

FIRST CORINTHIANS

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Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION TO 1 CORINTHIANS

Founding Of The Church At Corinth

Acts 18:1-18

Since we are going to study the book of 1 Corinthians, it seems proper that we should study a lesson concerning the founding of the Church at Corinth. This is recorded in Acts 18.

I. THE CITY OF CORINTH.

Locate Corinth on the map of the Roman Empire, and see the advantage of its position. You will notice the little neck of land connecting the Peloponnesus (lower Greece), with Macedonia and Thrace (upper Greece), an isthmus between the two seas. Corinth had three sea ports. The port on the east side was Cenchrea, where Phoebe was converted, and where a church was established. The city is on a rock over 200 feet above the sea level, and on a hill over 1,600 feet higher is the citadel, or Akro-Korinthos. In New Testament times the straits and isthmuses were the world's strategic points. There were many struggles for the mastery of them, because of their strategic position. As the Isthmus of Suez or the Isthmus of Panama has been important in modern times, so was the famous isthmus commanded by the city of Corinth in the ancient world.

The advantages of the position are evident. It commanded the passage way from Macedonia, Achaia, and Thrace into lower Greece. Navigation around the lower part of Greece was very dangerous. This caused the merchants to take their ships to this isthmus, where there was a way to drag the ships across to the other sea by a crude ship railroad. In 1826 a ship canal was opened, connecting the two seas.

Old classic Greek tells about Sparta and Athens. Athens was the intellectual and political head, Sparta the military head of the Greek world. Corinth did not compete with Athens for intellectual leadership, nor with Sparta for military leadership. Corinth devoted itself to commerce, so that they were sometimes criticized for worshiping the almighty dollar. When Sparta and Athens fell before Phillip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, Corinth came to the front, and was the chief city of Greece under both Phillip and Alexander, his son. It was a city of great importance until the Roman general captured and destroyed it. It lay desolated for over a hundred years. Julius Caesar, the Roman Emperor, rebuilt it a short time before he died. Rome conferred great privileges on it, by making it a free city. At the time of Christ it was one of the most important cities in the world.

The Roman pro-consul resided there (Acts 18:12). The city was known for its vast commerce and great wealth. Its large population had a cosmopolitan character, for thousands of traders

and mariners of many nations visited this famous city. Greek civilizations flourished here in all its branches. The fine arts were cultivated, athletic games as well as schools of philosophy and rhetoric flourished in this proud city.

Every fourth year the Isthmian games attracted among the athletes the best, and among the spectators the worst, of the population of the surrounding provinces. The worst feature was an open and very gross licentiousness. The whole city was steeped in immoralities of various kinds. Drunkenness, gluttony, and above all religiously licensed prostitution were in Corinth at its worst. The temple of Aphrodite, or Venus (goddess of love), who was the chief goddess worshiped. One thousand maidens were selected to be the debauched servants of that infamous temple. With all of its intellectual culture, wealth, and luxury, Corinth rotted morally. They worshiped their gods with the most shameful orgies of obscenity and vice. It was while Paul was there, knowing the degradation of the heathen countries, and particularly of their worship, that he wrote that terrible indictment of man, contained in Romans chapter one. He describes the corruption of the heathen nations who had no knowledge of God. The Greek worship of Aphrodite or Venus was of the most degraded nature. So great was the moral corruption that the Greek word “Corinthiazesthai” which means “to live like a Corinthian,” had become a byword of shame and vileness among the profligate heathen of that time.

II. THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH AT CORINTH.

In about the year 54 A.D. Paul arrived in this wicked city. If a church could be established in this vile city, then surely one could be established anywhere else. We need to remember the Scripture which says, Is any thing too hard for the LORD? (Genesis 18:14)

The Jews, of course, came to Corinth because of its commercial advantages. About the time that Paul got there, there was an unusual number of Jews in Corinth, because the Roman emperor had just banished them from Rome. Aquila and Priscilla, a noted Christian couple, had just come from Rome to Corinth under that decree. The Greeks and Romans were also there in great numbers. There were more slaves than in any other place in proportion to the population. Many slaves were among Paul’s converts. Notice that he did not try to start a movement to free the slaves. He had something more important to do.

A. The Toiler – Verses 1-3

- a. In Athens Paul preached an eloquent message with little success, but in Corinth he simply proclaimed the gospel with great success – Verse 1; I Corinthians 2:2 “For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”
- b. Paul finds fellow laborers – Verse 2; Romans 16:3-4 “Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.” See 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19
- c. They were all tentmakers – Verse 3; Acts 20:34-35, 34 “Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the

weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” See 2 Thessalonians 3:8. Later on Paul confessed that he robbed other churches in order to spare the Corinthian Church. 2 Corinthians 11:8

B. Testimony To The Jews – Verses 4-6

- a. Paul preached where the Jews were – Verse 4; Acts 13:14; 14:1
- b. Paul pressed home the fact that Jesus was the Messiah – Verse 5; 2 Corinthians 5:14 “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:” See Acts 18:28; 10:42; 20:21
- c. Paul was pushed out when they rejected the message – Verse 6; Acts 19:9

C. Telling It To The Gentiles – Verses 7-10

- a. There was a devout worshiper nearby – Verse 7
- b. The power of the gospel demonstrated in the conversion of Crispus the chief ruler of the synagogue. So Paul’s preaching in the synagogue was not in vain – Verse 8; 1 Corinthians 1:14 “I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;”
- c. The Lord encourages Paul – Verses 9-10; Matthew 28:20 “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” 2 Timothy 4:17 “Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.” See Isaiah 54:17; Romans 8:31; Acts 15:18

D. The Tenacity – Verse 11

- a. Paul stayed on the job for 18 months.
- b. Many were saved and baptized.
- c. The Church in Corinth started.

E. The Trial – Verses 12-17

- a. Paul brought to be judged – Verse 12; 2 Timothy 3:12 “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
- b. A false charge was brought – Verse 13; Acts 6:13 “And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:” Acts 24:5 “For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:”
- c. The judge refused to hear the case against Paul – Verses 14-16
- d. Angry Greeks brought the ruler of the synagogue before the judgment seat and beat him – Verse 17. Later on he was converted to Christianity. 1 Corinthians 1:1, 23 “Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and

unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”

F. The Tarrying – Verse 18

- a. Paul remained there for some time with success.
- b. When he left, Priscilla and Aquila went with him.

Notes

Lesson 2

THE PROBLEM OF DIVISION IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

1 Corinthians 1:1-31

This letter was written to the Church at Corinth to correct the sins in that Church. Every chapter rebukes them for some sin that they are guilty of. This Church had been established in a wicked city. Now the wicked sins of that city had been brought into the Church. This is the same kind of problem we are facing today.

I. THE BELIEVERS SPIRITUAL STANDING IS IN CHRIST – Verses 1-9

A. They Were Sanctified And Called – Verses 1-3

- a. Paul's personal testimony – Verse 1
- b. Paul's description of this local Church – Verse 2a. The church in the New Testament is always local and never universal.
- c. Paul's evaluation of their position – Verse 2b
 - i. They were sanctified in Christ.
 - ii. They were called to be saints.
 - iii. This is true of all saved people.
- d. Paul's desire for them – Verse 3

B. They Were Bless By God's Grace – Verses 4-6

- a. They were given this grace by Jesus Christ – Verse 4
- b. They were enriched by Him – Verses 5-6. Enriched means "that they were made rich in a spiritual sense."

C. They Were Waiting For The Coming Of The Lord – Verses 7-9

- a. They believed in the imminent coming of the Lord – Verse 7
- b. Paul wanted them to be blameless at the second coming – Verse 8; 1 John 2:28-3:3
"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as

he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

- c. They were called to fellowship, by the faithful God – Verse 9

NOTE: Christ is mentioned nine times in these nine verses. Christ must be first in everything. Christ is linked with apostleship, sanctification, grace, peace, testimony, and fellowship.

II. THE BELIEVERS FLESHLY STATE MAY BE IN CONTENTIONS – Verses 10-16

The believers standing is “in Christ” and is therefore secure. The believer’s state (or earthly condition) may be entirely different. This was true of the Church at Corinth. It is the task of every believer to seek to bring their state as near to their standing as possible.

A. He Pleads For Them To End Their Divisions – Verse 10

- a. His plea was made in the name of Christ – Verse 10a
- b. He pleads for unity in speech – Verse 10b
- c. He pleads for unity in mind – Verse 10c
- d. He pleads for unity in judgment – Verse 10d

B. He Pleads For Them To Disband Their Fan Clubs – Verses 11-12

- a. It was well known that there were contentions in the church – Verse 11
- b. They were divided over men – Verse 12. This is the fan club mentality and it will destroy a church. There is no evidence that Paul, Apollos, Cephas, or Christ ever encouraged such conduct. (There is no evidence that Cephas was ever in Corinth, but his ministry must have been well known). How sad when people divide up over personalities in the Church. 1 Corinthians 3:3-4
- c. Christ is not divided nor should His people be – Verse 13a
- d. Notice that they were “brethren” and that they were to be “perfectly joined” – Verse 10

C. He Pleads For Them To View Baptism Correctly – Verses 13b-16

- a. They had all been baptized in Christ’s name of and not in man’s name – Verse 13b
- b. Paul had baptized very few in this Church – Verses 14-16. Evidently some were boasting because of the man that baptized them. This was wrong.
- c. Paul’s position on baptism. He did not minimize baptism, he taught that converts should be baptized; but He let Timothy, Silas, and other preachers who were with him do the baptizing. Acts 18:8 “And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”

III. THE BELIEVERS STANDARD IS THE CROSS – Verses 17-25

A. Paul's Calling Was To Preach The Gospel – Verses 17-18

- a. He was not sent to baptize, but to preach the gospel – Verse 17a. This destroys the doctrine of those that make baptism a part of the gospel.
- b. Wisdom of words detracts from the influence of the Cross of Christ – Verse 17b
- c. To the unbelieving the preaching of the cross is foolishness – Verse 18a
- d. To the believing it is the power of God – Verse 18b

B. The Wisdom Of This World Is Headed For Destruction – Verses 19-21

- a. The god of human wisdom and learning is headed for judgment – Verse 19; Isaiah 29:14 “Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.”
- b. God has made foolish the wisdom of this world – Verse 20
- c. Wisdom has never saved anyone. It is the preaching of the gospel that saves – Verse 21. The Corinthian believers with their Grecian background were prone to look to manmade wisdom, and not the wisdom that cometh down from above. James 3:15-17 “This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

C. Paul Preached Christ Crucified – Verses 22-25

- a. The Jews required a sign – Verse 22a. Many today are looking for miracles, signs and wonders – John 2:18 “Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?”
- b. The Greeks sought after Wisdom – Verse 22b. Today many seek after science, learning, and manmade knowledge, apart from the wisdom of God. Acts 17:18-21 “Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)”
- c. The message of Christ crucified was rejected by the Jews and the Greeks – Verse 23
- d. The called, the saved, these see Christ as the power and wisdom of God – Verse 24
- e. God is far above these foolish men – Verse 25

IV. THE BELIEVERS CALLING IS TO GLORIFY GOD – Verses 26-31

A. God Hath Not Chosen Many Wise Men – Verses 26-29

- a. Only a few wise, mighty, and noble are called by God – Verse 26. Why is this? Because if they were called, both they and their followers would give them the glory and not God. 1 Corinthians 2:13; 3:18
- b. God hath chosen the foolish and the weak, that the unbelievers might be confounded – Verse 27-28; Psalm 8:2 “Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.” Matthew 4:18 “And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.”
- c. The purpose of this is stated – Verse 29; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 10:4

B. Our Lack Is Made Up For By What We Have In Christ – Verses 30-31

- a. We lack so much from the natural standpoint, but we have so much because of Him.
- b. We lack wisdom, but Christ is made unto us wisdom – Verse 30; Colossians 2:3 “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
- c. We lack righteousness, but Christ is made unto us righteousness – Verse 30; 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
- d. We lack sanctification, but Christ is made unto us sanctification – Verse 30; John 17:19 “And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.”
- e. We lack redemption, so Christ was made unto us redemption – Verse 30; Romans 3:24 “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”
- f. The purpose of this clearly stated – Verse 31; Ephesians 2:9 “Not of works, lest any man should boast.” See Jeremiah 9:23-24

Notes

Lesson 3

THE PROBLEM OF INSPIRATION AND INTERPRETATION

1 Corinthians 2: 1-16

The message of God's Word is the most important message in the world. The Bible is that message. Yet, the Bible is a mystery to most people. By what means can we know the Word of God? We shall find out in this chapter.

In the city of Corinth, men were mixing philosophy and human wisdom with God's message. This created great confusion, and the same thing is happening today in our churches. Teachers are adding their own interpretation to the Word of God. This chapter was written, to call the Christians back to the inspired Word of God.

