

COMMENTARY

I CORINTHIANS 1:

vs. 1- 9:

Paul was called by Jesus Christ, on the road to Damascus, to be an apostle (an apostle was one who had seen: Jesus' baptism by John up to the time that He ascended to Heaven). Sosthenes was the one who wrote down what Paul spoke.

Paul expresses that he is writing to the sanctified (those set apart by God), who have been called to live holy lives. He extends his customary greeting, asking for God's grace and peace to be given to his audience.

He tells the Corinthians of his thankfulness that God had given them every spiritual gift to build up the Church (through evangelism and building up each other) until Jesus returned. God is faithful and will help the Christians of Corinth to remain faithful to Him until the end, so that they might take part in Christ's eternal kingdom.

vs. 10-17:

Paul had heard that the Corinthian Church was experiencing division. Various groups were following different leaders and it was tearing the Church apart. Paul reminds them that the only one that they should be following is Jesus Christ! If they all follow Jesus, they will be united and able to work together.

Paul reminds them of his ministry there. He had baptized a handful, but his work was to preach the good news of Jesus. As Paul allowed God to speak through him, the message of Jesus' death on the cross was made forcefully clear to the hearers.

vs. 18-31:

Paul continues on and contrasts the way that man works and God's way. Man looks at the message of Jesus and His death on the cross; and to man's way of thinking it seems meaningless and foolish. Yet, to those who see what God has done through it; the message is incredibly powerful (cleanses from sin and gives eternal life) and meaningful!!

The "wise" and "learned" miss out on the simple message of Christ. Those who look for miracles and those who look for great insight; also miss out on precious simplicity of God's salvation for man! All their efforts in life prove trivial and meaningless. They create more questions to be solved. God has provided purpose and Jesus is **THE ANSWER!**

Even if God had weakness or foolishness, it would still be far greater than anything that man could ever muster. In Jesus, through God's plan, we can enjoy goodness, purity and the assurance of eternal life. Man can't match it! That's why God alone is worthy of all the glory and honor and He alone is worth boasting about!!

COMMENTARY

I CORINTHIANS 2:

vs. 1-5:

Paul (even though he was a leading scholar of his day and had been well schooled and a persuasive leader in the past) testifies that even when he came, it was the wisdom of God that he depended on to reach people for Christ. He alone was not capable of reaching people for he was afraid and weak. When people accepted the message, it was because they believed God and in His power; not in Paul!

vs. 6-16:

The wisdom that Christians share, can only be truly appreciated by fellow Christians. They alone have God's Spirit which helps us to understand God's will and message. The world, without God's Spirit, fails to understand these things; and to him they seem foolish and not worth the time and effort that it would really take. Such men

reject the message of Christians and try to deny it's teachings!

Christians, through God's wisdom, can determine what is truly right and what is truly wrong. We do not teach what we think, rather what God declares and has revealed! Through God's Spirit, which indwells all Christians, WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST as we seek to do His will!

I CORINTHIANS 3:

vs. 1-23:

Now that Paul has dealt with the fact that the message of Christians comes from the Almighty God and is not some made up story by a group of scholars, he returns to the need for unity and co-operation in the Church.

He accuses the Christians of Corinth of being worldly for they are bickering and fighting just like worldly people would. They were debating as to which leaders in the Church were the best and claimed to be followers of these various men.

Paul makes it clear that each of these leaders was just doing his job, which was just a part of the entire project. In the final analysis, it is God who was building up the Church and who was the reason that evangelism took place! God, alone, is the only one who deserves our allegiance and praise; men are just doing their respective jobs and that's it.

Paul reminds the Corinthians that the basis of the Church was initially Jesus Christ and His teachings. This is what Paul taught and it was sufficient to stand the test of time and bear the burden of peoples lives. He warns them that if they try to build up the Church, their work will be examined by God and if it does not prove to have eternal significance (those evangelized and those you tried to build up fail to take hold and last) your reward will be reduced (in some manner not understood by us at this time); but you will still inherit eternal life and dwell forever with God!

Paul reminds the Corinthians that the body becomes the dwelling place of God and is His temple. It must be cared for with extreme care and not abused in any manner.

Finally, Paul reminds them to trust in the wisdom that comes from God!

COMMENTARY:

I CORINTHIANS 4:

vs. 1-21:

Paul seeks to firmly establish his credentials as a servant of Jesus Christ who has been faithful to God's message and doing God's will! Even if there are those who would question Paul's message, Paul is confident that God will in the end, vindicate him.

Paul and Apollos were not responsible for the division; rather it was people who had gone beyond God's message and took pride in their additions. He warns them that they have nothing to be proud about; for the value of their message is something that was given to them, not something they created.

Paul contrasts the life of the false teachers in Corinth (their rich and easy life) with the life of the true teachers, the apostles!

Those who are true leaders, are being persecuted and harassed.

Paul warns them to be true to God's message, even as he has been. They are to stop their arrogance and pride and be the Christians that God called them to be (Paul was sending Timothy to remind them how to live).

