

Title: "THE HOUSEHOLD OF STEPHANAS-THE FIRSTFRUITS OF ACHAIA"

Text: **1 Corinthians 16:15-18**

(I) COMMENDATION GIVEN OUT- CATEGORIES

1. Individuals

2. Men and Women

3. Family of Stephanas especially mentioned

"I urge you brethren- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints- that you should also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labours with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part, they supplied. For they have refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men" 1 Corinthians 16:15-18

(II) COMMENDATION OF STEPHANAS AND HIS HOUSEHOLD

1. A whole household

2. A wonderful example upheld

3. Given the privilege of the phrase "Firstfruits of Achaia"

- a) In terms of "order" (first)
- b) In terms of "fruit"

(III) CONTENT OF COMMENDATION

1. To devote (tasso)

- a) To fix mind on doing something (frame of mind)
- b) To arrange or appoint (planning)
- c) To execute plans

2. Ministry to the saints

- a) Phrase (in the Greek text) simply says "to the saints"

b) Implications to be carefully considered

(IV) PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

1. Paul was a beneficiary of Stephanas' ministry
2. There was a lack on the part of the Corinthians ("husterema") (1 Corinthians 16:17b)
3. Stephanas filled that lack (physical/ material assistance) (1 Corinthians 16:17b)
4. Paul exclaims his joy at the thought of Stephanas (1 Corinthians 16:17a)

(V) HONOURING OF STEPHANAS

1. Know such people ("oida") (1 Corinthians 16:15a)
2. Acknowledge such people (1 Corinthians 16:18b)

(VI) OUR CHALLENGE

1. To cultivate such a household
2. To consider the "ministry to the saints"