I. PROCLAMATION AND DEMONSTRATION – Verses 1-5

A. The Proclamation – Verses 1-2

- a. In Athens Paul was exposed to the poets, philosophers and orators, but he did not allow this to influence his preaching in Corinth.
- b. He simply came to Corinth to declare the message of God – Acts 20:21 “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 1:22 “For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:”
- c. Paul was consecrated to the Master and concentrating on the message – Verse 2; Galatians 3:1 “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”
- d. Why the cross is the high point of the Christian message – Galatians 6:14 “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”
 - i. It reveals what man is. It was because of man's sin, that the cross had to be.
 - ii. It reveals what God is. Only love would cause God to send His son.
 - iii. It reveals what sin is. Sin put him on the cross – 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - iv. It reveals what salvation is.

B. The Demonstration – Verses 3-5

- a. It is an awesome thing to stand and proclaim God’s Word – Verse 3
- b. The continued proclamation of it will bring demonstration – Verse 4. The Gospel is still the power of God – Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Colossians 2:4 “And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.” 2 Peter 1:16-18 “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.”
- c. Our faith should have a firm foundation – Verse 5

II. INSPIRATION AND REVELATION – Verses 6-10

A. The Wisdom From Above – Verse 6

- a. Paul’s wisdom came for God above. He received God’s inspired Word – 2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”
- b. When we say that the Bible was inspired of God, we mean that God furnished the words, so there could be no error.
- c. There is no new inspired word of God, but we do have the revelation of God. All the Bible is a revelation from God.
- d. “Perfect” means “mature or full grown,” and not sinless perfection.

B. The Untaught People – Verses 7-8

- a. What is revealed to some is hid from others – Verse 7. On every side we notice the ignorance of wise men about divine things. Matthew 11:25 “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.” Ephesians 3:9 “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:” 2 Timothy 1:9 “Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”
- b. The princes and rulers ignorantly crucified Jesus – Verse 8

C. The Spirit Reveals – Verses 9-10

- a. God is not talking about things prepared in heaven, but rather the things He has

prepared in this life for the saved – Verse 9; Isaiah 64:4 “For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.”

- b. God reveals these things to us by the Spirit – Verse 10. “Hath prepared” and “hath revealed” are both in the past tense. It is through the Spirit that God reveals His purpose and will. This is not apart from the Bible, but through the Bible that this is done. John 16:13 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

III. INTERPRETATION AND ILLUMINATION – Verses 11-16

A. Understanding The Meaning Of Words.

- a. **Inspiration and Revelation.** Inspiration is how the Bible came while revelation is what the Bible is. Inspiration is the method God used, while revelation is the result.
- b. **Revelation and Interpretation.** Revelation is the 66 books of the Bible, while interpretation is the method by which this message may be translated into human terms. The Bible warns against “private interpretation,” but interpretation is simply explaining of the Word so that it can be understood. True interpretation does not change the Word of God, but it explains the Word.
- c. **Interpretation and Illumination.** Illumination comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. This enables us to understand the truths of God – Verse 11

B. The Spirit Of Man And The Spirit Of God – Verses 11-12

- a. By the human spirit we understand the things of the human mind – Verse 11
- b. By the Holy Spirit we understand the things of the divine mind, that is, the things of God – Verse 12. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are saved, but we must yield to the Spirit and obey, if we are to receive the things which the Spirit reveals. Intelligence, education, and aptitude cannot possibly make up for the absence of the Spirit. The Spirit is the only one that can make us to know “the things that are freely given to us of God.” 1 John 4:5 “They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.” Romans 8:5 “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 4:4 “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

C. The Teaching Of Man And The Teaching Of The Spirit – Verse 13

- a. This verse teaches that the “words” of the Bible are inspired. Not just the thoughts, but the very words of the Bible are inspired.
- b. “The Holy Ghost teacheth,” means that Holy Spirit illumines our minds so that we can properly understand the Bible.
- c. This does not teach us that it is not necessary for us to study. 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

D. The Natural Man And The Spiritual Man – Verses 14-16

- a. The natural man is unsaved, and therefore does not have the Spirit of God – Verse 14. He cannot receive the things of the Spirit, nor can he know them. Why? Because they are spiritually discerned. This is where the devil side tracks so many lost people. They are determined that they are not going to be saved until they have studied the Bible and understand it. The more they study it, the more confused they are. They may even be deluded into thinking that they understand it, when all the time they are deluded by their own ignorance and the wiles of the devil. Such people sometimes become founders of some denominational branch of religion. In fact this is why we have so many denominations and cults with their conflicting claims and doctrines. You may be sure that God is not the author of confusion. James 3:15 “This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.” Jude 1:19 “These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.” Romans 8:5 “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”
- b. The spiritual man has been “born of the Spirit,” and is indwelt by the Spirit – Verse 15. He has the ability to judge all things in the spiritual realm, because he can understand the Word of God. He “is judged of not man.” The world cannot understand the child of God anymore that it can understand the Word of God. Both have come into being from the same source. (See 1 Corinthians 3:1; John 7:17; Hebrews 5:14)
- c. The spiritual man has the “mind of Christ” – Verse 16. We are not mental miniatures of the Master. However, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, our mental faculties are quickened and enlightened to the point where we can share His thoughts and understand His will and comprehend the revelation of His truth as it is found in the Scriptures. (See Isaiah 40:13-14; Romans 11:34).

Notes

Lesson 4

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN SPIRITUALITY AND CARNALITY

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

Notice that the Scriptures describe three different kinds of men.

1. **The natural man** – 1 Corinthians 2:14. The natural man is the unsaved man. He does not have spiritual life, because he has never experienced the new birth. He is unsaved and unspiritual, therefore he cannot understand the things of the Spirit of God in the Bible.

2. **The spiritual man** – 1 Corinthians 2:10-13,15,16. The spiritual man has physical life he received at the time of his first birth. He also has spiritual life that he received at his second birth. See John 3. The spiritual man begins as a spiritual infant, but grows and matures by eating spiritual food and taking spiritual exercise.

3. **The carnal man** – 1 Corinthians 3:1. The carnal man is a spiritual man with certain limitations. The carnal man has not kept growing from the time of his second birth, but has starved himself spiritually by not eating the right spiritual food and taking the right spiritual exercise. The word “**carnal**” in this verse means, “having the nature of flesh, governed by mere human nature not by the Spirit of God.”

I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF CARNALITY – Verses 1-6

A. A Soft Milk Diet – Verses 1-2

- a. The carnal Christian is a babe, and cannot receive anything but baby talk – Verse 1; Ephesians 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;” See 1 Corinthians 14:20
- b. He is offended by strong doctrine – Verse 2; Hebrews 5:12 “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.” See Heb. 5:9-14. 1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:” Babes can cry and raise a fuss, but cannot communicate.

B. Preoccupied With Envy, Strife And Divisions – Verse 3

- a. He is dominated by the old fleshly nature.
- b. He is the source of strife and divisions in the Church – 1 Corinthians 6:1; 2 Corinthians 12:20 “For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates,

envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults.” Galatians 5:15 “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” James 3:16 “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

C. The Carnal Man Robs God Of The Glory – Verse 4

- a. He is the source of the fan clubs in the Church.
- b. He is the author of the personality cults – 1 Corinthians 4:6

D. The Carnal Man Does Not Know Who Produces The Fruit – Verses 5-6

- a. Man’s part is the planting and the watering.
- b. God’s part is giving the increase – 2 Corinthians 4:5-7; Romans 12:3

II. THE WORKMAN AND THE REWARDS – Verses 7-15

A. The Workmen – Verses 7-10

- a. God is the preeminent one, not the workmen – Verse 7; Psalm 115:1; Galatians 6:3; John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”
- b. The planters and the waterers were one in doctrine and not divided – Verse 8. 1 Corinthians 4:6; John 4:36 “And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.” Daniel 12:3 “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Matthew 16:27 “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”
- c. What a privilege to labour together with God – Verse 9. We are His vineyard and His building. 2 Corinthians 6:1 “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”
- d. Paul had laid the proper foundation for the Church at Corinth. They were to take heed to what they built thereupon – Verse 10; 1 Corinthians 15:10 “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” Colossians 1:29; 1 Peter 4:11

B. The Workmen Rewarded For Their Work – Verses 11-15

- a. The proper foundation for the church, and for the Christian life is Christ – Verse 11. Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Acts 4:11 “This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.”
- b. The proper materials for building on the foundation – Verse 12
 - i. Some build with imperishable materials – Verse 12a
 - ii. Some build with perishable materials – Verse 12b

- iii. The gold, silver, and precious stones come out of the earth created by God. They are hard to get. The wood, hay, and stubble are on top of the earth and easy to get. They can be produced by man. One is perishable and the other is imperishable. One is permanent the other is temporary. One is purified by fire; the other is destroyed by fire. One is found in small quantities, the other is found in large quantities.
- iv. The proper materials speak of Christian work and building that is done according to the teaching of the Bible. The improper materials speak of work that is done contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures. God is more interested in quality than quantity.
- c. Testing time will come at the Judgment Seat of Christ – Verse 13; 1 Corinthians 4:5
- d. Scriptural labor will be rewarded – Verse 14; 1 Corinthians 3:8; 1 Peter 5:4
- e. Those who do unscriptural work will suffer loss – Verse 15. Some people will be saved, but will have no rewards. Lot lost his possessions in Sodom, but he was saved out of Sodom. Every Christian needs to realize that his life’s work is going to be tested. Let us labor for God according to the Bible, so we will not suffer loss. 2 John 8 “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

III. THE WISDOM AND FOLLY – Verses 16-23

A. The Folly Of Defiling The Temple – Verses 16-17

- a. Every true Church is a temple of God, and in a sense, so is every Christian – Verse 16; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 2:21-22 “In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” 1 Peter 2:5 “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” See 1 John 4:15
- b. It is a terribly foolish thing to defile the church – Verse 17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 11:30; 1 Corinthians 11:17-31

B. The Folly Of Human Wisdom – Verses 18-20

- a. Self deception is the worst form of deception – Verse 18; Galatians 6:3 “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.” 1 Corinthians 4:10; Proverbs 3:7 “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.” Proverbs 26:12 “Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.” Isaiah 5:21 “Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”
- b. The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God – Verse 19; 1 Corinthians 1:19-20; Isaiah 29:14 “Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.” Romans 1:21-

22, 21 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,”

- c. God knows the thoughts of the wise of this world, and they are vain – Verse 20; Colossians 2:18 “Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.”

C. The Folly Of Glorifying In Men – Verses 21-23

- a. Do not glory in the wisdom or in the praises of man – Verse 21; 2 Corinthians 4:5 “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.”
- b. Glory in what we have as believers.
 - i. We have unlimited protection. **Ye are Christ’s** – Verses 22-23
 - ii. We have marvelous possessions. **All things are yours** – Verse 21
 - iii. We have a precious position. **Ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s** – Verse 23; Galatians 3:29 “And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” 1 Corinthians 8:6 “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”

Notes

Lesson 5

THE LEADERS AND THE CHURCH FAMILY

1 Corinthians 4:1-21

In the minds of many people, there is much confusion over the relationship between the pastor and the church members. A correct understanding of this chapter, would help to resolve some of these destructive conflicts which are so harmful to the cause of Christ.

I. THE LEADERS AND THEIR CALLING – Verses 1-5

A. The Leaders and God – Verses 1-2

- a. The God appointed leaders are “ministers of Christ.” – Verse 1. The word “minister” in the Greek, means and under-rower, as the slaves rowed in Roman galley ships. The minister belongs to Christ and not to man; therefore he is an under-rower under Christ, and not man. The minister must be called of God, not by man, or by selfish ambition.
 - i. He must have a life above reproach – Titus 1:7 “For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre.”
 - ii. Pray for him to have boldness – Ephesians 6:19 “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.”
- b. They are “stewards of the mysteries of God.” – Verse 1. A steward was a manager entrusted with the management of his master’s affairs. In the case of the Christian steward, he is entrusted with time, talent, opportunity, the message, and the people to lead. This is a tremendous responsibility. 1 Corinthians 9:16 “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”
- c. Stewards must be faithful – Verse 2. This is a must if one is to please God. There is a sense in which every Christian is a steward, but it is especially true of the pastor. For illustration and background material, read Luke 12:42-49; 16:1-13. 1 Corinthians 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

B. The Leaders and Their Judgment – Verses 3-5

- a. There is the unscriptural judgment by men – Verse 3a. It is strange that so many people think they are qualified to sit in judgment on the God called pastor.
- b. There is the leader’s self-judgment – Verses 3b-4a; 1 Corinthians 2:15

- c. The Lord judges us through His Word – Verse 4b. Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
- d. Man judges God’s servants at the wrong time – Verse 5a. Wait until the right time, and God will be the judge.
- e. God is the one that has the right to judge – Verse 5b. Man is not capable of exercising this judgment. 1 Samuel 16:7 “But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”

II. THE LEADERS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS – Verses 6-13

A. The Leaders Humility – Verses 6-8

- a. They were judging by the wrong standard – Verse 6a
- b. They were judging with the wrong motive – Verse 6b
- c. There is no room for human pride, when looking at self – Verse 7. God in His sovereignty has given unto us all the good we have in us. We need to listen to the words of John the Baptist – John 3:27,30 “John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. He must increase, but I must decrease.”
- d. Paul rightfully used sarcasm – Verse 8; 1 Corinthians 5:6 “Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?” Romans 12:3 “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

B. The Leaders Suffering – Verses 9-12a

- a. While the people in the Church at Corinth were boasting in man, and in self, they were busy criticizing Paul and the apostles. The leaders were down in the arena, being made a spectacle of by the world.
- b. They were made a spectacle to the world – Verse 9; 2 Corinthians 4:8-12. Philippians 1:29-30 “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.”
- c. They were willing to be fools for Christ’s sake – Verse 10; 1 Peter 4:14 “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.
- d. They were suffering for Christ’s sake – Verse 11. Matthew 8:20 “And Jesus saith unto

him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.”