He would return, if it was God's will; and then they would see which ones (the false teacher or Paul) had God's power at work in their life. If they changed, Paul could come with a gentle spirit and in love; otherwise, he would come to discipline and correct.

I CORINTHIANS 5:

vs. 1-13:

Incest had taken place with one of the members of the Corinthians Church. The Church was proud of the fact that such a person was allowed to continue worshipping with them under these circumstances. It was part of the "new morality" of the day.

Paul is outraged and recommends turning this one back over to Satan and no longer fellowshiping with him. Maybe he will then realize the severity of his sin and repent.

Paul further warns them that if sin is allowed to go unchecked in the Church, then the Church will become full of constantly sinning people! Paul reminds us that Jesus was sacrificed to cleanse us from sin and that we should no longer partake of sin.

He had instructed them not to associate with sinners and now clarifies it: they are not to associate with **CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE NOT TURNED THEIR BACK ON SIN!** We are to correct and rebuke one another in a spirit of love so that we might be found acceptable in God's sight. We are not, however, to condemn the non-Christian; that is up to God!

STUDY GUIDE

I CORINTHIANS 1

1. Who was Paul writing to?
 2. In what, had the Corinthians been enriched?
 3. Why will Jesus keep His people strong?
 4. Why did Paul want all the Christians to agree?
 5. Who were the different ones, that the Corinthians were following?
 6. What is the message of the cross to: the perishing and to the saved?
 7. What will God destroy, and what will He frustrate?
 8. What do the Jews and what do the Gentiles, look for and demand?
 9. What is wiser than man's wisdom and stronger than man's strength?
 10. What did God choose to shame the wise and the strong?
 11. Why did God choose the lowly things to nullify the things that are?
 12. What should the one who boasts, boast about?
- BONUS:
1. What causes divisions in Churches today?
 2. What do people today expect from "religion" and what are they looking for in life?
 3. What can we boast about, regarding God?

STUDY GUIDE

I CORINTHIANS 2:

1. What had Paul resolve to know while with them?
2. How did Paul come to them?
3. Why did Paul's preaching come with a demonstration of the Spirit's power?
4. What wisdom did Paul speak of?
5. How did God reveal His plans to man?
6. Who alone knows the thoughts of God?
7. Why have we received the Spirit of God?
8. What did the Spirit teach Paul to express, and how did he express it?
9. What are the things of the Spirit, to the one without the Spirit?
10. What does the spiritual man make judgements about?
11. Whose mind do we have?

BONUS:

1. What does Paul's self-description (vs 2,3) do for us? Explain.
2. What is the importance to you, of being given God's Spirit?
3. Does a Christian have an advantage over the non-Christian, in regard to spiritual things? Explain.

Study Guide

I Corinthians 3

1. How did Paul feel he needed to address the Corinthians?
2. For what reason, did Paul consider them to be worldly?
3. Who made the seed grow?
4. What two people, do different things but have the same purpose?
5. What did Paul say the Corinthians were, in verse 9?
6. What can nobody lay?
7. What will test the quality of each man's work?
8. What determines if one will receive their reward?
9. Where is the temple of God?
10. What will happen to those who destroy God's temple?
11. What does the Lord know to be futile?
12. What are we to boast no longer about?

BONUS

1. How does the Church grow?
2. What are other types of foundation that could be laid?
3. What is the significance of your body being the temple of God?

STUDY GUIDE

I Corinthians 4:

1. What must those who have been given a trust do?
2. Who does Paul say, judges him?
3. What will God expose, when the Lord comes?
4. What did Paul say the Corinthians had become? (see vs 8)
5. What does Paul say that the Corinthians are? (see vs 10)
6. What were the apostles undergoing and how did they react?
7. Why was Paul writing this?
8. Who did Paul encourage them to imitate?
9. What would Timothy remind them of?
10. How had some of them become?
11. What would Paul find out when he arrived?
12. In what 2 ways did Paul say he could come?

BONUS:

1. Of what importance are motives in God's sight?
2. What lessons can we learn from the apostles?
3. How should the power-hungry and arrogant people be handled?

STUDY GUIDE

I Corinthians 5

1. What sin existed among the Church at Corinth?
2. What did Paul suggest should have been done to that person?
3. How did Paul say he was with the Church?
4. Why did Paul suggest to hand the man over to Satan?
5. What of theirs' was not good?
6. Who had been sacrificed?
7. What type of bread were they to celebrate with?
8. Who were they not to associate with? (see vs. 9)
9. If we were not to associate with the immoral, greedy, swindlers, or idolater; what would we have to do?
10. Who was he now writing and telling them not to associate with?
11. Who does Paul imply we should judge?
12. Who will judge those outside?

BONUS:

1. What types of sin do Christians allow in the Church today, that should not be allowed?
2. How would one be "handed over to Satan?"
3. Should Christians judge one another? Explain.