

16:12 *A Visit from Apollos*

NOT HIS WILL TO COME NOW.

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: Apollos was the bishop of Corinth, but he had left the church on account of its divisions and gone to be with Paul. He would not go back with the letter, because he did not want to return until the divisions were healed. PAULINE COMMENTARY FROM THE GREEK CHURCH.⁴

THE TIME NOT YET RIGHT.

CHRYSOSTOM: Apollos was probably older than Timothy, and some at Corinth may have wondered why Paul did not send him instead. Therefore, Paul reassures them by calling Apollos his brother and by saying that he did try to encourage him to go, but he did not want to at that particular point. Paul did not mean to criticize Apollos when he said this. He merely meant that the time was not right for him to come. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 44.1.⁶

16:13 *Stand Firm in Faith*

BE STRONG.

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: Paul tells them to be courageous and strong, like an athlete or soldier of Christ, doing everything with love toward God and each other. PAULINE COMMENTARY FROM THE GREEK CHURCH.⁸

16:14 *Do Everything in Love*

ALL TROUBLES AVOIDABLE BY LOVE.

CHRYSOSTOM: If love had been present, the Corinthians would not have been puffed up, they would not have divided into factions, they would not have gone to law before heathens, or indeed at all. If there had been love in the church, that notorious person would not have taken his father's wife, they would not have looked down on their weaker brethren, and they would not have boasted about their spiritual gifts. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 44.2.¹⁰

16:15 Devoted to the Service of the Saints

THE FIRST FRUITS OF ACHAIA.

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: Paul calls these people the “first fruits” of Achaia, either because they were the first to be converted or because their piety was greater than that of others or because they refused to be ordained on account of their great humility and instead dedicated themselves to the service of others. PAULINE COMMENTARY FROM THE GREEK CHURCH.¹¹

THE HOUSEHOLD OF STEPHANAS.

CHRYSOSTOM: Stephanas and his family were not only the first to be converted, they were also a shining example to everyone else. Those who are first ought to set an example to those who come afterward and be servants of others, as these people evidently were. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 44.3.¹²

16:16 Subject to Fellow Workers

16:17 Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus

16:18 Refreshing Paul’s Spirit

THEY REFRESHED MY SPIRIT.

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: The spirit of a holy person is refreshed by thinking and doing things which are pious, for the spirit strives after what is good. PAULINE COMMENTARY FROM THE GREEK CHURCH.¹⁵

SHOW THEM RESPECT.

CHRYSOSTOM: It is obvious that these must have been the people who told Paul about the situation in Corinth, and no doubt the Corinthians would not have thanked them for it. This is why Paul praises them and urges the Corinthians to show them honor and respect. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 44.3.¹⁶

16:19 *Hearty Greetings*

16:20 *Sending Greetings*

FREE FROM DECEIT.

CHRYSOSTOM: Having bound them together by his exhortation, Paul goes on to bid them to set the seal on their union by means of the holy kiss, which unites and produces one body. The kiss is holy when it is free of deceit and hypocrisy. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 44.4.4

16:21 *A Greeting in Paul's*

WITH HIS OWN HAND.

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: To avoid any suspicion of forgery, Paul signs the letter with his own hand. PAULINE COMMENTARY FROM THE GREEK CHURCH.6

16:22 *Our Lord, Come!*

NO LOVE FOR THE LORD.

DIDYMUS THE BLIND: The person who does not keep the commandments has no love for the Lord. PAULINE COMMENTARY FROM THE GREEK CHURCH.7

LORD, COME.

CHRYSOSTOM: By this one word Paul strikes fear into them all. But not only that; he also points out the way of virtue. As our love for God's coming intensifies, there is no kind of sin which is not wiped out. HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 44.4.9

16:23 *The Grace of the Lord Jesus*

16:24 *Love in Christ Jesus*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

CHRYSOSTOM: Paul's love is in no way carnal, but spiritual and genuine. This is why he sets the seal on it by adding the words "in Christ Jesus." HOMILIES ON THE EPISTLES OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 44.4.12