

Is this so obvious?

- You would think it is, but often it is not.
- Who wants to do wrong? Nobody! Yet, Everybody!

[Romans 7:15](#)—Paul’s struggle with right and wrong: “*For what I am doing, I do not understand.*

For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.”

We must learn to love the truth

[2 Thessalonians 2:10](#) (Some) did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

[Romans 12:9](#) Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

3. Be For Edification, Not For Destruction

Not Education, but edification

- Education is a learning process
- Edification is “the act of one who promotes another’s growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness”
- Education is part of that, but Edification is much more than learning.

Be Builders not destroyers

[1 Corinthians 5:5](#)—deliver such a one to Satan for the *destruction of the flesh*, that his *spirit may be saved* in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- Builders in Christ!
- Builders of the Kingdom, the church!
- Builders of Christian principles, values, priorities.

The Difference Between Builders And Destroyers

- Destroyers criticize; builders correct.
- Destroyers blame; builders resolve
- Destroyers complain; builders endure!
- Destroyers are arrogant, impatient, self-ish
- Builders are humble, longsuffering and generous

Conclusion: [v. 11-14](#)

- Finally, brethren, farewell
- Become complete (in Christ)
- Be of good comfort (in Christ)
- Be of one mind (in Christ)
- Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (in Christ)
- Greet one another with a holy kiss. (in Christ)
- All the saints greet you. (in Christ)
- The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.