

Finally, . . .

(2 Corinthians 13:11)

Introduction:

1. It hardly seems possible, but today is the final Lord's Day of 2015.
2. Since this is the case, we are studying a number of passages that have something in common -- they all begin with "*Finally.*"
3. These passages contain some important instructions that we must practice as we look forward to beginning 2016.
4. Let us begin with . . .

Discussion:

I. 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11

A. In this verse Paul was bidding "*farewell*" to the Christians in Corinth.

B. As he concluded his letter he gave 4 admonitions, including:

1. to "*be perfect [complete]*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. to "*be of good comfort*" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4a)
3. to "*be of one mind*" (1 Corinthians 1:10)
4. to "*live in peace*" (Romans 12:18).

C. A special blessing is in store for those who practice these instructions -- "*the God of love and peace shall be with you.*"

II. EPHESIANS 6:10

A. This verse teaches Christians to "*be strong in the Lord.*"

B. Vs.12 explains why we must be strong in the Lord.

C. According to vs.11 & 13, to be strong in the Lord we must put on "*the whole armor of God.*"

D. The various items of the armor of God are listed in vs.14-17.

III. PHILIPPIANS 3:1

A. This verse teaches Christians to "*rejoice in the Lord.*"

B. An even stronger appeal is made in 4:4.

C. The hope mentioned in 3:20-21 should help us to maintain our joy.

IV. PHILIPPIANS 4:8

- A. This verse teaches Christians to think on the right things.
 - B. In Proverbs 23:7 Solomon showed why we must think properly.
 - C. We are to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and worthy of praise.
 - D. Vs.9 reveals a special blessing that is in store for those who think properly.
- V. 2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-2
- A. These verses teach Christians to pray (see 1 Thessalonians 5:17).
 - B. Specifically, Paul asked these Christians to pray for him and his co-workers.
 - C. Paul asked them to pray that:
 - 1. the Lord's Word would have *"free course"*
 - 2. he and his co-workers would be delivered from *"unreasonable and wicked men."*
- VI. 1 PETER 3:8-9
- A. These verses teach Christians to:
 - 1. be *"all of one mind"*
 - 2. have *"compassion one of another"*
 - 3. *"love as brethren"*
 - 4. *"be pitiful"*
 - 5. *"be courteous"*
 - 6. avoid retaliation.
 - B. Vs.9b touches on 2 reasons why we must practice these instructions.
 - 1. We have been *"called"* for this purpose.
 - 2. Those who do so will *"inherit a blessing."*

Conclusion:

- 1. We have examined some very important instructions.
- 2. Finally, let us make a commitment to practice these instructions throughout 2016.
- 3. If we do these things that the Lord wants us to do, he will bless us in return.