

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 16:5-12

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-12.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

- 5     I will visit you (main statement)  
        after passing through Macedonia, (temporal)  
        for I intend to pass through Macedonia, (explanatory)
- 6     and perhaps I will stay with you (co-main statement)  
        or even spend the winter, (co-main statement)  
        so that you may help me on my journey, (purpose)  
        wherever I go. (conditional)
- 7     For I do not want to see you now just in passing. (Causal)  
        I hope to spend some time with you, (causal)  
        if the Lord permits. (conditional)
- 8     But I will stay in Ephesus (contrast w/main statement)  
        until Pentecost, (temporal)
- 9     for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, (causal)  
        and there are many adversaries. (causal)
- 10    When Timothy comes, (temporal)  
        see (main statement)  
        that you put him at ease (content)  
        among you, (location)  
        for he is doing the work of the Lord, (causal)  
        as I am. (comparison)
- 11    So let no one despise him. (inference)  
        Help him on his way (inference)  
        in peace, (manner)  
        that he may return to me, (purpose)  
        for I am expecting him with the brothers. (causal)
- 12    Now concerning your brother Apollos, I strongly urged him (main statement)  
        to visit you with the other brothers, (purpose)  
        but it was not at all his will (contrast w/main statement)  
        to come now. (content)  
        He will come (co-main statement)  
        when he has opportunity. (temporal)

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1. Notice the major sections of the passage. Who is vv. 5-9 about? Who is vv. 10-11 about? And who is v. 12 about?
2. What is the main theme all these sections address? Preliminarily consider why Paul would include this in his letter?
3. What does Paul say he is going to do in the first part of v. 5? When will he do this? What explanation does he offer for this course of action?
4. Where is Macedonia? (Yes, you have a reason to look at the maps in the back of your Bible!) What churches were in Macedonia that we know of?
5. What pattern does this course of action described in v. 5 follow that was typical of Paul on his missionary journeys? (For a brief survey of his journeys and this pattern, Acts 13-14 records Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey – look carefully at 14:21-25. Acts 15:36-18:22 records his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey – look carefully at 15:36, 41; 16:1, 5. Acts 18:23-20:38 records his 3<sup>rd</sup> journey – look carefully at 18:23, 20:2, 17-38.)

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6. Based on Paul's established practice in the book of Acts, what did he intend to do in Macedonia? What does Acts 20:1-2 record actually happened?

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-12 again.

7. What are the different words used for his intended visit with those in Macedonia, vs. his intended visit with the Corinthians? How long did he intend to stay in each place?
8. How long did Paul actually end up staying in Corinth according to Acts 20:3? (Note: Corinth was in Greece, another chance to reference those maps!)
9. What does this reveal about Paul's plans and the will of God? What lessons should we learn concerning our plans and God's will?
10. For what purpose does Paul want to stay in Corinth for the winter? Is this what you would expect? Why or why not?

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11. What reasons does Paul offer for why he plans to spend the winter with the Corinthians? Does this surprise you given the nature of the letter as a whole?
12. How does the fact that Paul *wants* to spend time with the Corinthians impact how you think about spending time with brothers and sisters in Christ who are morally and/or doctrinally troubled, like the Corinthians obviously were?
13. What condition does Paul place over his plans? Why is this significant for us and how we think about our plans?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-12 again.

14. Does Paul say he's coming to them immediately? What does he say in v. 8?
15. Where is Paul as he's writing 1 Corinthians according to v. 8 (as well as v. 19)? How does that help us with dating 1 Corinthians? (See Acts 19-20)
16. How long does Paul say he will stay in Ephesus?

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17. Why does he say he plans to stay in Ephesus? How do both of these contribute to why Paul planned to stay in Ephesus? What does Acts 19 record about these things?
18. How do Paul's circumstances in Ephesus, and his outlook on them shape our understanding of Gospel ministry?
19. What does Paul instruct the Corinthians to do when Timothy comes in v.10? (Survey some other translations – NASB, KJV, NKJV, NIV for a better rendering than the ESV's "put him at ease")
20. Why would Timothy have reason to fear the Corinthians?
21. What reason does Paul offer for why the Corinthians are to treat Timothy this way?

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22. What negative and positive instruction does Paul draw from the fact that Timothy is doing the Lord's work in v. 11?
23. Describe the interaction between Paul and Apollos described in the first part of v. 12. Why do you think Apollos didn't want to come to the Corinthians? (See 1 Cor 1:10-13, 2:5-9)
24. What role does this section play in the letter as a whole? What theme is Paul instructing the Corinthians about in these verses? How does that theme impact us?
25. In what way(s) is this section helpful for you?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that the Lord would use the preaching of his Word to shape how his people interact with those who are doing his work. Pray that we would rightly view, respect, and aid those who are doing his work.