- e. They were working with their hands, while being reviled – Verse 12a; Acts 20:34 “Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. 1 Timothy 4:10 “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

C. The Leaders Attitude – Verses 12b-13

- a. They blessed in the midst of persecution – Verse 12a
- b. They entreated while being defamed – Verse 13; Acts 22:22 “And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live.”

II. THE LEADERS AND THEIR INFLUENCE – Verses 14-21

A. Paul the Father of this Church Family – Verses 14-15

- a. He warned them as sons – Verse 14
- b. He had begotten them through the gospel – Verse 15. Note that he did not claim credit for their salvation. He had begotten them through the gospel. The gospel was the means, Paul was only the messenger. 2 Corinthians 7:3 “I speak not this to condemn you: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you.”

B. Paul Was the Example for the Church Family – Verses 16-17

- a. He pleads with them to follow him – Verse 16. Please note that “be ye” is in the imperative mood in the Greek. This means that it is a command to be obeyed. “Followers” means to mimic or imitate. People in a Bible preaching New Testament Church should follow their pastor. Philippians 3:17 “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”
- b. He sent Timothy to reestablish what he had taught them – Verse 17. A good preacher is blessed to have a faithful helper like Timothy. 1 Thessalonians 3:2 “And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith.”

C. Paul Disciplined the Church Family – Verses 18-21

Every family should practice discipline. The church family is no exception. Every church needs a godly pastor who will discipline the church family with God’s Word.

- a. Some were puffed up at the preacher – Verse 18. They thought that Paul would not be coming back to Corinth. Even if he did, they had made up their minds that they would not fear him. 2 Corinthians 10:8-11 “For though I should boast somewhat

- more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present.”
- b. He promised to come and take care of the problem – Verses 19-21; 2 Corinthians 13:2-4; Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 12:20-21 “For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.”

Notes

Lesson 6

THE PROBLEM OF SIN IN THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

The local church can exist in a world of sin, but it cannot prosper when a world of sin is brought into the church. The Church at Corinth was located in the most sinful city in the Roman Empire, and they had allowed that sin to come into the Church. They were boasting in men, when they should have been concerned about the gross immorality that had come into the Church.

I. SIN IN THE CHURCH OF GOD – Verses 1-2

Please notice that this letter was written “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth...It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you....” 1 Corinthians 1:2a, 5:1. Every Scriptural church is the church of God at that location.

A. Sin in a Person – Verse 1

- a. This terrible sin was commonly reported among the people.
- b. Reasons why Christians can commit sins.
 - i. The believer still has the fleshly nature. If there was no devil, the flesh would run toward sin. Read Romans 7.
 - ii. The believer is still in the world with all its temptations.
 - iii. The devil is still running loose. He is not chained, but is the prince of the power of the air. He has “wiles,” “snares,” and “devices” with which to entrap the child of God.
- c. This man was guilty of a forbidden sin. He wanted his stepmother in a sinful way. Since she is not condemned in this passage, she was most likely not a Christian at all.
- d. This is forbidden in the Bible – Leviticus 20:11 “And the man that lieth with his father’s wife hath uncovered his father’s nakedness: both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.” Deuteronomy 22:30 “A man shall not take his father’s wife, nor discover his father’s skirt.” (Deuteronomy 27:20 “Cursed be he that lieth with his father’s wife; because he uncovereth his father’s skirt.”
- e. Both Absalom and Reuben lost God’s blessing because of this sin. See Genesis 35:22; 1 Chronicles 5:1; and 2 Samuel 16:22.
- f. The Bible warns against fornication – 1 Corinthians 6:18 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” Ephesians 5:3 “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or

covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;" Colossians 3:5 "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:"

- g. If you want to avoid sin, follow 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. Walk with God, avoid the very appearances of evil, seek His face in prayer, read and obey His Word, and you will find the key to victory over sin.

B. Sin in a Church – Verse– Verse 2

- a. They should have mourned over this situation. "Mourned" is the same word that describes grief at a funeral. Toleration of this sin would mean death to the Church at Corinth.
- b. God wants His churches to be doctrinally and morally pure.
- c. Immoral behavior is a big problem in churches today. Most churches are not mourning are doing anything about it.
- d. In Joshua 7, we see how the sin of Achan brought judgment on the entire nation. It works the same way in the church. One drop of contaminated water will contaminate a whole reservoir of pure water, but one drop of pure water will not purify a reservoir of contaminated water. One deadly cancer cell can multiply and destroy the whole body.

II. DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD – Verses 3-8

A. Sin must Be Judged – Verses 3-6

- a. Paul as a spiritual leader had already passed judgment – Verse 3. He did not remain neutral, but boldly condemned this sin.
- b. The Church was commanded to pass judgment – Verses 4-5. Many people seem to think that a church cannot expel members. This verse refutes that idea – 1 Timothy 1:20 "Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."
- c. Church discipline has a threefold purpose.
 - i. To remove the defilement of sin – Verse 7a
 - ii. It will restrain others – 1 Timothy 5:20 "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."
 - iii. It is always hoped that it will bring about the repentance of the sinning member. It did in this case – 2 Corinthians 2:6-7 "Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with overmuch sorrow."

- iv. They are rebuked for not taking this matter seriously – Verse 6. Leaven is a picture of sin. It only takes a little to permeate the whole body of people.

B. Sin must Be Purged – Verses 7-8

- a. Read Galatians 6:1-2 and Matthew 18:15-20. These verses reveal what should be done about sin in the Church.
- b. Purge out, means to remove the offending member – Verse 7
- c. We cannot have fellowship with Christ and fellowship with sin at the same time.

III. SEPARATION IN THE CHURCH OF GOD – Verses 9-11

A. Christians Are Not to Keep Company with Sinners – Verses 9-10

- a. People outside the Church who live this way are to be avoided – Verses 9-10; Ephesians 5:11 “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”
- b. We cannot avoid contact with such people in this world – Verse 10a. We would have to go out of this world to do that, but we can avoid keeping company with them or having fellowship with them.

B. We Are Not to Keep Company with a Brother Who Lives this Way – Verse 11

- a. He may be called a brother, but he is not to be treated as a brother.
- b. We are not to eat with such a person. This would keep us from socializing with them. This would keep us from eating the Lord’s Supper with them.

C. Those Whom the Church Should Judge – Verses 12-13

- a. The Church is to judge those within its membership. The wicked are to be put out of the membership.
- b. God will judge those outside the Church membership.

NOTE: When a person has been disciplined by the Church, then all of the members should avoid them. They should not sympathize with them, or listen to their complaints. 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.” “Note that man” means “to mark him.” This is in the imperative mood, which means that it is a command to be obeyed. “Have no company with him” means that, “he is to be avoided.” This too is in the imperative mood.

When a person has caused trouble in a Church, misbehaved, or disregarded the leadership of the pastor, he is to be avoided. Some leave the Church on their own, but then begin to influence other members. They will call on the telephone, or visit with members, while they drop little hints that they have been wronged. Such people are only trying to get even. Why should any obedient Christian keep company with them?

Lesson 7

LEGAL AND MORAL PROBLEMS IN THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 6:1-20

The Church at Corinth was plagued with many problems. In this chapter Paul deals with them about their legal problems, and about their moral problems.

I. CHRISTIANS AND THEIR LEGAL PROBLEMS – Verses 1-8

Christians in the Church were taking their legal problems between themselves, before the ungodly heathen courts of that land. This is also a problem among Christians of modern times. More and more we hear of such things taking place. We live among people who seek to settle their problems through litigation. The United States has more lawyers and more lawsuits than any other country in the world. In a recent year there were 200,000 civil suits filed in the federal courts, and 12 million suits were filed in the state courts. There are nearly one million lawyers in the nation, and the number is rapidly increasing. It is wrong for Christians to take their legal problems with other Christians to the courts, for the following reasons.

A. It Is Contrary To The Future Destiny Of Believers – Verses 1-3

- a. This invites the ridicule of the unsaved – Verse 1; Matthew 18:15-17 “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” 1 Corinthians 14:33 “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”
- b. The saints shall judge the world and angels – Verses 2-3; Matthew 19:28 “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

B. It Is Contrary To Common Sense – Verses 4-6

- a. The least esteemed in the Church are better qualified to judge in these matters, than the unbelievers in the courts – Verse 4
- b. Wisdom was available to them – Verse 5; James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

- c. It was unbelievable that they would give up their testimony for this – Verse 6; Psalm 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” 1 John 2:9 “He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.” 1 John 3:11 “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”
- C. It Is Contrary To The Spirit Of Christianity – Verses 7-8
- a. They were utterly wrong in going to law – Verse 7a
 - b. They should have been willing to yield their rights – Verse 7b; Romans 12:17-19 “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.” 1 Peter 3:9 “Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.”
 - c. Christians need the spirit of Abraham, in his dealings with Lot, and not the spirit of the Corinthian Christians – Verse 8. See Genesis 13:1-11.
 - d. It is a sad thing to see Christians live in such a way that unsaved people have no respect for them.

II. CHRISTIANS AND THEIR MORAL PROBLEMS – Verses 9-20

There are definite reasons why God’s people should not live in immorality and sin. Let us look as some of those reasons.

A. In Salvation We Have Been Cleansed – Verses 9-11

- a. The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God – Verse 9a
- b. People, who live in this list of sins, will not inherit the kingdom of God – Verses 9b-10. Sexual immorality leads the list of sins. The “effeminate” and “abusers of themselves with mankind” refers to homosexual relationships. Lesbians are dealt with in Romans 1:26-27.
- c. The cleansing power of God – Verse 11. Some of these Corinthian Christians had been involved in these sins before their salvation. In salvation they had been “washed.” This is the washing of regeneration, and has nothing to do with baptism. The verb tenses in verse 11, indicate a completed transaction. Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;” John 13:10 “Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.”

B. We Belong To God The Father – Verses 12-14

- a. That which is lawful for us, may not be expedient – Verse 12. Paul is not saying that

the sins of verse 9-10 would be lawful for him. He is rather referring to verse 13 and the question of eating meat and other related problems – 1 Corinthians 9:27 “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

- b. We should not do things that would offend other believers – Verse 13a; 1 Cor. 8:13 “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”
- c. The Christian’s body is not for fornication – Verse 13b; 1 Thessalonians 4:3 “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:”
- d. We are going to be raised from the dead by God – Verse 14

C. We Are A Part Of Christ’s Body – Verses 15-18

- a. The believer, who is joined to the Lord, should not be joined to a sinful person in a sinful act – Verses 15-16; Ephesians 5:30-31 “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.” Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
- b. Since we are joined to the Lord, we should be one in spirit with the Lord – Verse 17
- c. Believers are to flee fornication – Verse 18; Genesis 39:12 “And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.” 2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” Other vices may be conquered by fight, but this only by flight.

D. We Are Indwelt By The Holy Spirit – Verses 19-20

- a. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost – Verse 19. “Your” is plural, but “body” and “temple” are singular. In other words, this verse refers to all the believers in Corinth, but they were all in the one body the Church – 1 Corinthians 12:27 “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” 1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”
- b. We have been bought and paid for. The Holy Spirit was given to glorify Christ – Verse 20; 1 Peter 1:18-19 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” John 16:14 “He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” 1 Corinthians 7:23 “Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.”

- c. The Spirit will not use sinful bodies to glorify and magnify Christ – Verse 20; Philippians 1:20-21 “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” 1 Peter 1:16 “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

CONCLUSION: How can we win the victory over the sins of the flesh?

- By refusing the temptation of sin.
- By daily prayer and communion with God.
- By daily feeding on His Word.
- By daily witnessing to others.

Notes

Lesson 8

THE PROBLEMS WITH MARRIAGE

1 Corinthians 7:1-40

It is evident from the first verse that the Corinthians had inquired of Paul about marriage and the relationship of man and woman. He answers their question, but does not discuss the complete doctrine of marriage. This was an important question in the immoral city of Corinth.

In verses 6,10,12, and 25, Paul is not disclaiming inspiration of that which he wrote. He is here commenting on things that Jesus never taught upon. Where Jesus had taught on that issue, Paul quoted the Lord.

I. SINGLE AND MARRIED LIFE – Verses 1-9

A. Celibacy Is Honorable – Verse 1

There is nothing wrong in remaining single. It is good, if a person can abstain from fornication while remaining single. Some in the Church at Corinth thought that Christians should not get married; others were apparently teaching that every Christian must get married. Paul is not forbidding marriage.

B. Marriage Is Desirable – Verse 2

- a. Marriage is a bulwark against committing fornication. See also 1 Corinthians 6:18.
- b. It is clear that Paul is not forbidding marriage. In another passage, he accuses false prophets of doing that very thing – 1 Timothy 4:3 “Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received....

