1 - **Practical Solutions To Problems In The Church**

1 Corinthians 16:10-14

2 - **Paul Addressed Problems in the Church at Corinth…**

* Division/denominationalism 3
* Worldly wisdom – Ch. 2
* Immorality being accepted
* Brethren suing brethren
* Marriage relationship 7
* Liberties/Eating of meat
* Preaching of the gospel
* Liberties – Ch. 10
* Worship / Lord’s Supper
* Use of spiritual gifts
* False teaching re: resurrection
* Christian benevolence

3 - **Then we come to 1 Corinthians 16:13-14**

**Random Admonitions?**

Or

**Practical Solutions**?

4 - **Warnings for the SLUMBERING**

***“Be on the alert”***

* First of 4 military terms. **Matthew 24:43**
* To keep **awake and watchful**. Give **strict attention** in order to **avert calamity**.
* “‎**Vigilance and expectancy** as contrasted with laxity and indifference… **spiritual alertness**” (Vine)
* How many problems could be avoided through vigilance and watchfulness?

5 - **Warnings for the SLUMBERING**

* This was a warning to the church at Sardis
(**Revelation 3:2-3**) “**Wake up**!”
* It’s to be our **mode of life** (**1 Thessalonians 5:4-8**) “…*let us not sleep as others do…* ***be alert and sober***”
* Do we **pray for it & with it**? (**Colossians 4:2**)
* Consider the admonition to the Ephesian elders
(**Acts 20:31**), “***be on the alert***” – (**Matthew 26:28-41**).

6 - **Warnings for the UNSTEADY**

**“*Stand firm in the faith*”**

* **We need the strength not to be “*tossed here and there… and carried about by every wind of doctrine*.” (Ephesians 4:14)**
* Literally means to **stand upright**. To be stationary – **not moved about**. **Without vacillation**. **Unwavering.**
* **How many problems can be avoided…?**

7 - **Warnings for the UNSTEADY**

**What are we to “*stand firm*” in?**

* **1 Corinthians 15:1-2; “*The gospel…in which also you stand… if you hold fast the word*…”**
* The same as **“*the faith*” – Acts 13:7-12; cf., Galatians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Jude 3**
* **Includes what the apostles taught & displayed in their lives (2 Thessalonians 2:15; Philippians 4:9)**

8 - **Warnings for the UNSTEADY**

* **Determined by our conduct** – **employed by our mind and spirit** (**Philippians 1:27**)
* We need an **anchor**. (**Hebrews 6:19**).
* What’s at stake? Eternal life only if we “***stand firm***”
(**1 Thessalonians 3:8**)

9 - **Warnings for the IMMATURE**

**“*Act like men*”**

* Spiritual maturity will **solve a lot of problems**.
* From the Greek word “andrizo” which means **maturity accentuated by courage** in the face of battle. (Vine)
* **Not** to be characterized by **timidity** – (**2 Timothy 1:7)**

10 - **Warnings for the IMMATURE**

* The idea of **becoming complete** – **mature** & **fully grown**. (Matthew 19:21; 1 Corinthians 14:20; **Philippians 3:15-16**; Ephesians 4:13; **Colossians 1:28**; James 1:4; Hebrews 5:14)
* It has to be **pursued**, (**Hebrews 6:1)**
* **Never ending** (**1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 1:6-10)**
* In “***all aspects***” of our life. (**Ephesians 4:15)**

11 - **Warnings for the WEAK**

***“Be strong”***

* Another military concept.
	+ Must be strong to overcome – “**He who overcomes**” (7 times in **Revelation Ch’s 2 & 3**)
* Strength is achieved through **nourishment** & **exercise**.

12 - **Warnings for the WEAK**

**Nourishment**.

* On the words of faith. (**1 Timothy 4:6; Matt.13:20-21**)
* “***Wake up and strengthen the things that remain***”, (**Revelation 3:2**)
* “***Strengthen your hearts***” (**James 5:7-8**)
* **Hebrews 12:12-13**, “***Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak***…”

13 – **Warnings for the WEAK**

**Exercise** –

* Practice & training makes one stronger. (
**Hebrews 5:14**, “…***because of practice have their senses trained***…”)
* We need “***training in righteousness***”, (**2 Tim. 3:16)**
* We must complete our training, (**Luke 6:40)**
* It’s a battle (**Ephesians 6:10-17**)…
	+ …to the end! (**Mark 13:13**)

14 - **Warnings for the UNMOTIVATED**

***“Let all that you do be done in love****”*

* Without love, it profits us nothing. (**1 Cor. 13:1-3)**
* Solution to their problems. (**1 Corinthians 8:1; 14:1; Philippians 2:1-3; 1 John 4:7-8; 1 Peter 1:22)**
* It’s the **perfect bond of unity**. (**Colossians 3:14)**

15 - **Practical solutions for problems in the church**

* For the **slumbering** - “*Be on the* ***alert****”*
* For the **unsteady** *- “Stand* ***firm*** *in the faith”*
* For the **immature** *- “Act like* ***men****”*
* For the **weak** *– “Be* ***strong****”*
* For the **unmotivated** *- “Let all that you do be done in* ***love****”*