Paul begins with a healthy corrective.

I. The COLLECTION

Paul had been faithful to urge the churches wherever he went to participate in a special offering for Jerusalem. He had several reasons:
   1. Paul's friends and acquaintances were SUFFERING. That made it PERSONAL.
   2. The gift might draw Jewish and Gentile believers CLOSER.

   He also lays out details for taking the collection: do it WEEKLY when they gather to worship; give in relation to how God has BLESSED you; designate some TRUSTWORTHY men to take the offering to Jerusalem and decide if you need Paul to accompany them; do it ahead of time, not waiting for Paul to arrive.

   The principles are SOUND ones.

II. The COMMITMENT

Paul lays out his TENTATIVE plans to the Corinthians regarding a future visit with them. In the meantime, he is staying in Ephesus a while for two reasons: there is an open door there for God's work. He must SEIZE the opportunities.

   Secondly, there are those who OPPOSE him. Paul may be hoping that his letter will calm the waters and make his future visit more FRUITFUL.

III. The COWORKERS

Jesus Christ did not call Lone Rangers to the ministry – EVEN Paul. Every one of his letters mentions several others, who were crucial to the advancement of the Gospel.
Stephanas, Fortunatas and Achaicus have just arrived to encourage and support Paul. We ALL need that.

IV. The CHALLENGES

There will be challengers to the Gospel, challengers to the Scriptures, challengers to the resurrection, challengers to the truth. There ALWAYS are.

The church must stand strong – TOGETHER.

V. The CLOSING words

Paul now says he is picking up the pen to write the closing words in his own hand.

The first words SEEM harsh – but it really cements the fact that Paul is an unabashed evangelist who tells it like it is.

Anyone who does not love the Lord IS cursed! They ARE doomed for eternity and Paul wants to remind the church, so that they don't forget their mission.

It is by God's grace that we are saved – there is NO other way.

The words of encouragement and the words of correction throughout this letter have all come out of the SAME deep source – Paul's love for the church – in Christ Jesus.

Amen, indeed!