

Tapes For Growing Christians

Study Guide for
1 CORINTHIANS

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Lesson 1

The Salutation and Section of Thanksgiving & The Mention of Divisions within the Church 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. Spiritual gifts do not make believers spiritual.
2. Baptism is not necessary for salvation.

practical application

Watch out for a sectarian spirit.

questions

1. When was the church at Corinth founded?
2. When did Paul write this epistle to the Corinthian church? What prompted his writing?
3. What good news did Paul commend the Corinthians for?
4. What makes a believer spiritual?
5. What is the purpose of baptism?

answers

1. During Paul's second missionary journey, in the early 50s A.D.
2. Paul wrote to the Corinthians during his third missionary journey, while staying in Ephesus. Some folks from Chloe's family had visited or written to Paul there about quarrels in the church at Corinth.
3. The Corinthian believers were set apart for God. They were enriched with spiritual gifts. They were eagerly awaiting the return of the Lord.
4. A believer is spiritual when the fruit of the Spirit is evident in that believer's life.
5. When you are baptized as a believer you are publicly announcing that you are now a Christian and you have identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

discuss/consider

1. Division and lack of unity was a common problem in the Corinthian church and in many churches today. In fact, many unbelievers say they are turned off to church because of this hypocrisy. How is the feeling of unity among your local body of believers? What can you personally do to promote unity?
2. Spiritual gifts do not make a believer spiritual, but the Fruit of the Spirit does. See Galatians 5:22-23. How is the Fruit of the Spirit seen in your life? How can you grow the fruit this week?

challenge

It is not wrong to enjoy listening to certain preachers or teachers because their ministry has been a help to you. But be careful not to cross the line into factions and divisions.

memorize

*"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God... to the church of God which is at Corinth."
1 Corinthians 1:1-2*

"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you." 1 Corinthians 1:10

"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel." 1 Corinthians 1:17

Lesson 2

Paul Emphasizes to the Corinthians that their Worldly Behavior Shows that they did not Rightly Understand God's Message of the Cross 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. The message of the cross is foolishness and powerless for the unbeliever.
2. The message of the cross is the wisdom and power of God for the believer.

practical applications

1. If you're well off in this world, be glad for the letter "m."
2. Let's boast in the Lord.

questions

1. What do we know about the ancient city of Corinth?
2. Why is unity within the Church so crucial?
3. What is the true message of the cross?
4. Give at least two Old Testament examples of God making foolish the wisdom of the world.
5. When is it okay to boast?

answers

1. Corinth was a pagan society which was characterized by idolatry and immorality. It was a port city and wealthy center of commerce, and the Corinthians were known for their loose living.
2. Divisions and cliques within the Church fracture the visible body of Christ, tear down the testimony of Christ, and ultimately split the Church. Ephesians 4:3 says we must be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
3. The message of the cross, properly understood, is a message of self-renunciation and dying to self and serving others. The Corinthian believers were putting too much emphasis on the wisdom and glory of man.
4. The Tower of Babel and Israel's alliance with Egypt against Assyria.
5. When you are boasting in the Lord!

discuss/consider

1. Discuss how a proper understanding of the message of the cross would eliminate the divisions in the church at Corinth and in any Christian fellowship today.
2. The unbeliever thinks that the message of the cross is foolish and weak – he cannot understand it! Reflect on the message of the cross and salvation. Then take a few minutes to thank God for enlightening your mind to this truth.

challenge

Are you glad that God doesn't say that not any wise, mighty, or noble people are called to salvation? He says not many. Thank Him for calling you.

memorize

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." 1 Corinthians 1:25

"He who glories, let him glory in the LORD." 1 Corinthians 1:31

Lesson 3

The Wisdom of this World is Contrasted with the Wisdom of God and the Natural Man is Contrasted with the Spiritual Man 1 Corinthians 2

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. There is both the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of God.
2. There is both the natural man and the spiritual man.

practical application

Don't say, "It's too deep for me!"

questions

1. What was the root of the problem that was causing disunity and divisions in the Corinthian church?
2. What was Paul's attitude when he went to Corinth?
3. How does James 3:15-17 relate to this passage?
4. What is a "mystery" in the Bible?
5. Who is the "natural man" of 1 Corinthians 2:14?
6. Who is the "spiritual man"?

answers

1. The Corinthian Christians did not properly understand the message of the cross and the ways of God.
2. Paul was determined to present God's truth in God's way – not with impressive eloquence and worldly wisdom, but in a simple, straightforward, humble presentation – depending totally on the Holy Spirit and the power of God for results.
3. It further defines the wisdom of man as earthly, sensual, and demonic, and the wisdom of God as pure, peaceable, and gentle.
4. A biblical mystery is truth that was hidden in Old Testament times, but has not been revealed with the coming of Christ and New Testament times.
5. The natural man is the unbeliever who does not understand the truth that God has revealed.
6. The spiritual man is the mature believer who is led and taught by the Holy Spirit.

discuss/consider

1. The wisdom of God involves God's plan and purpose for mankind and the world, which is centered in Christ. How are we as believers able to understand this wisdom? This is related to the Holy Spirit's actions of revelation, inspiration, and illumination.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 2:9 – the blessings of our inheritance are available to believers now! What are some of these blessings? Discuss how you can experience and enjoy them now.