C. Marriage Brings Mutual Obligations – Verses 3-5

- a. Mutual respect & kindness a necessity in marriage – Verse 3
- b. Their bodies belong to each other, and abstinence can only be practiced through mutual consent – Verse 4
- c. Marriage partners are not to withhold respect and affection from each other – Verse 5a. To do so is to defraud the other party.
- d. A Temporary and mutual agreement is only to be done for religious and spiritual reasons – Verse 5b
- e. If this is not strictly observed, it will open the door for Satan’s temptations – Verse 5c. **NOTE:** If Christian married couples would sit down together and study verses 2-5, and accept it, it would solve many of their marriage problems.

D. The Expediency Of Marriage – Verses 6-9

- a. Paul is not repeating a commandment, but what he is saying is of the Lord – Verse 6
- b. Paul was single and happy, but he knew that not everyone had this gift – Verse 7
- c. He tells the unmarried and widows that it would be good to remain single – Verse 8. This is to be viewed in the light of verses 7,9. He does not discuss divorced people in this passage.
- d. It would be better to marry, than to burn in lust – Verse 9; 1 Timothy 5:14 “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

II. MIXED MARRIAGES CAUSED BY SALVATION – Verses 10-16

Evidently some of the Corinthian Christians thought that since they had been saved, they should separate themselves from an unsaved companion. Paul refutes this idea in this passage.

A. The Christian’s Relationship – Verses 10-11

- a. The saved not to depart from an unsaved companion – Verse 10. To do so, would not be the solution to the marriage problems.
- b. If conditions are so intolerable that separation or divorce is the last resort, the Christian is to remain single – Verse 11
- c. Remember that a saved person is not to marry a lost person – 2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:”

B. The Christian’s Responsibility – Verses 12-16

- a. A Christian should not separate from an unsaved husband or wife – Verses 12-13.
- b. The unbeliever in a marriage is influenced in a spiritual way by the believer – Verse 14; 1 Peter 3:1-4 “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”
- c. The reference to children in verse 14 is this. Salvation does not annul the marriage, if so; this would make the children illegitimate.
- d. If the unbeliever departs, the Christian is not in bondage in such a case – Verse 15. Paul does not give permission to the believer to remarry – Verse 11 “Let her remain unmarried.”
- e. The saved partner may be used to reach their mate – Verse 16

III. ABIDING IN DIFFERENT CALLINGS – Verses 17-24

A. The Principle Stated And Applied – Verses 17-19

- a. A new Christian should continue his vocation and calling, unless it is contrary to the Word of God – Verse 17
- b. A Christian Jew cannot change the fact that he is a Jew – Verses 18-19. Neither should a Christian Gentile seek to become a Jew.

B. The Principle Applied To The Christian Slave – Verses 20-24

- a. A man who is a slave, should not think that when he is saved, he is now set free from slavery – Verse 20
- b. If a slave is saved, he is not to be distressed because of his slavery – Verse 21a
- c. If he has the opportunity to become free, then he is to accept that opportunity – Verse 21b
- d. Remember what Paul said in Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 6:1-2 “Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.”
- e. Onesimus the run a way slave was converted, and then Paul sent him back to his master – Philemon 10-18
- f. A saved slave is free in the Lord – Verse 22
- g. The Lord has bought us with a price, we are not to volunteer to be a slave to man or to the world – Verse 23
- h. While Paul did not condone slavery, he never started a crusade to abolish it – Verse 24. God’s people are called to a higher life.

IV. MARRIED AND UNMARRIED CONTRASTED – Verses 25-38

A. From The Parental Viewpoint – Verses 25-28

- a. In “the present distress” Paul thought it best for the unmarried to remain single – Verse 25-26. The Church at Corinth was going through great distress and it did not seem to be a good time to get married. This is not a rule for every situation.
- b. Both married and single were advised to remain in their present state under these conditions – Verse 27
- c. It would be no sin for these single people to marry, but they would likely have trouble in the flesh – Verse 28

B. From The Worldly Viewpoint – Verses 29-35

- a. Time was short, the cause of Christ must come first – Verses 29-31
- b. An unmarried person should have more time and desire to serve God, than if they were married – Verse 32. This is the ideal, but many singles do not live that way.
- c. The married person may neglect pleasing the Lord, in order to please their mate – Verses 33-34. This did not have to be, if they give themselves to serve God together.
- d. Paul did not mean for his teaching to be a snare, but an aid in serving God – Verse 35

C. From The Circumstantial Viewpoint – Verses 36-38

- a. Fathers are warned not to prevent their daughter, who may be desirous of getting married, from doing so – Verse 36. Her youth may be passing. Certainly the Bible teaching on marriage should be followed. This means that she will not be given in marriage to an unsaved man. We must understand that parents arranged marriage in those days.
- b. If there is no compelling reason to get married, then no marriage should take place – Verse 37
- c. The important thing is to do the will of God – Verse 38

V. MARRIAGE AND REMARRIAGE – Verses 39-40

A. Marriage Is A Lifetime Arrangement – Verse 39a

Marriages are considered to be temporary arrangements in modern thinking. If it doesn't work out, we can get a divorce! Wrong. Marriage is for a life time.

B. Death Does Allow For Remarriage – Verses 39b-40

- a. If the marriage partner dies, remarriage is allowed – Verse 39b. See Romans 7:2-3.
- b. This marriage is to be “only in the Lord.” – Verse 39c. This means that it must be according to the Bible and in the will of God. This should be true of all marriages. There is no place for trial marriages.
- c. Many people would be happier if they remained single – Verse 40. Many people are lonely, but loneliness is to be preferred over a bad marriage.

Lesson 9

THE PROBLEM OF DOUBTFUL THINGS

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The Corinthians had raised the issue of eating things that had been offered in sacrifice to idols. The meat in question, was brought to the heathen temples and offered to their idols, then it was taken to the market place and sold. If a Christian bought some of this meat to eat, was it a sin? If a Christian was invited to the home of another, should he eat the meat if he knows it had previously been offered to an idol? Should he inquire of the host, as to whether the meat had been offered to an idol? This lesson might not seem to be relevant for our day, but it really is. There are many doubtful things today that can be decided on the basis of this chapter. There are two other chapters that deal with this important issue. We would do well to study 1 Corinthians 10:23-33 and Romans 14.

I. CONTRASTING KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE – Verses 1-3

A. The Two Motives Of Life – Verse 1

It was a solemn thing to be a Christian in those days. Idolatrous paganism was touching nearly every home in some way. Meat which had been offered to idols was sold in the public market, and then served at social functions. If Christians were present in these meetings, they had to decide as to whether they would eat meat that had been offered to idols. Paul sets before them two motives that could serve as guides in making a decision in these matters.

- a. All enlightened Christians have “knowledge.” This knowledge was useful, but it could not completely settle the problem.
- b. All should have “charity” (love). Knowledge and love must be in balance, in order to solve this question and many others. Please note that “Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.” Knowledge blows up but love builds up. Knowledge inflates with conceit but love moves with concern. Knowledge is selfish but love is selfless.
- c. This is not to say that knowledge is useless, but it must be in balance with love.

B. Testing The Two Motives – Verses 2-3

- a. The imperfection of knowledge – Verse 2
- b. The perfection of love – Verse 3
- c. There are two things that every person needs to know.
 - i. He needs to know the will of God. It is necessary to know the will of God,

before we can do the will of God.

- ii. He needs to know the word of God. It is impossible to know the will of God without knowing the word of God. Love for God will cause us to want to know both. Love will cause us to want to know the will of God and to do the will of God.

II. CONDUCT REGULATED BY KNOWLEDGE – Verses 4-8

A. The Knowledge Of The Mature Christian – Verses 4-6

- a. The mature Christian understands that there is only one true God. All idols are the inventions of men. Idols have not life and can give no life.
- b. Therefore the mature Christian could eat this meat without any harm being done to his own life.

B. The Knowledge Of The Immature Christian – Verses 7-8

- a. The immature were unable to make this distinction – Verse 7
- b. Food does not affect our relationship to God – Verse 8

III. CONDUCT REGULATED BY LOVE – Verses 9-13

A. Beware Of Becoming A Stumbling block – Verses 9-11

- a. If we use our liberty in the wrong way, it could cause another person to stumble – Galatians 5:13 “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” Romans 14:1-3 “Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.”
- b. We should be careful what we do and where we go – Verse 10. Our testimony of conduct may help or hinder someone. Israel was seduced by going to the wrong place – Numbers 25:2 “And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.”
- c. In other places the Bible enforces the idea that idol temples and food offered to idols should be avoided – Acts 15:28-29 “For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things; That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.” Acts 21:25 “As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.”

Revelation 2:14 “But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”

- d. The awful consequence of being a stumbling block – Verse 11. Paul did not teach that the weak brother would fall from grace and be lost, but he meant that his testimony and life would perish.

B. Beware Of Sinning Against Christ – Verses 12-13

- a. When we hinder a weak brother, we sin against Christ – Verse 12; Matthew 25:40 “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. This principle would hold true whether we are doing a good or bad thing. When Saul was persecuting the Christians, he was persecuting Jesus. And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”
- b. Paul’s testimony presents a pattern of conduct worthy of following. v. 13. The word “flesh” in verse 13 and in Romans 14:21, means “the flesh of a sacrificial animal.” While in verse 8, “meat” means “any food.” Remember that they also offered fruits and vegetables to idols.
- c. A note on idolatry. “Idolatry originally meant the worship of idols, or the worship of false gods by means of idols, but came to mean among the Old Testament Hebrews any worship of false gods, whether by images or otherwise, and finally the worship of Jehovah through visible symbols (Hosea 8:5-6; 10:15); and ultimately in the New Testament idolatry came to mean, not only the giving to any creature or human creation the honor or devotion which belonged to God alone, but the giving to any human desire a precedence over God’s will (1 Corinthians 10:14; Galatians 5:20; Colossians 3:5; 1 Peter 4:3).” — “The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia”

IV. THE APPLICATION FOR US TODAY

A. The Problems Of Our Day.

In our present society we are not faced with the eating of meat that has been offered to idols. If anything however, we face problems more complex. Paul’s guide lines for deciding on the eating of meat offered to idols will also work on most of our problems today.

If you are wondering if a certain habit or act is a sin, take out the word meat in 1 Corinthians 8, and put in the name of your habit or act. Will your habit, amusement, or pleasure be a stumblingblock to someone else? Most people who ask if a certain thing is a sin, in their heart already know the answer. They are hoping that someone will give them an answer that will justify their action.

Let us try the test to smoking, since some people insist that it is alright. (1 Corinthians 8:13) Wherefore, if (smoking) make my brother to offend, I will (smoke no more) while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. Try this same thing on other habits or acts.

B. How To Test Questionable Things.

- a. Will it glorify God? – 1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”
- b. Can it be done for the Lord? – Colossians 3:23 “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”
- c. Can it be done in the name of Jesus? – Colossians 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”
- d. Would it hinder another Christian? – Romans 14:21 “It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak.” 1 Corinthians 10:32 “Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:” 1 Corinthians 8:13 “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”
- e. How about its appearance to others? – 1 Thessalonians 5:22 “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”
- f. Does it involve the wrong company? – 2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”
- g. Does it compromise me? – 1 Corinthians 6:12 “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”
- h. Is it God’s will for me? – James 4:15 “For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”
- i. Am I willing to face it in the judgment? – 2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
- j. Will it defile the temple of the Holy Ghost? – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
- k. If our conduct can pass the above ten tests, we most likely have nothing to fear in what we are doing.

Lesson 10

PASTORS: THEIR SUPPORT AND THEIR LABORS

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

In chapters 8 and 10, Paul deals with Christian liberty. This chapter deals with one aspect of this liberty. Paul had the liberty to accept or reject any financial support offered by them, and he sets out to tell them why in this lesson.

I. THE PREACHER'S RIGHT TO RECEIVE SUPPORT – Verses 1-14

A. The Preacher's Privilege – Verses 1-6

- a. His identity – Verses 1-2. According to verse 3, some of the Corinthians were examining Paul and his ministry. This chapter gives his answer. One of the qualifications for being an apostle was that he must have seen the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul did so on the road to Damascus, when he was saved – 1 Corinthians 15:8 “And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.” Acts 1:21-22 “Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.”
- b. The apostles were used by God to lay the foundation of Church doctrine – Ephesians 2:19-22 “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”
- c. His liberty – Verses 3-6. Paul was not married, but other apostles were. Cephas (Peter) had a wife that must have traveled with him, at least part of the time, according to verse 5. Paul had the power to forbear working, but he did not do so – Verse 6

B. The Preacher's Support – Verses 7-14

This is a question that is often debated. Should a preacher be supported by the Church where he is ministering? Paul says that he has, and he ardently defends it.

- a. He defends it by custom – Verse 7. A soldier is furnished a uniform and equipment, and he is paid a wage. The farmer that plants and tends to the vine has a right to eat of the fruit. The shepherd that cares for the flock has the right

to eat of the flock.

