

SERMON NOTES

Date: April 7, 2019

Series: Messy Church

Title: Last but Not Least

Text: 1 Corinthians 16:15-24

Big Idea: Paul's last words to the Corinthians are just as important as all the rest. They may be the last but they are not the least. They contain an important message of exhortation, greeting, warning, and blessing for God's people then and today.

STUDY GUIDE

Questions for Small Group Discussion and Personal Application

DISCUSS THE ISSUE

Think back through the main sections and themes of 1 Corinthians. What have been some of the more important lessons you have learned and applied to your life? How has God used this letter to shape your love for and walk with Jesus?

What does it mean to “be subject” believers in the church who have “devoted themselves to the service of the saints” (v. 16)? How can the church give recognition to such people (v. 18)?

Paul often ends his letters with special greetings. Why are such greetings important (19-21)?

What does it mean to “greet one another with a holy kiss” (v. 20)? How can the church apply this today?

What warning does Paul issue and why is it significant (v. 22)?

Paul offers a benediction that is commonly found in the letters of the New Testament (v. 23), but what he says in verse 24 is unique to this letter. Why is it an appropriately pastoral way for Paul to close this letter in particular?

APPLY THE TRUTH

How can you show your appreciation to a ministry team leader or a person in the church who faithfully serves behind the scenes? What steps can you take to do that this week or in the near future?

Think about how you relate to people when the church gathers. Are you friendly, standoffish, overwhelming, or something else? How do you think people take you? How can the way you greet people communicate your unity with them in Christ and your love for them in the gospel?

The church in Corinth was not an easy church to love, but Paul had a profound love for them nonetheless. Our love for people is often shaped by the way we think about them. Identify someone in your life that you find difficult to love. Identify how negative thinking toward them affects your practical love for them. How can you change your thinking toward them and cultivate practical expressions of love?