challenge

If you're a believer you have the Holy Spirit in you to help you understand the things of God. God did not give His Word to hide the truth from you, but to reveal His truth to you! So study what God says and thank the Holy Spirit for His help!

memorize

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God." 1 Corinthians 2:12

"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14

Lesson 4

The Difference Between the Spiritual Christian and the Carnal Christian & A Description of Serving the Lord and His Church for Eternal Reward or for Eternal Loss 1 Corinthians 3

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. A believer can decide to be either spiritual or carnal.
2. A believer can decide to build for either reward or loss.

practical application

Don't deceive yourself.

questions

1. What is the difference between having spiritual gifts and being spiritual?
2. Review the contrast between the spiritual man and the natural man in 1 Corinthians 2.
3. What category did the Corinthian believers fall into when they chose not to be spiritual?
4. Why can believers still be carnal or fleshly?
5. What building is being built in 1 Corinthians 3? What is the foundation for this building?

answers

1. Spiritual gifts are received as part of the package of salvation and are developed with use. Being spiritual is a matter of walking in close fellowship with the Lord and obeying His Word.
2. The natural man is the unbeliever who does not understand God's Word or God's ways. The spiritual man is the mature believer who is led by the Holy Spirit to understand the Word and ways of God.
3. They were in the category of carnal or worldly believers who could only handle the milk of God's word.
4. Because Christians still have the flesh, the sinful nature. We now have new natures in Christ, but until we get our resurrected bodies we also have the sinful nature.
5. The building here is the Church. The foundation of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ.

discuss/consider

1. When a believer today chooses to walk according to the flesh, rather than according to the Spirit, the result will be like that in Corinth. There will be jealousy, strife, and division in the body of Christ. We will be worldly in our thinking and selfish in our ministry. And we will be rewarded according to our actions. How do these thoughts motivate you to walk according to the Spirit?
2. Review the three categories of builders in the Church. We see that these builders correspond to the three categories of people: natural, spiritual, and carnal.

challenge

As you go through this week, think about the building materials that you are using to build upon the foundation of Christ. Will these materials withstand fire? Will you receive reward?

memorize

"So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase." 1 Corinthians 3:7

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11

"If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward." 1 Corinthians 3:14

Lesson 5

Paul Exhorts the Corinthians Not to Judge, Not to Boast about their Spiritual Gifts, and to Remember that the Cross comes Before the Crown 1 Corinthians 4

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. Everything we do will be reviewed, so don't judge now.
2. Everything we have has been received, so don't boast now.
3. Everything we are is being reviled, so don't reign now.

practical application

Can we say as Paul said, "Imitate me"?

questions

1. Why is Paul's epistle to the Corinthians good for us to study today?
2. What does it mean to be a steward of the mysteries of God?
3. What was Paul's point in mentioning Apollos in verse 6?
4. What tone was Paul using when he wrote verses 8-10?
5. Why did Paul want to warn the Corinthians that he was coming to see them?

answers

1. Because the Corinthian church was not a perfect church. No church is perfect, so we can all learn from Paul's exhortations.
2. It means we are responsible to care for the truth that God has revealed to us.
3. Paul used himself and Apollos as examples of the fact that the Corinthian Christians were wrongly picking favorite speakers and leaders and as a result were creating divisions in the church.
4. Paul was using irony to communicate his point that the carnal and worldly Corinthian believers did not have the right viewpoint and lifestyle that Christians should have now.
5. Because as their spiritual father he wanted to come to them with love and gentleness, but because of their arrogance and carnality, he might have to come to them with a rod of discipline if they continued in their worldly ways.

discuss/consider

1. Discuss how focusing on our role as stewards of God's truth can keep us from being judgmental. Remember that the Lord is the Judge, and He will review our actions and motives.
2. "The cross must come before the crown." Discuss what you have learned in this lesson that would contradict the "health and wealth" gospel that says all Christians deserve prosperity in this life. Review 1 Corinthians 4:8-13, and also refer to 2 Timothy 3:12 and 1 John 3:13.

challenge

Do you say to your children or others you influence, "Do as I say, not as I do"? Or can you say as Paul, "Imitate me"?

memorize

"What do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" 1 Corinthians 4:7

"Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat." 1 Corinthians 4:12-13

"Therefore I urge you, imitate me." 1 Corinthians 4:16

Lesson 6

Paul's Instructions to the Corinthian Christians Concerning Discipline for Immorality within the Church 1 Corinthians 5

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Churches should put out of fellowship believers who continue in sin.
2. Christians should not have fellowship with believers who continue in sin.

practical application

Let's clean out the old leaven.

questions

1. What terrible sin was being practiced by one of the Corinthian believers?
2. What was the Corinthian church's response to this sin in their midst?
3. What is the highest form of church discipline?
4. What is the purpose of church discipline?
5. Explain 1 Corinthians 5:5.
6. Should we separate ourselves from all Christians who sin?

answers

1. One of the Christian men was living in incest with his stepmother. Such a sin was prohibited in Old Testament Law as well as Roman law.
2. The Corinthian church was wrongly taking not only a tolerant attitude toward the whole situation, but an arrogant attitude as well.
3. Excommunication, or putting someone out of fellowship with the church
4. Discipline from the church is meant to help the believer, just as good parents discipline their children in love. The ultimate goal of church discipline is always restoration.
5. When a person is put out of fellowship, he is put out into the realm of the world which is Satan's domain. As a result, the sinner reaps what he sows.
6. Of course not, because we all sin. But we should break fellowship with believers who are living a life of flagrant sin, and are unwilling to repent of their sin.