- b. He defends it by the law – Verses 8-11; Deuteronomy 25:4 “Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.”
- c. There have been preachers who have abused this power. Among Godly preachers, there have been for more cases of churches abusing the pastor in financial matters. Those who preach the Word have a right to be supported. Galatians 6:6 “Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.” The word “communicate” means “to give finances to the preacher.” 1 Timothy 5:17-18 “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.”
- d. He defends it by precedent – Verse 12. Other churches did support Paul in mission work – Philippians 4:15-16 “Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.” 2 Corinthians 11:8 “I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.” Apparently, according to verse 12a, other ministers had received financial support from the Church at Corinth.
- e. He defends it by the priesthood – Verse 13. The priest in the Tabernacle and Temple did have their support supplied. See Numbers 18:8-32; Leviticus 6:14-7:36; 27:6-33.
- f. He defends it by the Lord Jesus Christ – Verse 14; Luke 10:7-8 “And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:” Matthew 10:10 “Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.”

II. THE PREACHER’S RIGHT TO REJECT SUPPORT – Verses 15-27

A. The Preacher’s Motives – Verses 15-18

- a. Paul’s motive for teaching these things was not to get money. He was not hinting that they give him money – Verse 15. According to verse 12 and 16, the gospel of Christ was the number one thing for him. Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”
- b. Paul’s passion in preaching the gospel – Verse 16
- c. Paul reward – Verses 17-18

- d. It is sad that the unsaved world believes that preachers and churches are only out for the money. Unfortunately, some religious hucksters are in it for the money.

B. The Preacher's Adaptability – Verses 19-23

Paul was willing to adapt to different classes of men in order to win them to Christ. He did not compromise to do this. He is not talking about adapting to the immorality of others. Nor is he talking about changing the doctrine of God to suit others. Paul was no chameleon—changing his doctrine to fit the crowd he was with. He was willing to adapt to the manners and customs of the people, as long as it did not conflict with God's word.

Jesus constantly adapted his conversation to the different people He was dealing with. He talked to the woman at the well about water, leading on in the conversation to the water of life. He talked to the fisherman about fishing for men. He talked to the farmers about sowing the seed. In each instance he used the topic under discussion to set forth spiritual truths. **This is a great example for every Christian.**

- a. Paul's burden for the Jews – Verses 19-20; Romans 9:1-3 "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:" Romans 10:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."
- b. Paul's burden for the Gentiles – Verse 21. He was called to the Gentiles – Ephesians 3:8 "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;"
- c. Paul's burden for the weak – Verse 22a
- d. The reason for his burden – Verses 22b-23

C. The Preacher's Responsibility – Verses 24-27

- a. Every Christian is in a race – Verses 24-25. Near Corinth the Greek games were conducted. He used this event to teach them Bible truth.
 - i. The object in a race is to win the prize – Verse 24. In the Christian race of service, every runner that is faithful, will receive the prize. Philippians 2:16 "Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain." Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
 - ii. The rules of the race – Verse 25a. A good athlete is "temperate in all things." He is temperate in diet, in activities, etc. So must the Christian be, if he expects to prevail. James 1:12 "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."
 - iii. The goal — to receive the incorruptible crown – Verse 25. In the Grecian games, the winner was usually awarded a garland of flowers for a crown. Of

course they would soon fade. The Christian who is faithful will receive an incorruptible crown that will never fade.

- b. Every Christian should take the contest seriously – Verses 26-27
 - i. The race and the fight, is real and not uncertain – Verse 26
 - ii. Self control must be practiced – Verse 27a. The body must be kept in subjection. “I keep under” literally means “to beat the body black and blue.” It is severe training, as a boxer might discipline himself in severe training.
 - iii. The great peril to be avoided – Verse 27b. The Christian that fails to keep his body under control will become a castaway. The Greek word for “castaway” was used in the Greek games to notify that a certain man was disqualified. It did not mean that he had lost his citizenship, or that he was going to jail. It meant that he was not qualified to compete for the prize. He lost his reward. A Christian “castaway” does not lose his salvation, but he or she is no longer useful to God, and will likely be put on the shelf – 1 Corinthians 3:14-15 “If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” There are many Christians today who are castaways. Some of them are pastors and missionaries. Others are Sunday School teachers, trustees, and deacons. How tragic that so many are losing the prize.

Notes

Lesson 11

THE BELIEVER'S SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

1 Corinthians 10:1-33

This chapter warns the Christian of sin and its awful consequences. Drawing from the experiences of Israel in the Old Testament, Paul presents a powerful warning for New Testament saints. This warning is constantly needed by God's people today.

I. BE RESPONSIBLE IN THE MATTER OF SEPARATION – Verses 1-15

A. Believers Have Been Given Great Blessing – Verses 1-4

- a. We should not be ignorant of God's blessings – Verse 1. Israel had been delivered and so have Christians today, yet that does not guarantee success – 1 Corinthians 5:7-8
- b. They were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea – Verses 1-2. The cloud was a type of the Holy Spirit, and a symbol of the presence and guidance of God. Their passage through the Red Sea, with the cloud above and the water on either side was a type of baptism.
- c. Verse 2 furnishes us with a good argument against the baptismal regeneration theory often proclaimed by the "Church of Christ" and others. "Baptized unto Moses" does not mean that they were baptized into Moses, but rather they were set apart unto Moses as his disciples or followers. "Unto" in verse 2, is the Greek word "eis," and is translated "into" in Romans 6:3, and "for" in Acts 2:38. To build a church and most of its doctrines on the little Greek word "eis" is a very foolish thing. According to Young's Concordance, "eis" is translated the following ways, against 25 times, among 16, at 20, for 91, in 131, into 571, that 30, on 57, to 282, toward 32, unto 208, and upon 25 times.
- d. The meaning of spiritual meat and spiritual drink. The spiritual meat is the manna – Exodus 16:35 "And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years.... The spiritual drink is the water from the rock." Exodus 17:6 "Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel." Numbers 20:8 "Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink."
- e. We as Christians have had even greater privileges – John 6:48-51 "I am that bread of

- life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” John 7:37-38 “In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”
- f. In verses 1 and 2, we have the Old Testament picture of baptism. In verses 3 and 4, we have the Old Testament picture of the Lord’s Supper.
 - g. Remember that this people had already been saved by the blood of the passover lamb, which had been slain down in Egypt. The blood of the passover lamb was a type of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ – John 1:29 “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” The firstborn of each Israelite family in Egypt would have perished without the blood of the lamb. All who are without the blood of Christ will perish.
- B. Believers Have Been Given Great Warnings – Verses 5-15
- a. God overthrew those guilty of sin – Verse 5
 - b. God has given us these examples so that we can escape the same mistakes – Verse 6
 - c. The golden calf, built as an idol, brought judgment – Verse 7; Exodus 32. Whenever we put anything between us and God, it becomes an idol. We can do this with pleasure, some person, possessions, fame, etc.
 - d. Fornication brought judgment – Verse 8; Numbers 25:1-5 “And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel. And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor.”
 - e. Tempting God brought judgment – Verse 9; Number 21:4-6 “And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.” The only cure for this death was the brazen serpent, and Jesus used this as an example of the remedy for sin today. John 3:14-15 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”
 - f. Murmuring against God and His leaders brings judgment – Verse 10; Number 14:2

“And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!” See Number 14:26-29. Numbers 26:65 “For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.”

- g. This presents us with an example not to follow – Verse 11
- h. Let us beware of being over confident of our own power – Verse 12. The “fall” mentioned here is not falling from grace, but rather falling into sin and perhaps becoming a castaway, as in 1 Corinthians 9:27. Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.” What does this have to do with the Corinthians? They were guilty of immorality (1 Corinthians 6), idolatry (1 Corinthians 8:10), and murmuring against God (2 Corinthians 12:20-21).
- i. God’s wonderful promise – Verse 13. Temptation will come to every Christian, but God has promised to limit that temptation to our God given ability to resist, and He will make a way of escape.
- j. Flee from idolatry for it is demonic – Verse 14; Deuteronomy 32:17 “They sacrificed unto devils, not to God.” Psalm 106:37 “Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,”

II. BE RESPONSIBLE AT THE LORD’S TABLE – Verses 16-22

A. The Meaning Of The Lord’s Supper – Verses 16-18

- a. The elements of the Lord’s Supper are symbols of His body and His blood – Verse 16
- b. We are to be in unity as one body when we partake of it – Verse 17
- c. What Israel did was a symbol of what we do – Verse 18

B. The Perversion Of The Lord’s Supper – Verses 19-22

- a. We cannot follow the example of lost people – Verses 19-20
- b. The worship of unsaved people often becomes a sacrifice to devils – Verse 21
- c. Believers, see the danger of provoking the Lord – Verse 22

III. BE RESPONSIBLE IN QUESTIONABLE THINGS – Verses 23-33

Paul dealt with this in chapter 8, which we have already studied. He does approach it from a different angle to some extent. In this passage he deals more with the problem of eating things offered to idols in a private home.

A. We Have A Responsibility To Fellow Christians – Verses 23-30

- a. Although something may be lawful for us, we must consider how it will affect others – Verses 23-24
 - b. When invited into the home of an unbeliever, you need not inquire if the meat was bought in the shambles (meat market or food market), and if it had been offered to an idol – Verses 25-27. Verse 26 is quoted from Psalm 24:1.
 - c. If you are told that it has been offered to an idol, do not eat it – Verses 28-30
- B. We Are Responsible To God And For The Lost – Verses 31-33
- a. The glory of God should be foremost in our minds, in all that we do – Verse 31; Colossians 3:17, 23-24 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”
 - b. We are not to offend others by our conduct – Verse 32. Note that there are three groups in this verse, Jews, Gentiles, and the church of God. They are not the same – Romans 14:13 “Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way.”
 - c. Our purpose is not to please self, but to see others saved – Verse 33.

Notes

Lesson 12

PROBLEMS WITH DISORDER IN WORSHIP

1 Corinthians 11:1-34

I. DISORDER IN THE CHURCH SERVICES – Verses 1-16

A. Paul's Charge To The Church – Verses 1-2

- a. They were to follow Paul – Verse 1; Philippians 3:17 “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.”
- b. They were to keep the ordinances as he had delivered them to the Church – Verse 2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15 “Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.” There are only two ordinances given to the church. They are baptism and the Lord's Supper. The place of baptism and the Lord's Supper is in the Scriptural church, not outside the church.
- c. This does not allow any deviation to suit the traditions of men. These two ordinances cannot be altered to fit human tradition.

B. Paul's Correction Concerning Women And Worship – Verses 3-16

- a. God's order in headship – Verse 3; Ephesians 1:22 “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,” Ephesians 5:22-23 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.”
- b. Men are not to wear a head covering made of cloth or long growth of hair – Verse 4
- c. A woman should have her head covered when she prays or prophesies – Verse 5. She need not wear a cloth covering, because her hair is given to her as a covering. See verse 15.
- d. The place where a woman can pray and prophesy – Verse 5. This would be in private, or in a gathering of women or children. Philip had four daughters that prophesied, but nothing is said about them doing this in the Church – Acts 21:9 “And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.” In fact forbids a woman prophesying in the Church services – 1 Corinthians 14:34 “Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.” 1 Timothy 2:11-12 “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”
- e. “Shorn” means “she has her hair cut very short like a man” – Verse 6. If it was shaven, this was done with a razor. This was a shame, because it was the way of

harlots and slave women – Deuteronomy 21:12 “Then thou shalt bring her home to thine house; and she shall shave her head, and pare her nails;”

- f. Man ought not to cover his head with cloth or long hair, when he prays or prophesies – Verse 7; Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” Genesis 3:16 “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”
- g. The question of headship is settled – Verses 8-10; Genesis 2:18, 21-22 “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”
- h. Men and women are mutually dependent on each other – Verses 11-12
- i. In view of the previous verses concerning headship, it is not proper for a woman to pray with her head uncovered – Verse 13
- j. Nature teaches us that long hair on a man is a shame – Verse 14. Women tend to have more hair, and keep it longer than men. There are many bald headed men, but very few bald headed women. That is nature teaching us. Even if a woman is bald headed, she will never be seen without a wig. Long hair on men is a shame today, just as it was in the days of Paul. Short hair was the style of Greek, Roman, and Jewish men. The one exception to this was the Nazarites among the Jews. Jesus was not a Nazarite. (See tract # B-402 “Did Jesus Wear Long Hair” by E. L. Bynum.) Other men who wore long hair were rebels against God. This was the case with Absalom – 2 Samuel 14:26 “And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year’s end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king’s weight.”
- k. The woman’s hair was given to her for a covering – Verse 15. The word for covering is translated “covering” and “vesture”. It means “a covering thrown around, a wrapper, a mantle, or a veil.”
- l. Verse 16 cannot be used to nullify the previous verses. It is already a settled issue among the churches of Paul’s day. It should still be a settled issue, for God never changes His word.

