

Text 1 Pe 3:8

FINALLY, BRETHREN

I. Introduction

A. A lot of times we appreciate "finally" in things

1. At the end of a long, boring speech, when someone comes to the point where they say, "And, Finally..." We say "it's about time!"
2. Children waiting for the schoolbell to ring to go home in the afternoon may think "finally" when it does ring.
3. We are glad when a test, or a difficult job, or a painful medical procedure is "finally" over.

B. Other times "finally" comes much too soon for our liking

1. We aren't so happy when we "finally" finish an ice cream cone
2. When it finally comes time to say goodbye to visiting relatives we may not be so glad--depending on how much they ate and how long they stayed, I guess
3. But when it comes to "finally" saying things to people we love we find it has come too soon
 - a) This is true at the end of every gospel meeting
 - b) It is true when we must travel long distances for trips, work, etc.
 - c) It is also true now.

C. In the Bible, "finally" is found several times, because letters had to end, as well as time spent with a particular group of people

D. We can learn a lot in seeing the use of the word "finally"

II. Finally, Brethren...

A. (I Peter 3:8) Finally, be...

1. Be ye of one mind
 - a) God wants us to work together with singleness of purpose
 - b) One thing we need to always remember is the goodness of that unity (Psalm 133:1) How good and how pleasant is that unity
 - c) We must know that acceptance and support of error can destroy that wonderful unity--be warned, be aware, be careful, be sure
2. Be compassionate one of another
 - a) (Heb.4:15) Like Christ was touched with our problems
 - b) (Heb 10:34) Suffering with, like those in prison
 - c) We ought to care for one another, to feel what others feel
3. Be loving brethren...
 - a) Love is not selfish, is not self-centered, is not proud
 - b) No better advice could be given than to love one another as Christ has loved us (I Jn 4:19-21)
4. Be pitiful...
 - a) This is an example of how word usage has changed since 1611 and why we must study words carefully.
 - b) Today when we say someone is "pitiful" we mean they are

- worthy of pity, or seeking pity.
- c) Sadly, some Christians really want to act pitiful
Or, it's pitiful the way some Christians act!
- d) This word means "Compassionate, tenderhearted"
(Eph 4:32) contains the same word, there translated
"tenderhearted"
- e) We are to "be tenderhearted", to be "full of pity, tenderness"

5. Be courteous...

- a) This word literally means "humble-minded", of humble heart
- b) This attitude will be behind everything we do that is
courteous, respectful, thoughtful of others. Be this.

B. (I Pet 3:9-13) Things we are to do and know

1. Render to others goodness and blessing even when wronged.
 - a) This is the example Christ left us (I Pet 2:21-~~23~~²³)
 - b) This will defuse untold number of arguments, disagreements
 - c) This will glorify God in the church and in your lives.
2. Remember the Old Testament warned that we should hate evil and do good if we wish to inherit a blessing from God.
 - a) Do we love life? Do we love living in this world?
 - b) The one who will be blessed in life, here and life to come,
will prepare for blessing by doing good.
3. Know that God is on our side (V. 11-13)
 - a) Without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5)
 - b) With Him we can do all things (Phil 4:13)
 - c) He is watching over us all, He cares for us and will hear
our prayers and meet our needs. Believe in Him. Trust Him.

C. (Eph 6:10-13) Finally Brethren, Be strong...

1. The strength is not derived from YOUR steadfastness, but God's power and might (in the power of HIS might...)
2. Be prepared by putting on the armor in Ephesians 6...
 - Prepare by studying the word of God, the preparation of the gospel of peace
 - Defend yourself against temptation with the breastplate of righteousness--a life full of doing what is right
 - Wear the truth about your waist like a belt to hold your other armor on. "Buy the truth, and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23)
3. Pray always (V. 18) Don't trust in your own power--you're not winning this victory on your own without God's help.
4. This is a SPIRITUAL battle which requires SPIRITUAL strength
 - It is not strength measured in numbers
 - It is not strength measured in money saved in the bank
 - It is not strength measured in number of influential people who know you and/or agree with you.
 - It is measured in the strength of your FAITH and the depth of your COMMITMENT to living by the truth of God's word.

D. Finally, Brethren, rejoice...(Phil 3:1)

1. It would not seem possible to rejoice when we are saddened by goodbyes, but Paul said they were to rejoice...
 2. If we lose every friend, every tie, every family member, every loved one, every colleague in God's service, we still have more riches laid to our account than the happiest sinner alive.
 3. Though we sustain losses in this life, and say goodbye at times, we still always and forever have much to rejoice about
 4. Don't ever forget how much you are loved by God, and how much He has blessed you. And be THANKFUL, not sullen or selfish
- E. Finally, Brethren...think on these things...(Phil 4:8)
1. What we think about is what we become...
 2. If we plan to fail then most assuredly we will see our plans become our worst nightmare.
 3. Let's force ourselves, in the face of difficulties and trials, to focus our minds on good things, right things, holy things, and set our sights above the troubles of this world.
 4. The things Paul says to think on included:
TRUE things, HONEST things, JUST things, PURE things, LOVELY things
things of GOOD REPORT, VIRTUE, PRAISE...
- F. Finally, Brethren, Pray for us...(II Thess. 3:1)
1. We recognize our need for the prayers of the saints.
 - a) If it weren't for God's help, our lives would be worthless, our work would be fruitless, our hope would be hopeless.
 - b) Prayers that you offer for us are greatly needed and much appreciated.
 - c) The goals Paul desired they pray for then were:
 - (1) That the word might have free course--that nothing will stand in the way of its spread.
 - (2) That the word will be glorified, as it is in those who heard it and obeyed it and glorified God by this
 - (3) (V. 2) That the servants of God might be delivered from evil, faithless men
 2. We have confidence God will hear our prayers concerning you...
 - a) (V.3) That you be established, strengthened, kept from evil
 - b) (V.4) That you will continue to obey His word in all things
 - c) (V.5) That your hearts will be set on continuing patiently waiting for the coming of Christ.
- G. Finally, Brethren, Farewell...(II Cor. 13:11)
1. Be perfect (Don't fail to benefit from the complete instruction in God's word that can make you perfect, complete, strong)
 2. Be of good comfort (Don't get discouraged, upset, angry, frustrated, or worried about the troubles of this life)

3. Be of one mind (Stand for the truth, and stand with each other)
4. Live in peace (Your peace with God in Christ should show in your ability to live at peace with others and with yourself)
5. God will be with you--He loves us all, He will be a God of love and peace to all of you...

III. Conclusion

- A. Everything that ends means a new beginning, and many "final" things are not so final that they cannot change...
- B. Just because my work here daily among you has ended for now, there is no reason to believe it could not again be possible for me to work among you.--and just because we are leaving for now does not mean we won't see each other--we are not that far away.
- C. But surely we would do well to remember the things the Bible has said about "finally"...
- D. If you haven't obeyed the gospel or aren't living a faithful life as a Christian, you need to make these things right now.