discuss/consider

1. Church discipline is not a popular subject, nor a practice often followed today. Yet the process is biblical and is crucial for the health of the church. Discuss whether your thinking has changed in the area of church discipline.
2. Christians should not have fellowship with believers who continue in sin. The act of breaking fellowship with an unrepentant believer is very difficult, but it is an act of love. Have you ever had cause to make such a decision? What was the result?

challenge

We must clean out of our lives and churches all known sin which will spread like leaven and corrupt the body of Christ. Let's live our lives as holy people.

memorize

"And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you." 1 Corinthians 5:2

"Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?" 1 Corinthians 5:6

"But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner – not even to eat with such a person." 1 Corinthians 5:11

Lesson 7

Believers are Exhorted Not to go to Court with Fellow Believers and to Remember that their Bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 6

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. Because believers will judge the world, they should not sue fellow believers.
2. Because believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit, they should glorify God with their bodies.

practical application

Don't let people say in a negative way, "There goes the temple of the Holy Spirit."

questions

1. What is the theme of 1 Corinthians?
2. What two additional problems of the Corinthian church are addressed in this chapter?
3. When will saints judge the world and angels?
4. Why did Paul mention the fact that Christians will judge the world and judge angels?
5. What does 1 Corinthians 3:16 teach about the temple of the Holy Spirit?
6. What does 1 Corinthians 6:19 teach about the temple of the Holy Spirit?

answers

1. Christian conduct
2. The problem of litigation and the problem of moral laxity
3. Believers will rule with Christ during His thousand year reign on earth. We will be involved with Christ in the judgment of these fallen angels – probably after the millennium.
4. To emphasize how inconsistent it was for Christians to go to court against one another
5. That verse teaches that the temple of the Holy Spirit is the Church, composed of all believers. The Holy Spirit dwells in the midst of the Church which is the body of Christ.
6. This verse teaches that the body of each individual believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

discuss/consider

1. Have you ever been in a legal dispute with another believer? Were you able to settle this dispute within the church without going to court? The Apostle Paul said that it was better to be cheated than to go to court!
2. In this chapter Paul addresses questionable activities that are permissible in of themselves, but may not be good to practice because they might stumble or offend weaker believers, or might even become an addiction. Discuss activities that fall into this category. How have you personally decided to handle these issues?

challenge

In our culture, having a biblical view of sex is not very popular. Yet our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit! What can you do to re-enforce the right view of sex to your kids and family this week?

memorize

“Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” 1 Corinthians 6:3

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Lesson 8

A Number of Biblical Directives Concerning Marriage – Responsibilities and Regulations 1 Corinthians 7:1-16

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. Marriage as God intended it has its responsibilities.

2. Marriage as God intended it has its regulations.

practical application

Remember, you don't have to get married!

questions

1. How does Paul's epistle to the Corinthians change with this chapter?

2. Is it more holy to be celibate or to be married?

3. Is divorce a biblical option in the case of an unhappy marriage?

4. When a husband or wife gets saved should they divorce or separate from the unbelieving spouse?

5. Explain 1 Corinthians 7:14.

answers

1. In the first six chapters Paul wrote about certain problems in the church at Corinth which had been reported to him. Now here in Chapter 7 he begins to answer questions that the Corinthians themselves had raised in a letter that they had written to Paul.
2. Paul wrote that it was good and even commendable to stay single and celibate as he was. However, celibacy is not for everyone. If God did not give you the gift of celibacy, then it is good and proper to get married.
3. No, see 1 Corinthians 7:10-11.
4. Absolutely not. Many times the unbelieving spouse may get saved because of the life and testimony of the believing spouse. If the unbelieving spouse insists on leaving the marriage, the believing spouse should let them leave.
5. God sees a household in which one spouse has become a believer, as sanctified, not saved, but set apart and special because of the Christian influence in the home.

discuss/consider

1. Husbands and wives should not use sex as a weapon or bargaining chip. Discuss why communication breakdowns often lead to problems in the area of sex.
2. A mixed marriage between a believer and unbeliever is certainly a tough situation. How can you encourage someone you know who is in such a marriage?

challenge

It's okay not to be married. In fact, if you can handle it, celibacy is good because in general you can be more efficient and dedicated in serving the Lord, because you are free from family responsibilities.

memorize

*"Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer."
1 Corinthians 7:5*

"For it is better to marry than to burn with passion." 1 Corinthians 7:9

*"And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live with her, let her not divorce him."
1 Corinthians 7:13*

Lesson 9

Further Biblical Directives Concerning Marriage and Celibacy 1 Corinthians 7:17-40

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. Decisions about change should be made in light of one's call.
2. Decisions about marriage should be made in light of one's call.

practical application

If you marry, marry in the Lord.

questions

1. Explain Paul's statements in verses 12 and 25.
2. What is Paul's point in verses 25-35.
3. What "present distress" was Paul speaking of in verse 26?
4. What would be the benefits of remaining unmarried?