II. DISORDER & ORDER AT THE LORD’S TABLE – Verses 17-34

A. The Lord’s Supper Turned Into an Unholy Feast – Verses 17-22

- a. They tried to observe the Lord’s Supper while in the midst of deep divisions – Verses

17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:12; 1 Corinthians 3:3

- b. The Lord's Supper isn't to be observed when open heresy is in the Church – Verse 19
 - i. Under those circumstances, it was impossible for them to observe the Lord's Supper – Verse 20
- c. They had turned away from a memorial supper, to a gluttonous, drunken feast – Verse 21. They were selfish in the way they did this, and they were entirely out of God's will. The word "drunken" does not mean that they were using intoxicating wine in the Supper. Rather it means that they were satisfied or full. The word wine is never used to refer to the Lord's Supper. It is always "the cup," "the fruit of the vine," or some other such description.
- d. They are instructed to do their eating and drinking at home, not in the church – Verse 22

B. The Lord's Supper As It Was Meant To Be – Verses 23-26

- a. We look back to the origin of the Supper – Verse 23; Matthew 26:26-29 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."
- b. We look back to the meaning of the unleavened bread – Verse 24. Leaven is a type of sin. This bread represents no sin in His body that was broken for us. We are to do this in remembrance.
- c. We are to look back to the meaning of the cup – Verse 25. This pure fruit (juice) of the vine represents His sinless blood which was shed for us – Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Hebrews 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." 1 Peter 1:18-19 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" 1 John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
- d. In the Supper we look back to His death, and we look forward to His Coming – Verse 26. "As often" seems to exclude a set time. It is to be observed when the Church is ready for it. Many think they have to observe on a set schedule, and end up doing so when they are not ready, as did the Corinthian Church.

C. The Danger Of Wrongfully Observing The Supper – Verses 27-34

- a. The danger of observing the Supper in an unworthy manner – Verse 27. This they were doing, according to verses 17-22. To do so, makes one guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.
- b. The obligation that each person has to examine themselves – Verse 28. This calls for reflection, inspection, and correction. Every Church member should ask:
 - i. “Am I right with God?”
 - ii. “Am I right with the Church?”
 - iii. “Am I right with my fellow Christians?”
- c. The judgment of the Lord will be upon those that observe the Supper unworthily – Verse 29. “Damnation” here means “judgment, or the chastening of the Lord.” See verse 32.
- d. Physical weakness and even death, can be the price that some pay, for wrongfully observing the Lord’s Supper – Verse 30. “Sickly” means “without strength” and “sleep” means “the sleep of death.”
- e. We are to judge ourselves, before taking the Lord’s Supper, so we will not be judged of the Lord – Verse 31
- f. When God does the judging, He will chastise the guilty – Verse 32. See Hebrews 10:26-30; 12:5-11.
- g. The Supper is a very serious religious observance – Verses 33-34. It is not to satisfy ones physical hunger, but to satisfy one’s spiritual needs. If a man is hungry let him eat at home.

Notes

Lesson 13

PROBLEMS WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Chapters 12, 13, and 14 should be studied together, because they are all dealing with the same basic subject. The Church at Corinth was badly confused about the spiritual gifts that had been given to the Church. Paul in these three chapters clears up the confusion.

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY – Verses 1-11

A. The Purpose Of Gifts – Verses 1-3

- a. Ignorance concerning the spiritual gifts – Verse 1. There was great ignorance among the Corinthian Church concerning the gifts. This led to great confusion. This is also a big problem today among Christians. The ignorance of heretical teachers today has been responsible for the spread of much false doctrine concerning the gifts. The modern day Charismatic tongues movement has been responsible for the spread of this ignorance. We must combat these errors with the truth.
- b. Their past ignorance before salvation – Verse 2
- c. The purpose of the spiritual gifts – Verse 3. Without a doubt they were given to glorify and exalt Christ. They were not given to exalt man.

B. The Variety Of Gifts – Verses 4-11

- a. There are different kinds of gifts, but there is one Godhead – Verses 4-7. Note that the trinity is set forth in these verses. The Spirit is the Holy Spirit – Verse 4. The Lord is the Lord Jesus Christ – Verse 5. God is God the Father – Verse 6.
- b. The “word of wisdom” and “the word of knowledge,” were gifts given, enabling them to understand and apply God’s truth to a certain situation – Verse 8
- c. The gift of “faith” was simply to believe that God would do what He said He would do – Verse 9
- d. The “healing” and “miracles” gifts were given as the credentials of God’s servants – Verses 9-10. This gift was temporary and soon passed away – Hebrews 2:1-4 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers

miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

- e. “Prophecy,” “tongues,” and “interpretation of tongues” were temporary gifts that passed away – Verse 10. We shall see this clearly when we study chapter 13. (See our tract # A-319 on Tongues). The word “tongues” simply means “languages of various races of people.” See also Acts 2:4-11.
- f. Not everyone was to have these gifts – Verse 11. The Spirit divided these gifts as He willed. Many people are seeking these gifts in vain, not realizing that they cannot be sought and claimed, but that they are given to whomever the Spirit willed. Most of the gifts no longer exist today.
- g. In Galatians 5:22-23, we find that the “fruit of the Spirit” consists of 9 things. In verses 8-11, we find there are 9 gifts of the Spirit. It does not say that every Christian or even any Christian can possess all of these gifts. Nor does it say that all of these gifts would continue throughout the church age.

II. THE BODY OF CHRIST – Verses 12-31

A. The Identification Of The Body – Verses 12-13

- a. Almost universally, we find that verses 12-31 are misinterpreted by Bible teachers. Many good men have been led into believing in the so-called universal church, by adopting a warped view of 1 Corinthians 12. The “body” in this passage does not refer to a universal church, or a universal body, but to the local Church at Corinth. Any true New Testament Church in any location and in any age is also the “body of Christ.”
- b. 1 Corinthians was written “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth...Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” (1 Corinthians 1:2a, 12:27) The local New Testament Church, (the only kind God has today) is called “the body of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:27) It is called “the house of God.” (1 Timothy 3:15) It is also called “the temple of God.” (1 Corinthians 3:16)
- c. This body of verse 12 is a local body. One in which there is to be no schism – Verse 25. It is one where if one member suffer, all members suffer – Verse 26. This could only be in a local body. It could not happen in a worldwide universal body.
- d. Verse 13 has been made into a difficult verse, but it should not be. “By” the leadership of one Spirit, we are led to submit to water baptism into the local Church, the one body.
 - i. Notice the word “by” in verses 3, 8, and 9. Notice that in each instance “by” means by the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Many difficulties in scripture can be understood by simply looking at the context as to how a word is used.
 - ii. The word “by” in verse 13 is the Greek word “en,” and it is translated various ways in the King James Bible. Some of them are as follows: “in” 1902 times,

“by” 163, “with” 140, “among” 117, “at” 113, “on” 62, and “through” 39 times.

- iii. We do not quote these numbers to indicate that “by” needs to be changed in the KJV. We believe that it should be left exactly as it is, and that the simple interpretation offered in “a” above and that it leads to a correct interpretation.
- iv. The “body” in verse 13 and the “body” in verse 27 are one and the same body. It is the Church at Corinth. See 1 Corinthians 1:2.
- v. The word “baptized” in verse 13 cannot mean “Spirit baptism,” because the bible says that there is one baptism not two – Ephesians 4:4-5 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” There is only one kind of body, one kind of faith, and one kind of baptism. You cannot have water baptism and Spirit baptism, because the Bible says there is only one baptism and not two.

B. The Importance Of Each Member Of The Body – Verses 14-27

- a. The “body” in these verses is the local church. Each member constitutes a different “member” or part of the body. Each human body is made up of different parts, such as feet, hands, head, etc. So is the church body in the same manner. Not all members are the same, because they were never meant to be the same.
- b. Paul explains that just as each part of the human body is needed by the individual; even so each member has a part to play in the New Testament Church.
- c. The Greek word for “body” is “soma.” It always refers to something that is local, visible, and assembled. It never refers to something universal or invisible. It is found some 146 times in the New Testament. (For examples, see Matthew 5:29; Mark 15:45; John 2:21; and 1 Corinthians 5:3).
- d. Verse 25 would have to be talking about something local and assembled. There should be no schism (division) in the local church.
- e. If the “body” or “church” is universal and worldwide, how could all members suffer, when one member suffered – Verse 26. I wouldn’t know about the suffering of a Chinese or African Christian, but we do know when someone in our church suffers.
- f. Each one of the members of the Church at Corinth was an individual member of that body of Christ – Verse 27. The church and the body are the same.

C. The Gifts Of The Spirit In The Body – Verses 28-31

- a. God is Sovereign, therefore he places each worker in the church – Verse 28
- b. Notice the offices and gifts mentioned in verse 28
 - i. Apostles, there are no apostles today.
 - ii. Prophecy is complete, there are no prophets today.

- iii. Teachers teach the word of God, they still exist today.
 - iv. Miracles and gifts of healing are no longer need, so no one has the gift of miracles and healing today. However, God still answers the prayers of the saints for healing, according to His will.
 - v. Helps and governments has to do with the guiding of the local church. God still provides leadership today.
 - vi. The gift of tongues no longer exist, as we shall see in chapter 13.
- c. The answer to each one of the questions in verses 29 and 30 are the same. It is NO!
 - d. In verse 31, we have the connecting link to chapter 13.
 - e. Please note that tongues is the last gift mentioned, because it is the least important of all the gifts – Verse 28. Yet, it was the most sought after in the Church at Corinth. Remember that this was the most worldly Church in all of Paul’s epistles. Even though the gift of tongues does not exist today, it is the most sought after gift among the Charismatics.

Notes

Lesson 14

THE PERMANENT AND THE TEMPORARY GIFTS

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

The Church at Corinth needed a great deal of correction concerning spiritual gifts. In chapters 12, 13, and 14, Paul makes it quite clear that they had gone to seed on tongues and other spiritual gifts. We find in the latter part of chapter 12, that tongues is at the bottom of the list, as far as spiritual gifts are concerned. These three chapters present a devastating broadside to the modern tongues movement and the healing racketeers.

I. THE DESIRABILITY OF LOVE – Verses 1-7

Chapter thirteen is one of the great chapters in the Bible on the subject of love. We need to understand the Bible teaching on love, in contrast to the modern usage of the word love.

A. The Definition Of Love.

- a. Four important Greek words translated love. (a) “Philanthropia,” meaning love for mankind. (b) “Philadelphia,” meaning love for brethren. (c) “Phileo,” meaning love for a friend. (d) “Agape,” and “agapao” mean God’s love for us and our love for God. This is the Greek word found in 1 Corinthians 13, and also in John 3:16. Here we see the intensification of love, first for mankind, then for brethren, then for the friend, and now for God.
- b. “Agape,” and “agapao” are translated “love” 221 times. (Agape is the noun form, while agapao is the verb form.) “Agape,” is also translated “charity” some 27 times. This does not mean that it is translated the wrong way in any of these instances in the KJV. It only helps us to understand the meaning of the Greek words better. If we look up the meaning of “charity” in the Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary, we find that it begins with a very good definition of charity. Webster says, “charity, love; benevolence, affection.” In popular usage today, it has been watered down in its meaning.
- c. The ungodly Greeks used the word “EROS,” for love. It is the name of the god of love, the son of Aphrodite. This word is found in classical Greek and speaks of the love between the sexes such as the love of sweethearts and husbands and wives. The word “EROS,” however is not found in the Bible. The reason is that its contemporary mythological use was degrading and corrupting. It was voluptuous and sensual, hence the Holy Spirit forbade its use in the Scripture where it would have been out of place and greatly misunderstood. In its place is found the word “agape,” translated “charity,” in 1 Corinthians 13, and “love,” in many other places. Agape was not used in classical Greek. God chose a new word to describe the

highest type of love known to man. In the unsaved world love is used as eros today, which of course is wrong.

B. The Preeminence Of Love – Verses 1-3

Love is a select quality of life. Even though we may possess gifts, we must be possessed of love.

- a. Seven things that love takes precedence and preference over. (a) Eloquence – Verse 1. Though we might speak with the tongues of men and angels, if we have not charity (love) we are nothing but a noise. (1 Timothy 1:5) Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: (b) Prophecy – Verse 2 (c) Mysteries – Verse 2 (d) Knowledge – Verse 2 (e) Faith – Verse 2. The faith mentioned, is not the faith of salvation, but the faith of works, doing, etc. (f) Philanthropy – Verse 3. Giving away all of your possessions to feed the poor, without love is nothing. (g) Martyrdom – Verse 3. Martyrdom may be endured because of fanaticism (David Koresh and his followers at Waco). Martyrdom through love may be great, but without love it is nothing.
- b. Five things the Bible teaches us about love. (a) We are to speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (b) We are taught to love one another. (1 Thessalonians 4:9) But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. (c) God taught us to love by sending His Son. (1 John 4:19) We love him, because he first loved us. (d) We are commanded to love one another – John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (e) The love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost – Romans 5:5 “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

C. The Characteristics Of Love – Verses 4-7

- a. Love is edifying – 1 Corinthians 8:1 “Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.”
- b. The purpose of spiritual gifts was edification. See 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:3, 5, 12, 16.
- c. There are 14 characteristics of love in verses 4-7. (1) Love “suffereth long” = patience. (2) Love “is kind” = kindness. (3) Love “envieth not” = generosity. (4) Love “vaunteth not...not puffed up” = humility. (5) Love “doth not behave itself unseemly” = courtesy. True love behaves itself. (6) Love “seeketh not her own” = unselfishness. (7) Love “is not easily provoked” = good natured. (8) Love “thinketh” no evil” = charitableness. (9) Love “rejoiceth not in iniquity” = sincerity. (10) Love “rejoiceth in the truth” = goodness and not gossip. (11) Love “beareth all things” = graciousness. (12) Love “believeth all things” = confidence. (13) Love hopeth all things” = assurance. (14) Love “endureth all things” = endurance.

