

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #39 – 1 Corinthians

PRAYER:

Read 1 Corinthians 13 as a prayer, ask the Lord to give you the type of Love seen here.

Notes on 1 Corinthians: Most likely Paul writes to the Corinthians during his long stay in Ephesus during his 3rd missionary journey. The year would be around 55 A.D. He had helped to establish the congregation a few years earlier on his 2nd journey. As you read the letter, it is clear that this church had many problems. It is remarkable that Paul keeps an evangelical perspective as he tries to deal with the proud people of Corinth. The epistle shows that congregations can have difficulties but still, with God's help, work through them.

Look at the map along with Lesson 37. Find Corinth. It was an important crossroads of the Roman Empire. It was a center for trade, philosophy and cultic worship of the ancient religions. Most notably, the temple of Aphrodite was located there. The city was widely known for its immorality. With this as the community surrounding the new church, it can be easily seen how their problems could arise.

Most helpful verse: (As you read through 1 Corinthians, find a verse that helps you greatly in your spiritual walk. Write it here:)

Questions on 1 Corinthians:

1. Paul knows he will be writing some harsh words, but in the introduction, he says some encouraging words to the Corinthians. Write down Paul's positive words from 1:1-9.
2. Chapters 1:10-17 and chapter 3 – Paul writes of divisions in the church. How do divisions hurt the ministry of the church?
3. Chapter 1:18-2:16 – What is the Wisdom of God?
4. Chapter 5 – What are Paul's reasons for expelling the man mentioned here? (See also 2 Corinthians as to the result of the expulsion of the man.)
5. Chapter 6:1-11 – Lawsuits are in vogue today. What are principles for Christians to follow in dealing with others?
 - Other Christians:
 - Other people who are not Christians:

6. Chapter 7 – Paul’s words on marriage are interesting especially when we consider his feeling that the Lord was returning soon. What thoughts in the chapter reflect his anticipation of Christ’s return?

7. Read 10:13 – How can this help you in all situations, good and bad?

8. In chapter 11, Paul shows that many problems had developed in the area of worship. List 3 problems and 3 suggestions to help from Paul

Problems

Suggestions

9. Chapter 12, 13, 14 speak of spiritual gifts and their proper use. In 12:14-26 Paul uses the analogy of the human body to get his main point across. What do you understand him telling us about the use of our gifts in the church?

10. Chapter 15 is the most detailed description of the meaning of Christ’s resurrection for us as Christians. The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith. What are some of the ways Paul makes that clear?

11. In 16:1-4 Paul mentions a collection he is supervising to aid the Christians in Jerusalem. More will be mentioned about it in 2 Corinthians 8-9. What principle of Christian giving do you see in 16:2?

Your question on 1 Corinthians...