answers

1. Paul's point is that in the gospel record when the Lord Jesus spoke about marriage, He did not address these questions.
2. Celibacy is desirable, but not demanded.
3. At that time there was some kind of persecution or difficult circumstances in Corinth that were not conducive for married life.
4. Married life has responsibilities and concerns that could take away from full commitment to the Lord's work. If you remain single you can be more efficient and dedicated in serving the Lord, because you are free from family responsibilities.

discuss/consider

1. In 1 Corinthians 7:17, Paul expanded his directives on marriage into a more general principle: When you become a Christian, start where you are. Don't expect a big change in your circumstances. How has the Lord used your background and experiences to bring about a blessing for you?
2. "Decisions about marriage should be made in light of one's call." Discuss the benefits and disadvantages of remaining single as a Christian.

challenge

It is important not only to marry a Christian, but to marry in the Lord's will. Wait for God's choice!

memorize

"Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters."
1 Corinthians 7:19

"Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called." 1 Corinthians 7:24

"He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord -- how he may please the Lord. But he who is married cares about the things of the world -- how he may please his wife." 1 Corinthians 7:32-33

Lesson 10

The Proper Use of Christian Liberty 1 Corinthians 8

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The right use of Christian liberty involves knowledge and love.
2. The wrong use of Christian liberty involves sin against Christ.

practical application

Don't think "Me first!"

questions

1. What is Christian liberty?
2. What are two possible dangers with Christian liberty?
3. What controversial issue were the Corinthians facing in this chapter?
4. What was Paul's answer to this important question?
5. How does Christian love affect our use of Christian liberty?
6. What is the difference between a weak brother and a legalistic brother?

answers

1. We obtain and experience Christian liberty when we become Christians. We are free from the penalty of sin, free from the Law, and free to enjoy our new life in Christ.
2.
 - We don't stand firm in our Christian liberty. We may slide back into legalism and think we are more spiritual if we keep man-made rules.
 - We let our liberty go to license, thinking we can now sin all we want.
3. Whether to eat meat which was left over from pagan sacrifices.
4. Because of Christian liberty, it was okay to eat the meat, since idols are just wood and stone and the Corinthians knew that they were not real gods.
5. If you love God and are in fellowship with Him, you will love your fellow believers and properly use your Christian liberty. You will not flaunt your Christian liberty and stumble a weaker brother in their Christian growth.
6. A weaker brother has a tender conscience concerning certain things because of lack of knowledge and past experience. A legalist is not a weaker brother, but has a set of rules that he keeps and expects every other Christian to keep.

discuss/consider

1. Although you may not face a decision about eating meat offered to idols, as Christians today we do face many areas of moral indifference. Can you give an example of this and discuss how to properly use your Christian liberty?
2. What should your response be when you have exercised your Christian liberty and inadvertently stumbled a weaker brother?

challenge

An important guideline in exercising your Christian liberty is to put the needs of others before your own. Don't think "Me first!"

memorize

"Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world."

1 Corinthians 8:4

"But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak."

1 Corinthians 8:9

"Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble."

1 Corinthians 8:13

Lesson 11

Paul Shows Why the Financial Support of Christian Workers is Proper and According to Divine Pattern 1 Corinthians 9:1-14

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal point

1. Believers involved in Christian ministry have the right to financial remuneration.

practical application

Be an intelligent donor.

questions

1. What issue does Paul address in the previous chapter, 1 Corinthians 8?
2. How does this chapter relate to Christian liberty?
3. How were some of the Corinthians trying to undermine Paul's authority as an apostle?
4. How is the principle of financial support of the Lord's servants taught in the Old Testament law?
5. Give at least two biblical principles to guide your giving to Christian ministries.

answers

1. Christian liberty. The Corinthians had questions about eating meat which had been offered to pagan idols.
2. Paul gives an illustration from his own life of the principle of giving up one's rights and restricting oneself in the interest of other believers, and for the sake of the Lord and the gospel.
3. They claimed that Paul was not a true apostle because he was not being supported financially by the Corinthian church.
4. Deuteronomy 25:4 gives a principle that is not only for oxen. Also, just as the priests and Levites were supported by the people in the Old Testament, so the Lord's servants today should be supported by the Lord's people.
5.
 - Give to ministries that have been a blessing in your own life.
 - Give to ministries that emphasize the gospel.

discuss/consider

1. Discuss the right that believers in Christian ministry have to financial remuneration. Think of the Christian ministries you are involved in. Do they have a proper attitude toward supporting the workers?

challenge

Are you an intelligent donor?

memorize

"Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit?" 1 Corinthians 9:7

"You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.' Is it oxen God is concerned about?" 1 Corinthians 9:9

"Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel." 1 Corinthians 9:14

Lesson 12

Three Areas of Practice to be a Successful Christian Servant 1 Corinthians 9:15-27

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Christian servants should practice self-denial.
2. Christian servants should practice accommodation.
3. Christian servants should practice self-discipline.

practical application

Let's earn the right to be heard!

questions

1. What was Paul teaching in the first half of Chapter 9?
2. Was Paul receiving financial support from the Corinthians?
3. How were some of the Corinthians trying to undermine Paul's authority as an apostle?
4. Why is Paul committed to preaching the gospel, regardless of whether he receives financial support?
5. What happens when athletes do not practice self-discipline?

