



Pastor Scott Archer 06.25.2017*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Final Instructions

1 Corinthians 16:1-24

Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

Central Passage

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (NIV) — 13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.

Central Thought: In this real world full of danger, distraction, division and deception, Paul challenges us to be vigilant, faithful, and lovingly courageous in Christ Jesus for the glory of God and the good of our neighbors.

Final Instructions...

- ❖ Be on Guard (vigilant, alert, awake) – living with the end in sight, rather than for the moment.

Matthew 25:6–10 (ESV) — 6 But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

- ❖ Stand firm (in the faith) – grounded in Jesus Christ, rather than false doctrine and philosophical fads.

2 Timothy 4:3–4 (ESV) — 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

Matthew 7:24–27 (ESV) — 24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

- ❖ Be Courageous and Strong – trusting in God's love, confident in his salvation and working for his kingdom.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV) — 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

- ❖ Do everything in Love – following the way of the cross, rather than the way of self-preservation.

Luke 9:23–25 (ESV) — 23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. 25 For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"