

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 16:13-14**.
- B. Many at this time of the year make "new year's resolutions" and try to make some necessary changes.
- C. The apostle Paul suggests five things to do in our Christian conduct. Let me suggest them to you.

### I. **FIRST, BE ON THE ALERT.**

- A. As we attempt to do good, Satan will be there to tempt us to sin (1Pet. 5:8).
- B. Let us be in control at all times (1Th. 5:6).
- C. We have a spirit of power, love, and self-control, let's use it (2Tim. 1:7).
- D. Being on the alert means looking for opportunities to do good (Heb. 3:12, 13; Gal. 6:10).

### II. **SECOND, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH.**

- A. Since faith comes by hearing the word, let us resolve to study (Rom. 10:17; Ac. 17:30).
- B. We can stand firm, when we know the difference between right and wrong. Standing firm means:
  - 1. Better attendance.
  - 2. Spending more time in prayer.
  - 3. Lending a helping hand to others on a regular basis.
  - 4. Participating in church activities.
  - 5. Winning souls to Christ.
- C. By being aware that it is possible-to fall, let us make an even better effort to stand firm (1Cor. 10:12).

### III. **THIRD, ACT LIKE MEN (BE MATURE).**

- A. Maturing is part of the Christian's life. He is not to remain a babe (Col. 1:28,29; Heb. 5:12-14).
- B. The Hebrews writer speaks of the elementary teachings (do we know these?):
  - 1. Repentance.
  - 2. Faith.
  - 3. Baptisms (washings).
  - 4. Laying on of hands.
  - 5. The resurrection.
  - 6. Eternal judgment.
- C. Discipline and maturing are both part of growing (Heb. 12 :10-14; 1Cor. 13:11; 2Pet. 1:5-11).

### IV. **FOURTH, BE STRONG.**

- A. This is similar to standing firm in the faith.
- B. Let us be strong in our confession, by stimulating others to do good (Heb. 10:23-25).
- C. Jesus cannot fellowship weak, lukewarm Christians, so be "hot" and strong (Rev. 3:15,16).
- D. Paul plainly tells the Ephesians to be strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:10).
- E. Being strong is the normal place for a Christian (unless a babe).

### V. **FIFTH, LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.**

- A. One of the most powerful statements made in the restoration movement was, "In doctrine unity, in opinion liberty, and in all things love."
- B. So many problems can be avoided if we would approach people with love (1Cor. 13:5).
- C. The first and greatest commandment is to love (Mt. 22:37-40).
- D. Jesus said to even show love to one's enemies (this is easier said than done, but must be done nevertheless (Lk. 6:27).
- E. Let us never act out of revenge or hate for one another.

## **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. We have seen the following five kinds of proper Christian conduct:
  - 1. Be on the alert.
  - 2. Stand firm in the faith.
  - 3. Act like men (be mature).
  - 4. Be strong.
  - 5. Do all things in love.
- B. If we will honestly try to put these things in practice our life will be more productive for God and the church will grow.
- C. Why not begin the road to heaven, by becoming a Christian and then doing these five suggestions tonight?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.