answers

1. Christian workers have the right to receive financial remuneration for their service in the Lord's work.
2. No, Paul had given up this right when ministering to the Corinthians, so no questions could be raised as to his true motives for preaching the gospel.
3. They claimed that Paul was not a true apostle because he was not being supported financially by the Corinthian church.
4. Because there will be an eternal reward from the Lord. And he is obligated before the Lord to preach the gospel because this is part of the stewardship that has been entrusted to him.
5. They will not be winners.

discuss/consider

1. Discuss the difference between compromise and accommodation. How can you practice accommodation as you seek to serve others with the gospel?
2. Discuss Paul's illustration of athletes practicing self-discipline. Discuss areas of life in which Christian servants should practice self-discipline.

challenge

When non-believers look at you do they see you practicing self-denial, accommodation, and self-discipline? Have you earned the right to be heard?

memorize

"When I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel." 1 Corinthians 9:18

"I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more." 1 Corinthians 9:19

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." 1 Corinthians 9:24

Lesson 13

The Example of the Children of Israel and their Failings in the Wilderness as a Warning to Christians 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. The events from Egypt to Canaan are a spiritual picture of God's people.
2. The events from Egypt to Canaan are a spiritual warning to God's people.

practical application

Look for the way of escape.

questions

1. Review the teaching on Christian liberty in the last few chapters.
2. How do the Children of Israel fit into the surrounding context?
3. What is a "type"?
4. Why were the manna and water from the rock called "spiritual" food?
5. Why is the account of the Children of Israel a warning for us as believers?

answers

1. In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul began a teaching on the proper use of Christian liberty. As believers, we enjoy certain freedoms in Christ. However Christian liberty does not free us from the moral laws of God and even in non-moral areas we should restrict our Christian liberty so that weaker believers are not stumbled in their growth. In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul gave himself as an example of restricting Christian liberty in the interest of serving the Lord and His people. He showed that serving the Lord and using Christian liberty in the proper way takes a lot of self-denial and self-discipline.
2. Paul uses the Children of Israel and their Wilderness Wandering as a negative example. They did not practice self-denial and self-discipline and were thus disqualified from entering the Promised Land.
3. A type is an Old Testament person, place, thing, or event, which illustrates a New Testament truth.
4. This real food and drink were spiritual because they were pictures of Christ as the living bread from heaven and the living water for our souls.
5. So that we don't make the same mistakes that the Children of Israel made and fall short of the blessings and victories God has for us.

discuss/consider

1. Discuss the Children of Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan. How is their journey a picture of the Christian life?
2. Do you need to heed the warning of the Children of Israel? Are you wandering in the wilderness of Christian experience? Review 1 Corinthians 10:5-12.

challenge

Praise our faithful God – He always provides a way of escape. Memorize the threefold promise of 1 Corinthians 10:13.

memorize

“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition.” 1 Corinthians 10:11

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” 1 Corinthians 10:12

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

Lesson 14

Some Further Considerations Concerning the Proper Use of Christian Liberty 1 Corinthians 10:14-33

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Celebrating the Lord's Supper portrays the unity of the Christian body.
2. Considering the Lord's Body governs the use of Christian liberty.

practical application

Would you go to New Orleans for Mardi Gras?

questions

1. Was it alright for the Corinthian believers to eat food that had been dedicated to idols?
2. How did Paul address the danger of Christian liberty turning into license?
3. Since it was alright to eat meat offered to idols, was it alright to participate in the Greek and Roman feasts and festivals?
4. Explain 1 Corinthians 10:23.

answers

1. Yes, there was plenty of liberty for believers in this area. However, their Christian liberty should be restricted if there was the possibility that a weaker, less mature, Christian might be stumbled and hindered in their Christian growth as a result.
2. Paul taught that the Christian life involves self-restraint, self-denial, and self-discipline. He used himself as a positive example of this and the Children of Israel as a negative example.
3. No, this was idolatry. The food itself was not evil or contaminated, and the idols themselves were only wood and stone. But participating in the pagan feasts and eating there identified the person with the whole idolatrous system, which was demonic.
4. This verse is not saying that any sinful activity is lawful. This is talking about non-moral areas.

discuss/consider

1. When we participate in the Lord's Supper we share in fellowship with each other and with the Lord Himself. What is your attitude towards the Lord's Supper? Do you value this time?
2. Discuss the two guidelines to keep in mind when practicing your Christian liberty. First, we should not stumble weaker fellow believers. Secondly, we should try not to offend anyone- whether it be unbelievers or believers in the Church.

challenge

You will encounter decisions involving your Christian liberty this week. Be aware of them and consider this teaching.

memorize

"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons." 1 Corinthians 10:21

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31

Lesson 15

The Recognition of God's Structure of Authority in the Church 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Recognizing God's structure of authority in the Church brings glory to God.
2. Recognizing God's structure of authority in the Church brings glory to mankind.

practical application

Don't pull the "traditions" of verse 2 out of context.

questions

1. How does 1 Corinthians 11:1 fit into the context?
2. What is God's structure of authority in the Church?
3. Review the symbols practiced in the New Testament church.
4. How does 1 Corinthians 11:8-9 argue against the view that head coverings were strictly cultural?
5. What "traditions" was Paul speaking of in 1 Corinthians 11:2?