- d. Love covers a multitude of sins – 1 Peter 4:8 “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”
- e. Compare verses 4-7 with Galatians 5:22-23. See how all the characteristics of love show up in the fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

II. THE PERMANENCE OF LOVE – Verses 8-13

A. That Which Passes – Verse 8

- a. **PROPHECIES**, “they shall fail.” The Greek word for “they shall fail,” means “to render idle, inactive, inoperative, no further efficiency, to cause to cease.” He means that the gift of prophecy would pass away, because there would be no need for it after the Bible was finished. There are no true prophets today, but we have many false prophets.
- b. **TONGUES**, “they shall cease.” The Greek word for “they shall cease,” means “to cease, to leave off.” The modern tongues movement is as false as a three dollar bill. Tongues were given for a sign, and that sign is not needed since the Bible has been completed (about 96 A.D.)
- c. **KNOWLEDGE**, “it shall vanish away.” The Greek word for “it shall vanish away,” is the same word as “they shall fail.” This knowledge refers to the revelatory knowledge necessary for the completing of the Word of God.

B. That Which Is Perfect – Verses 9-12

- a. “That which is perfect is come,” refers to the Bible, the completed Word of God for man during this dispensation – Verse 10a. “That which is perfect,” comes from a Greek word which means, “brought to its end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness. “Perfect,” does not refer to Christ, as some would have you to believe. (Of course Christ is perfect, but this verse is not referring to Him.) The completed Bible is the only perfect thing that we have in the world today. “This adjective (used as a noun) is in the neuter gender. Therefore, it is a reference to the finished (perfect) or completed Word of God. If it referred to Christ it would be in the masculine gender.” —William G. Bellshaw, Th.M. This interpretation of verse 10 is also confirmed by many other Bible scholars. The Word of God is the perfect law of liberty – James 1:22-25 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into **the perfect law of liberty**, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”
- b. “Then that which is in part shall be done away.” – Verse 10b. Prophecy, tongues, and

knowledge were only in part, and were to be done away with. “Shall be done away,” comes from a Greek word which means to “render idle, unemployed, inactive, inoperative, do away with, abolish.”

- c. Childish things should be put away, (prophecy, tongues, etc.) when the complete Bible was finished – Verse 11. We have a more sure word of prophecy, than we can find in visions, dreams, experiences, etc – 2 Peter 1:16-21
- d. The need for a better mirror – Verse 12. The Corinthians made burnished brass mirrors. They were imperfect and they could only see themselves darkly with those mirrors. Prophecy and tongues only allowed them to see through a glass darkly. When the perfect Word of God was completed, then all Christians would have the opportunity to see clearly.

C. That Which Is Permanent – Verse 13

There are three things that will abide, in contrast to the three things in verse 8 that would cease.

- a. **FAITH** abides because, faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen – Hebrews 11:1
- b. **HOPE** abides because it anticipates the fulfillment of what faith expects. As long as there is true faith, there will be real hope.
- c. **LOVE** abides because it is the very nature of the new life (the life which is from God Himself). It is the last and greatest of the three things that survive time, death, and disaster.

Notes

Lesson 15

THE REGULATION OF TONGUES

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Among other things, the Church at Corinth was guilty of abusing the gift of tongues. They had magnified this gift out of all proportion to its proper place. The modern day tongues movement is even guiltier of perverting Bible doctrine on tongues. In chapter 12, we found that tongues are listed last in the gifts of the Spirit. This shows that it was the least important of all the gifts. In chapter 13, we learn that tongues were only a temporary gift, and that tongues would cease (13:8). They were to cease when the Scriptures were completed. The last book of the Bible was written about 96 A.D., and there has been no Scripture added in the last 1900 years. By this we know that tongues lasted no longer than 96 A.D. Tongues were diminishing in importance in Paul's day. This letter to the Corinthians was written in about 59 A.D. Tongues had not ceased at that time, and that is the reason that Paul did not forbid the Corinthians to speak in tongues. They needed to regulate the use of tongues, and that is what this chapter is all about.

I. TO PROPHECY IS THE BETTER GIFT – Verse 1-14

A. Prophecy Results in Edification – Verses 1-5

- a. Paul advised them to desire the gift of prophesying – Verse 1; 1 Corinthians 13:1; 12:31; Romans 12:6 “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;” 1 Thessalonians 5:20 “Despise not prophesyings.”
- b. Who did they speak to in an unknown tongue? – Verse 2. Tongues were known languages, but they would be unknown to those that did not know them. German is an unknown tongue to me. God of course understands all languages.
- c. Prophecy provided edification, exhortation, and comfort to the hearers – Verse 3. Edify in its various forms is found 19 times in our English Bible, but the Greek word is translated also as builder, build up, and building numerous times. True prophesying would therefore build up and edify a person. It would give them the truth of God's Word, but tongues would not. Ephesians 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying.”
- d. Tongues did not edify and build up the church – Verse 4
- e. Prophecy, giving forth the truths of God's Word, far excels over tongues – Verse 5. Please note that the Corinthians needed interpreters when they spoke in tongues. None were needed at Pentecost, for each heard in his own language. Tongues had changed so that interpreters were needed. Apparently they were speaking in

tongues with no interpretation being given.

B. Tongues Gave a Confusing and Uncertain Sound – Verses 6-14

- a. Tongues would be unprofitable, because they were not producing revelation, knowledge, or doctrine – Verse 6; Matthew 13:23 “But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13 “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”
- b. The foolishness of uncertain sounds – Verses 7-9
 - i. Music must make a certain sound, not an uncertain sound, if it is to make any sense – Verse 7
 - ii. The battle trumpet must not make an uncertain sound, or the soldiers will not know whether to advance or retreat – Verse 8
 - iii. In a church service, words should be uttered that can easily be understood, or there will be confusion – Verse 9
- c. Paul is talking about known languages, and not some kind of unscriptural heavenly language – Verse 10
- d. Speaking in tongues will make the hearers think that you are a barbarian – Verse 11
- e. He challenges them to seek to edify the church – Verse 12
- f. He calls for interpretation of all unknown tongues – Verse 13
- g. He discourages any attempt to pray in tongues – Verse 14

II. PROPER UNDERSTANDING DEMANDED – Verses 15-22

A. The Preferred Method of Communicating the Truth – Verses 15-20

- a. Praying and singing should be with understanding – Verse 15
- b. Who can give thanks for the message, if it cannot be understood – Verses 16-17
- c. Five understandable words are better than 10,000 words in an unknown tongue – Verses 18-19
- d. Tongues speaking is childish and a sign of immaturity – Verse 20a
- e. In malice we should be as children – Verse 20b. Children can fight and then in a few minutes all is forgiven and they are playing together. Instead of doing this adult Christians will hold grudges for years. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.” Ephesians 4:30-32 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of

God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

B. Prophetically Tongues Are a Sign of Judgment – Verses 21-22

- a. In the Old Testament God used tongues not as a sign of blessing, but of impending judgment – Verse 21; Genesis 11:7 "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Deuteronomy 28:49 "The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;" Isaiah 28:11-12 "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear." Jeremiah 5:15 "Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say."
1. In each of the above cases tongues were used as a sign of God's displeasure and impending judgment.
2. Even so tongues were a sign to the unbelieving Jews in the New Testament – Verse 22. This judgment reached its climax in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. See Acts 2:15-21, which promises impending judgment, and the tongues they had just heard was a sign of that judgment.

III. PROHIBITIONS IN THE USE OF TONGUES – Verses 23-40

The Corinthians were using tongues for exhibition and not for edification. I have attended a number of meetings where they spoke in some kind of gibberish that they called tongues. I have yet to see them make any effort to conform to the teaching of this chapter. Like the Corinthians, they use it for exhibition and not edification.

A. Tongues Are Not an Instrument of Evangelism – Verses 23-25

- a. Unbelievers are confused by tongues – Verse 23. Tongues were not used to evangelize, even on the day of Pentecost. It was only when Peter preached in a normal manner that the many souls were saved. Acts 2
- b. Prophesying the truth of God did result in salvation – Verses 24-25

B. Interpreters Were to Be Used with Tongues – Verses 26-33

- a. Utter confusion reigned in their services – Verse 26. Some spoke a Psalm, some spoke a doctrine, some spoke a tongue, etc. This was all going on at the same time.
- b. No more than three were to speak in tongues in one service, and there must be an interpreter – Verses 27-28

- c. Two or three prophets might speak in one service, but someone was to judge, that no heresy should be declared – Verses 29-30. Remember that they did not have the completed Bible at this time.
 - d. The purpose of this was that people might learn and be comforted – Verse 31
 - e. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace – Verses 32-33. The modern charismatic movement is full of gibberish, babbling, and confusion.
- C. Women Were Not Permitted to Speak in the Church – Verses 34-35
- a. They were commanded to be silent – Verse 34. The charismatic tongue speaking movement today elevates women to be preachers, and they are prominent in tongues speaking – 1 Corinthians 11:3-7; 1 Timothy 2:11-12 “Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.”
 - b. If they had questions, they were to ask their husbands at home – Verse 35
- D. They Were to Conform to the Word of God – Verses 36-40
- a. The Corinthians were not the exclusive custodians of the truth – Verse 36
 - b. No one could claim to be a prophet or spiritual, if they did not accept what Paul wrote as the Word of God – Verse 37
 - c. Some people are willfully ignorant, and all you can do is let them remain in their ignorance – Verse 38
 - d. They were not to forbid speaking in tongues – Verse 39. Why? Tongues had not ceased at that time, so they could not forbid their use. Now that tongues have ceased, we can certainly forbid the speaking in tongues.
 - e. All things in every church service should be done in decency and in order – Verse 40

Notes

Lesson 16

HIS RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:1-19

This chapter, without a doubt, is the greatest chapter in the Bible on the resurrection. It should be studied carefully and referred to often. In the cities of Athens and Corinth, Paul met head-on the Grecian philosophy of his day. The Grecian philosophers believed in the idea of immortality, but they did not believe in the resurrection of the body. It seems that some of these ideas had filtered into the Church at Corinth, and now Paul sets out to correct their error.

I. THE RESURRECTION IS AN INDISPENSABLE PART OF THE GOSPEL – Verses 1-4

Without the gospel, no man can be saved. Without the resurrection of Christ, we would have no saving gospel to preach; because the bodily resurrection of Christ is an indispensable part of the gospel.

A. Its Declaration – Verse 1

- a. The gospel is a message that Paul declared.
- b. It is the gospel which he preached – 1 Corinthians 2:2 “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”
- c. It is the message that every believer has heard and received.
- d. It is the truth wherein we stand – Galatians 1:6 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:”

B. Its Salvation – Verse 2

- a. The gospel is the one and only message of salvation – Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21 “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
- b. “If ye keep in memory,” does not mean that salvation is conditional, if one is to remain saved. He is not declaring that they were saved just as long as they remembered certain things. He was telling them that their continuance in the faith was the proof of the reality of their life.
- c. If the sinner gives a mere mental assent to the gospel, they believe in vain.

- d. There are four conditions of life described by the word “vain.”
 - i. Vain believing – Verse 2
 - ii. Vain grace – Verse 10
 - iii. Vain preaching – Verse 14
 - iv. Vain faith – Verse 14, 17

C. Its Revelation – Verse 3

- a. It was **ACTUAL** — “Christ died.” Modernistic unbelievers have tried to convince the world that Christ’s death was faked. They say he either fainted, or that he deliberately conspired to make people believe that he died. The Bible teaches that He really died.
- b. It was **SACRIFICIAL** — “for our sins.” Christ was the sacrificial Lamb of God and His death was purposed before the foundation of the world – 2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 1 Peter 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”
- c. It was **SCRIPTURAL** — “according to the Scriptures.” His death is described in Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, and in other Old Testament scriptures. Galatians 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:”

D. Its Completion – Verse 4

- a. Without the resurrection, there would be no gospel to preach – Romans 4:25 “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”
- b. His resurrection is typified and taught in the Old Testament. When Abraham (a type of God the Father) offered his son Isaac (a type of the Lord Jesus Christ) as a burnt offering, he expected God to resurrect him – Genesis 22; Hebrews 11:17-19 “By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” Matthew 12:40 “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

II. INFALLIBLE PROOFS OF HIS RESURRECTION – Verses 5-11

A. He Was Seen by People That Knew Him Well – Verses 5-7

- a. He was seen by the apostles – Verse 5. They knew him better than anyone. They preached His resurrection, even though the Jews despised this doctrine. They would

not give up this truth, even though it meant that they would suffer great persecution for preaching it – Luke 24:34 “Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.” John 20:19 “Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.” Acts 1:3 “To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:”

- b. His resurrection was a bodily and not just spiritually – Luke 24:39-43 “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them.”
- c. This many people would have recognized any attempt to fake His resurrection.
- d. If it had been a conspiracy, this many people could not have kept this secret. Someone would have told the truth.

