

FINALLY BRETHREN FAREWELL

2Cor 13:11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Four years and one month ago Dottie and I moved from Florence, AL to Grandview, WA to work with the church in Sunnyside. We knew the time would come when we would leave this work and go to other fields of labor. That time has now come. The Lord willing this Friday we will begin our journey to Red Bay, AL to begin our work with the church in that city. Our new Address is in the bulletin and posted on the bulletin board. (show map that I showed to East Florence before we left)
- B. Three years previous to this move I had resigned from a local work in Mississippi to preach in meetings and work with small churches primarily in the Northwest. During that time I preached in churches from Maine to Washington. Also during that time I preached for the church here several times in 2010, 2011 & 2012. I have provided a memory stick or thumb drive with all my sermons and bulletins on it.
- C. We have enjoyed our stay here and I hope and pray that the members of the church here have been edified by the lessons presented during our stay.
 1. We have been warmly received and loved by those concerned with our welfare and the welfare of the Lord's church
 2. Whatever criticism there might have been, I have tried to use in a constructive way and I am sure it was given in a spirit of love and concern for my soul and the Lord's work here in this area.
- D. About forty two years ago in Pekin, Ill. while trying to decide what to say in a final lesson to the church there, I decided that I could go to no better place than Paul's farewell address to the Corinthians in 2Cor 13:11
- E. **(TITLE)** Since that time I have used this text as my parting words to seven other congregations and these words of exhortation I would also like to leave with you here in Sunnyside.
- F. **FAREWELL:** Thayer Definition: 1) to rejoice, be glad 2) to rejoice exceedingly 3) to be well, thrive 4) in salutations, hail! 5) at the beginning of letters: to give one greeting, salute. (From Barnes' Notes: This word is here to be understood in the sense of a parting salutation, though it may be admitted that there is included in the word an expression of a wish for their happiness.)

DISCUSSION:

I. BE PERFECT

- A. "Perfect" = Fit, sound, complete, to fit out - equip, put in order, arrange, make one what he ought to be. (Thayer)
- B. Paul tells us in Eph 6:10-18 how we can be perfect or well equipped to fight the Lord's battles
- C. The only way we can be perfect is to follow the perfect example 1Pet 2:21
 1. Word of the Lord is a record of this perfect example 2Tim 3:16,17
 2. God through his grace can make us perfect 1Pet 5:10

II. BE OF GOOD COMFORT

- A. "Comfort" = to call to one's side, call for summon, to address, speak to, exhortation, entreaty, to console, encourage and strengthen by consolation (Thayer)
- B. Have compassion one for another 1Pet 3:8
- C. Comfort with the Word of God 2Cor 1:3,4
- D. Comfort each other by being concerned for one another Eph 6:21,22

III. BE OF ONE MIND

- A. "One mind" = to have understanding, to feel, to think, to seek one's interest, to mind the same things (Thayer)
- B. Note Paul's plea to the Corinthians 1Cor 1:10
- C. Jesus' prayer for unity Jhn 17:20,21
- D. Unity cannot be had without working for it Eph 4:2,3

IV. LIVE IN PEACE

- A. "Peace" = to make peace, to cultivate or keep peace (Thayer)
- B. Blessed are the peacemakers Matt 5:9
- C. Not peace at any price
 1. Not peace but a sword Matt 10:34-37
 2. Have peace in Christ Jhn 16:33; Rom 5:1
 3. To have this peace one must be spiritually minded Rom 8:6
 4. Only God can furnish this peace Rom 15:13

CONCLUSION:

- A. And the God of peace shall be with you
- B. Notice 1Pet 3:8-12 particularly verse 12
- C. Pray for us 2Thess 3:1-5
- D. Be steadfast, unmovable 1Cor 15:58