answers

1. Verse 1 is really a conclusion of Chapter 10, where Paul was addressing Christian liberty.
2. God the Father to Christ, the Head of the Church, to man, to woman
3. Water used in baptism, bread and wine used in the Lord's Supper, and the head covering used in public worship
4. This argument from Creation transcends cultural. Since this structure was established at Creation, it applies to all cultures.
5. These were the central teachings and doctrines of the Christian faith that Paul had communicated to the Corinthians.

discuss/consider

1. Review the 4 common views on the head covering. Is this your first time to learn this teaching? How will you respond?
 1. The head covering is strictly cultural.
 2. The head covering was a cultural symbol for a transcultural principle.
 3. The head covering is a transcultural symbol for a transcultural principle and the transcultural symbol is the covering of the hair.
 4. The head covering is a transcultural symbol for a transcultural principle and the transcultural symbol is the covering in addition to the hair.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 11:3. It is critical to remember that subordination does not mean inferiority. Christ, the Son of God was subordinate to God the Father, but He was in no way inferior. Likewise within the function and roles of the Church, women are to be subordinate to men. Can you handle this teaching?

challenge

Think about this- angels learn about God's glory and proper submission to authority by watching us! What an important role we have!

memorize

"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

"But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." 1 Corinthians 11:3

"For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels." 1 Corinthians 11:10

Lesson 16

The Corinthian Believers are Rebuked for Certain Abuses of the Lord's Supper 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Treating the Lord's Supper lightly brings dishonor to the Lord.
2. Treating the Lord's Supper lightly brings discipline from the Lord.

practical application

Don't jump to hasty conclusions concerning sick Christians.

questions

1. What is the topic of 1 Corinthians 11?
2. What kind of problems were the Corinthians having with public worship?
3. How did the Corinthians celebrate the Lord's Supper?
4. How were the Corinthians abusing the love feast?
5. Who takes part in the New Covenant?
6. True or False: When a believer unexpectedly dies, it is a punishment from God for sin.

answers

1. Public worship in the church
2. Problems recognizing God's structure of authority in the church and problems celebrating the Lord's Supper
3. In the early church, the Lord's Supper was celebrated in connection with a fellowship meal called the love feast.
4. They were not drawing enough distinction between the love feast and the Lord's Supper and thus they were lowering the important significance of the Lord's Supper. Others were getting drunk at the love feast, not sharing with one another, and not waiting to eat together.
5. The New Covenant was made with Israel (Jeremiah 31), and it will be kept with Israel (Romans 11). The blessings of the New Covenant have been extended to all believers (Hebrews 8).
6. We cannot know for certain, and we should not jump to hasty conclusions.

discuss/consider

1. Praise the Lord that the atoning work of Christ was finished on the cross! The Lord's Supper remembers and proclaims Christ's finished work. Do you celebrate the Lord's Supper regularly? Do you use the opportunity to remember Christ's work for you?
2. Discuss how you should prepare yourself for the Lord's Supper. What does it mean to take communion "in an unworthy manner"?

challenge

Spend some time in reflection and prayer to prepare yourself for taking the Lord's Supper this week.

memorize

"Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me... This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

*"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."
1 Corinthians 11:26*

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup." 1 Corinthians 11:28

Lesson 17

The Proper Use of Spiritual Gifts 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. Spiritual gifts are given in diversity by the One Triune God.
2. Spiritual gifts are given for edification by the sovereign will of God.

practical application

Split your church rather than split your church!

questions

1. Name the 4 key New Testament chapters addressing spiritual gifts.
2. Why are believers given spiritual gifts?
3. How were the Corinthian believers misusing their spiritual gifts?
4. What is the true test of whether a spiritual manifestation is from God or not?
5. List and describe the spiritual gifts mentioned in this section (we will see more later).

answers

1. Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4
2. For the edification, or building up, of the Church, the Body of Christ
3. Some were claiming spiritual authority if they had certain sign gifts and placing more emphasis on these gifts. Because of their pagan background, some Corinthians were confused as to what spiritual manifestations were of God and what were not of God.
4. The test of Jesus – No one speaking by the Holy Spirit will deny that Jesus is fully God and fully man and Lord. See also 1 John 4:2-3.
5.
 - The word of wisdom – insight into divine truth
 - The word of knowledge – the ability to communicate divine truth
 - The gift of faith – an unusual measure of trust in the Lord’s ability to answer prayer and remove obstacles to the ministry and provide for the needs of God’s people
 - The gift of healing – the miraculous power to heal diseases and restore to health
 - The gift of miracles – the ability to exercise power temporarily over natural laws and over evil spiritual powers
 - The gift of prophecy – the ability to receive and communicate a message from God for His people
 - The gift of discerning spirits – special sensitivity to false teaching and false teachers
 - The gift of tongues – the ability to speak the things of God in unlearned, foreign languages
 - The gift of interpretation – the ability to translate the languages of the gift of tongues

discuss/consider

1. Not only are there diversities of gifts, but varieties of ministries as well. Discuss how your spiritual gift can be used in different ways. There are not only diversities of gifts and ministries, but also diversities of working, or activity – the effect of the gifts when they are being used properly. What effects have you seen when you used your spiritual gift?
2. God is sovereign and He decides who gets which spiritual gifts. Have you ever felt prideful or even disappointed with your spiritual gift? Don’t! Trust God and use your gift to build up the church.

challenge

Don’t know what your spiritual gift is? Look over the options, pray about it, and ask others what they think it is. If you are a believer, God has given you at least one spiritual gift.

memorize

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

*“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”
1 Corinthians 12:11*

Lesson 18

The Great Truth of the Church as the Body of Christ with Many Members – All with Different Spiritual Gifts and Functions in the Body 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. There is one body with many members.