B. He Was Seen by the Apostle Paul – Verses 8-11

- a. Paul saw Him on the road to Damascus, at the time of his salvation – Verse 8; 1 Corinthians 9:1 “Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?”
- b. This experience forever changed the life of this proud Pharisee – Verses 9-11

III. THE INDISPUTABLE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION – Verses 12-19

It is a serious thing to deny the resurrection. To do so involves:

A. The Denial of Resurrection, Is the Denial of Christ’s Resurrection – Verses 12-13

- a. The two resurrections are tied together. You cannot have one without the other.
- b. It is not incredible that the Creator could raise the dead – Acts 26:8 “Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?” Acts 23:8 “For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.” Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” Hebrews 13:20 “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,”

B. It Is a Denial of the Christian Faith – Verses 14-15

- a. If Christ be not risen then preaching is vain – Verse 14

- b. If Christ be not risen then faith is vain – Verse 14; 1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”
 - c. If Christ be not risen then Paul was a false witness – Verse 15; Acts 4:33 “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.”
- C. It Is a Denial of the Efficacy of Salvation – Verses 16-17
- a. Romans 4:25 “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” Hebrews 10:4 “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” Hebrews 10:12 “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” 1 Peter 1:21 “Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”
- D. It Is a Denial of Hope for the Dead – Verses 18-19
- a. If Christ be not raised, then all of the dead in Christ have perished forever – Verse 18. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”
 - b. If Christ be not raised, then we are of all men most miserable – Verse 19; 2 Timothy 1:12 “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” 1 Peter 1:21 “Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”

Notes

Lesson 17

OUR RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:20-58

In our last lesson, we studied about the infallible proofs of the resurrection of Christ. We also found that the resurrection of Christ is of supreme importance to the Christian. Without His resurrection, “we are of all men most miserable.” – Verse 19. In our lesson today, we learn of the resurrection of the believers, and how it is tied to His resurrection.

I. THE ORDER OF THE RESURRECTION – Verses 20-28

A. Christ The Firstfruits of The Resurrection – Verses 20,23

- a. Christ is now risen – Verse 20. This is the triumphant declaration, after declaring the terrible consequences of a dead Christ – Verses 12-19
- b. Christ is the firstfruits of the resurrection – Verse 20. Every Jew knew what the “firstfruits” were. Leviticus 23:9-14 “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.” This was the farmer’s first sheaf of ripened grain presented to the Lord as the pledge of the ingathering of the whole harvest. On the first day of the feast of firstfruits, selected delegates marked out the spot in the grain field from which the sheaf would be cut. On the second day the sheaf was cut and brought into the sanctuary. On the third day, corresponding to the day of Christ’s resurrection, this sheaf was presented to the Lord as a pledge, sample or guarantee that the remainder of the harvest would be brought in.
- c. According to this previous type, the present fact is that Christ, as the firstfruits was raised from the dead. He is the pledge and guarantee that all Christians will be raised from the dead. The harvest will be completed.

B. Christ the Second Adam – Verses 21-22

- a. The first Adam brought death – Verse 21-22; Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”
 - b. Christ the second Adam brought life and resurrection – Verses 21, 22. There is no general resurrection. The word “order” in verse 23, originally referred to military rank. The first resurrection described in this chapter and in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 will only be composed of saved people. The resurrection of the unsaved will not take place until over 1,000 years later – Revelation 20:11-15
- C. Christ Will Bring in the Kingdom – Verses 24-28
- a. Christ produced the resurrection for the believer, and he must produce the kingdom for the believer. Man can never produce the kingdom.
 - b. When He comes to the earth to judge, He will take control of the earth for a thousand years – Revelation 20:1-6
 - c. At the end of the thousand year reign, there will be a rebellion against Christ, which will be put down, then the kingdom will be delivered up to the Father – Revelation 20:7-10 “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

II. THE METHOD OF THE RESURRECTION – Verses 35-48

The Greek philosophers believed that the resurrection of the human body was impossible. Paul proved them wrong. False teachers say that the resurrection is only spiritual, and that there will be no bodies for the Saints. This passage refutes this false doctrine.

- A. The Example of Seeds – Verses 35-38
- a. Seeds are sown at planting time, and another plant comes up as a result. The seed dies, but that is not the end of the matter. A plant emerges from the seed. Even so, our bodies are planted back to the earth, but in the resurrection, the new life shall come forth.
 - b. Jesus used this same analogy. See John 12:23-28. John 12:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”
 - c. The bodies we have now are suited for earth. Our resurrection body will make us suited for heaven, for we shall be like Him – 1 John 3:2 “Beloved, now are we the

sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." He was able to go through locked doors, and move quickly from place to place, yet He could eat food and be touched.

B. The Example of Flesh and Heavenly Bodies – Verses 39-41

- a. The flesh of man and the flesh of different kinds of animals are different – Verse 39. God made each one distinctly different. The chromo-somes are different for each species; therefore the different kinds cannot mix. So the resurrection body will be distinctly different.
- b. Each one of the heavenly bodies are distinctly different, because they were created that way by God – Verses 40-41. It will be so for us, in the resurrection.

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE RESURRECTION – Verses 29-34, 49-58

A. It Will Vindicate Our Christian Faith – Verses 29-34

- a. It will vindicate our evangelism – Verse 29. "Baptized for the dead," does not mean proxy baptism as practiced by the Mormons. When a person is baptized and take their place in the Church, they are filling the ranks that have been left vacant by people who died.
- b. It will vindicate our suffering – Verses 30-32. Paul suffered as a Christian, and so have many others. Why go through all of this, if there is no resurrection of the dead? In the resurrection we shall be happy for the little suffering that we endured. See 2 Corinthians 4:8-11; 11:23-28.
- c. It will vindicate our separation from sin – Verses 33-34. We are called to live a holy life for Him. It may be a struggle today, but we will be glad in the resurrection. See 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. If we fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, we corrupt God's temple – Ephesians 5:6-17

B. It Will Deliver Us from the Corruption of Death – Verses 49-57

- a. We shall receive a heavenly image – Verses 49-50. Our earthly image with all of its weaknesses will be a thing of the past. Our present flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. It will be changed in the resurrection.
- b. We shall receive an incorruptible body – Verses 51-53. This will happen suddenly when the trumpet sounds at His coming in the air. The sleep of death that the body has been experiencing in the grave will be broken. Our body, soul, and spirit shall be reunited in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Then immortality will be a reality.
- c. We shall be given a complete victory over death – Verses 54-57. Please note that the word victory is found three times in these verses. There will be victory over death, victory over the grave, and victory over sin.

C. It Gives Us a Reason to Be Stedfast in the Faith – Verse 58

- a. The resurrection forms the basis for Paul's plea. When he uses "therefore," he is looking back to what he has just declared in this chapter.
- b. His commands three things for believers, in relationship to the work of the Lord. "Be

- ye,” is in the imperative mood, which means that it is a definite command.
- i. He commands them to be stedfast. “Stedfast,” means “to be settled and firm.” Too many professing Christians are bedfast and not stedfast.
 - ii. He commands them to be unmovable. “Unmovable,” means “not to be moved from its place, firmly persistent.”
 - iii. He commands them to be abounding in the work of the Lord. “Abounding,” means “to exceed a fixed number, to be overflowing.” It is used of a flower going from a bud to a full bloom.
- c. His conclusion and his command are based upon the resurrection “...forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Notes

Lesson 18

STEWARDSHIP AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE

1 Corinthians 16:1-24

In Chapter 15, we find the subject of the resurrection is discussed at length. In the last verse of that chapter, Paul sets forth the motive for Christian service – 1 Corinthians 15:58. Then without a period or comma (in the Greek manuscripts), he launches out in a discussion of the collection. Paul knew that the collections are a part of our Christian service.

I. STEWARDSHIP AND MONEY – Verses 1-4

A. The Giving Of Money – Verses 1-2

- a. Notice that our giving is in a collection – Verse 1. The Christians at Jerusalem were going through the fires of persecution. Most of them had lost their property, businesses and jobs. Now Paul is encouraging the Corinthian Church to join in with the Galatians in giving relief to the Saints. Every collection should have a purpose. The principles that are set forth in these verses would apply to any Scriptural collection. It would certainly apply to Faith Promise Missions Giving.
- b. For one thing the Gentiles owed material help to the Jews in return for the spiritual blessings the Jews had given them – Romans 15:25-27 “But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.”
- c. Notice how we are to give – Verse 2
 - i. **Periodically** – Verse 2. ...upon the first day of the week... The recognition is given here for the first day of the week. This is the day that Jesus rose from the dead, and it is the day that the early church met together for worship.
 - ii. **Personally** – Verse 2 “...let every one of you lay by.” This applied to every member of the Church. It included the rich & the poor, the young & the old.
 - iii. **Place** – Verse 2 “...lay by him in store.” “In store” reminds us of the storehouse principle of giving that is found in the Word of God.
 1. God chose a place in the Old Testament for them to bring their offerings. At first it was the tabernacle, and then later it was the temple. Deuteronomy 12:5-6, 10-11 “But unto the place which the

LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: But when ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and when he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety; Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:" Not any place would do. It had to be God's place. Malachi 3:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

2. In the New Testament, they brought their offering to the Church; because this was the new storehouse – Acts 4:37 "Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet."

iv. **Proportionately** – Verse 2 "...as God hath prospered him. It is clear, that the amount given was to be in direct proportion to the amount received. In the Old Testament, the Jew was commanded to tithe, and to give free will offerings above the tithe. In the New Testament the principle is continued. The early Christians set a worthy example that far exceeded any Old Testament regulation. They forsook all, sold all, sacrificed all, and gave all – Acts 4:37 "Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet."

B. The Proper Distribution Of Money – Verses 3-4

- a. The Church was to approve the distribution of the money – Verses 3-4; Romans 12:17 "Provide things honest in the sight of all men." 2 Corinthians 8:21 "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."
- b. The offering did arrive safely at the proper place – 2 Corinthians 8:18-24

II. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE – Verses 5-12

A. The Visit of Paul – Verses 5-9

- a. He informed them of his plans of travel and ministry.
- b. He planned to travel through Macedonia – Verse 5

- c. He planned to travel on south to Corinth – Verse 6. He desired to winter there. Acts 19:21; 20:1 “After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome. And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.”
 - d. Paul was always seeking open doors where he could be a blessing – Verse 9. God opens the doors. Acts 14:37 “And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.” See 2 Corinthians 2:12. Colossians 4:3 “Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:” Revelation 3:7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;”
- B. The Visit of Other Ministers – Verses 10-12
- a. Timothy would have no reason to fear – Verse 10
 - b. Timothy was in the work of the Lord, as was Paul – Verse 10
 - c. He did not want him to be despised or rejected – Verse 11
 - d. He wanted him to be conducted forth in peace – Verse 11. These verses reveal how important it is to treat ministers in the proper manner. It is a disgrace to persecute, abuse, gossip about, or mistreat one of God’s preachers. 1 Timothy 5:17-19 “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”
 - e. The proposed visit of Apollos at a later date – Verse 12

III. ADMONITIONS FOR SERVICE – Verses 13-24

- A. A Call to Stand Fast in the Faith – Verses 13-14
- a. They are called to be watchful – Verse 13
 - b. They are called to stand fast in the faith. v. 13 3. They are called to be men – Verse 13. He means for them to stand up and be men, or to act in a manly and upright way. At the beginning of this letter, Paul addressed them as babes, now he expects them to be mature men. 1 Corinthians 3:1-2 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.”
 - c. They are called to be strong – Verse 13. **NOTE:** This is a very powerful verse. “Watch

ye,” “stand fast,” and “be strong,” are all in the imperative mood, which means that they are commands to be obeyed. They are not options, which they may choose.

d. They were to do all things in love – Verse 14

B. A Call to Dedicated Service – Verses 15-18

a. The example of the house of Stephanas – Verse 15. They had addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints. They were the first converts in Achaia, and Paul had baptized them himself. 1 Corinthians 1:16 “And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. Many people today are addicted to drugs and many other sinful things, but these people were addicted to ministering to the saints.”

b. Paul calls upon the Corinthian believers to submit to these people who were such good examples – Verse 16

c. Stephanas and Fortunatus supplied the spiritual things that the Church at Corinth lacked – Verse 17

d. They refreshed both Paul and the Corinthians – Verse 18; Proverbs 25:25 “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.” Romans 15:32 “That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.” 2 Timothy 1:16 “The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:”

C. Concluding Salutations – Verses 19-24

a. The salutation of the churches – Verses 19-20

b. The salutation of Paul – Verses 21-24

i. A warning – Verse 22. “Anathema” means accursed. “Maranatha” means “the Lord cometh.” That will be an awful day to face God unprepared. Those who love not the Lord Jesus Christ are not saved.

ii. A benediction – Verse 23.

iii. An affection – Verse 24

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