2. There is one body with many gifts.

practical application

Don't infect your church with hand, foot, and mouth disease.

questions

1. What truths about spiritual gifts were taught in the first half of 1 Corinthians 12?

2. When do we receive our natural talents? When do we receive our spiritual gifts?

3. When are believers baptized by the Holy Spirit?

4. What are the foundational gifts of the church?

answers

1. There are a diversity of spiritual gifts given by God, but they are all for the edification of the Church. All believers have at least one spiritual gift and it has been determined and given by God's sovereign will on an individual basis.
2. We were born with our natural talents which should be dedicated to the Lord when we become believers. But we were given our spiritual gifts at salvation.
3. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Body of Christ at the time of salvation.
4. Apostles and prophets

discuss/consider

1. Review and discuss the illustrations Paul gives comparing the church with a body. Does your body or local church need to learn some of these truths?
 - vs. 14-16 Every believer is a member with a function that has already been predetermined.
 - vs. 17-19 If the body was just one member it would be dysfunctional and helpless.
 - vs. 20-22 Every member of the body is needed – even the weak and unattractive members.
 - vs. 23-27 Mutual care and respect of the members is expected.

challenge

It can be very damaging to a church if the members are jealous of one another's gifts and try to function outside of their capacity. Use the gift that God has given you and build up your local church!

memorize

"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." 1 Corinthians 12:13

"But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased." 1 Corinthians 12:18

Lesson 19

The Great Love Chapter – The Love of God being Shown by the Members of the Body of Christ for One Another 1 Corinthians 13

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. Love is more important than having spiritual gifts.
2. Love is more important than doing Christian service.

practical application

Let's put away our childish things.

questions

1. How does this chapter fit into the subject of spiritual gifts?
2. How was the Corinthian church like a dysfunctional body?
3. Discuss the various views of 1 Corinthians 13:8-13, specifically addressing the meaning of verse 10.
4. What is agape love?

answers

1. Love is essential for the proper use of spiritual gifts
2. There was jealousy of one another's gift, pride and self-display, the wrong emphasis on certain spiritual gifts, and a despising of the less dramatic gifts.
3.
 - The more traditional view says this refers to the eternal state. At that time there will be no more need for spiritual gifts, and they will cease. Love will continue, because love is eternal.
 - In the other view, the need for the special gifts Paul mentions, prophecy, tongues, and knowledge, would cease when the New Testament was complete. These gifts would not be needed then because the full revelation of God in Scripture would be complete.
4. This Greek word for love means "a determined denial of self in the interest of others." Agape love is more of an act of the will than of the emotions. It is the kind of love that God has shown us (1 John 4:10). Agape love is the kind of love that we are to show others.

discuss/consider

1. Discuss: Love is more important than having a spiritual gift.
2. Agape love is defined by what it does and doesn't do. Read through 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 slowly and examine your heart in reference to your relationship with your spouse, your family, and your fellow believers.

challenge

Where are you in your growth as a Christian? Put away the childish things and be a mature believer who shows agape love.

memorize

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

Lesson 20

The Spiritual Gift of Tongues is Shown to be Not as Important as the Gift of Prophecy for the Edification of the Church 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The gift of prophecy is greater for the church than the gift of tongues.
2. The gift of tongues should be limited in the church, but not condemned.

practical application

It's okay to say "Amen" at church.

questions

1. What is the topic of 1 Corinthians 12-14?
2. What is the best way to find out your spiritual gift?
3. What is the point of 1 Corinthians 12:31 and 14:1?
4. Why is the gift of tongues not as great as the spiritual gift of prophecy?
5. Define the gift of prophecy.
6. Review the limits put on the gift of tongues in the church.

answers

1. The proper use of spiritual gifts.
2. Get involved in Christian service and seek feedback from fellow believers about how your ministry best builds up the body.
3. You should pray for the Lord to raise up individuals in your church that have the spiritual gifts that are of the greatest benefit for the body.
4. Because unless the tongues are interpreted, there is no edification of the body (verse 5).
5. Prophecy is telling forth the truth of God in the language of the people.
6.
 1. The limit of interpretation.
 2. The limit of priorities.
 3. The limit of order.

discuss/consider

1. Review the argument that the gift of prophecy is greater for the church than the gift of tongues. The end result is the edification or building up of the body. This is the goal we should have in mind when we practice our spiritual gifts.
2. Review this teaching on the spiritual gift of tongues. Is it different than what you have heard before? Does it help you have a better understanding of the issue?

challenge

Do you agree with what someone is teaching at church? Go ahead, say, "Amen!"

memorize

"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church." 1 Corinthians 14:4

*"Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel."
1 Corinthians 14:12*

*"Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature."
1 Corinthians 14:20*

Lesson 21

Further Instructions Concerning the Regulation of Spiritual Gifts in the Church Including Specific Instructions Concerning the Role of Women in the Church 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The priesthood of all believers should be practiced in the church today.
2. God's structure of authority should be practiced in the church today.

practical application

Don't pull Galatians 3:28 out of context.

questions

1. Why did Paul need to lay out limits and regulations for the use of spiritual gifts in the church?
2. What limits were given in the first half of this chapter?
3. What additional regulations were given for the gift of tongues?
4. What regulations were given for the gift of prophecy?
5. Explain 1 Corinthians 14:32, "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets."

answers

1. The Corinthian Christians were placing an undue emphasis on the gift of tongues. Not only was there pride and jealousy concerning the gift of tongues, but they were exercising this gift in a disorderly way in the church.
2.
 1. The limit of interpretation
 2. The limit of priorities
 3. The limit of order
3.
 1. At most, only three individuals should speak in tongues at any given worship service.
 2. No more than one person should speak in a tongue at one time.
 3. There must be an interpretation.
4.
 1. At most three prophets should speak at a worship service.
 2. They were also to speak in turn.
 3. One speaker should not monopolize the time, but give way to the other prophets.
5. Both in control and content of the prophecy, the prophet rules what he says. There is no excuse that his spiritual gift went “out of control.” The prophecy should be in line with the Word of God and the way it is delivered should not lead to confusion in the church, but rather peace.

discuss/consider

1. The priesthood of all believers should be practiced in the church today. All believers should be encouraged to use their spiritual gifts in various ministries and opportunities. Does your church encourage this? Are you personally fulfilling your opportunity for priesthood?
2. 1 Corinthians 11, 1 Corinthians 14, and 2 Timothy 2 all deal with the role of women in the church. While there is some room for discussion with these passages, the structure of authority with male leadership in the church is to be maintained as God ordained it. Discuss this.

challenge

Galatians 3:28 should not be used to deny the role distinction between men and women in the church. The context of this verse is salvation – praise God that He offers salvation to us all equally!

memorize

“Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.” 1 Corinthians 14:26

“Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive.” 1 Corinthians 14:34

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Corinthians 14:40

Lesson 22

The Resurrection of Christ is Shown to be an Event that Happened in History and an Essential Part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The resurrection of Christ is a part of the gospel.
2. The resurrection of Christ is a fact of history.

practical application

Don't let God's grace toward you be in vain.

questions

1. What is the great theme of 1 Corinthians 15?
2. What was the Corinthians' specific problem with resurrection?
3. Why is the resurrection of Christ essential to the message of the gospel?
4. How do Christ's post-resurrection appearances show without a doubt that His bodily resurrection was real?
5. How was Paul different from the other apostles?

answers

1. Resurrection
2. They had some doubts concerning the bodily resurrection of the believer
3. Without the resurrection of Christ there would be no tangible proof that God was satisfied with the work of Christ.
4. There were literally hundreds of eye-witness who were still alive at the time that Paul wrote this. They would have confirmed that Christ's bodily resurrection was true.
5. Paul had not walked with the Lord during His earthly ministry as the other apostles had. He had also persecuted the Church before his conversion.

discuss/consider

1. Discuss how the Old Testament Scriptures pointed forward to Christ's death and resurrection. Include in your discussion Isaiah 53, Psalm 16, and types such as in Genesis 22.
2. Paul was frank about his past and used it as a testimony of God's grace in saving a lost sinner. What about your past? Can you give a testimony about God's grace in your life?

challenge

How do you show appreciation to the Lord for His grace that He has shown to you?

memorize

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:10

Lesson 23

The Great Resurrection Chapter, Continued 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

background notes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

doctrinal points

1. The resurrection of Christ is essential to the Christian faith.
2. The resurrection of Christ is essential to the Christian hope.

practical applications

1. Let the obscure be subject to the clear.
2. Don't endanger your spiritual health.

questions

1. What was the Corinthians' specific problem with resurrection?
2. What was Paul's logical argument for the bodily resurrection of human beings?
3. What is the danger of not believing in bodily resurrection?
4. What does it mean that Christ is the "firstfruits" (verse 20)?
5. What doesn't baptism for the dead mean?

answers

1. Because of their background in Greek philosophy and religious thought, some of them had doubts concerning the future bodily resurrection of the believer.
2. If God raised the Man, Jesus Christ, from the dead, then it was logical that He could raise any person from the dead.
3. If there is no such thing as bodily resurrection of persons from the dead, then even Christ could not have been raised from the dead. If Jesus is still dead and was not resurrected, then there is no foundation to the Christian faith.
4. As the early fruit is the promise of the harvest soon to come, so the resurrection of Christ is the guarantee that death has been conquered for every Christian.
5. It doesn't mean that you can save believers who have died by being baptized for them.

discuss/consider

1. Review and discuss the six logical conclusions we must come to if Christ is not risen from the dead:
 - 1) If Christ is not risen, our preaching is empty.
 - 2) If Christ is not risen, our faith is empty.
 - 3) If Christ is not risen, we are false witness of God.
 - 4) If Christ is not risen, our faith is worthless, and we are still in our sins.
 - 5) If Christ is not risen, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
 - 6) If Christ is not risen, and if only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.
2. Discuss how the sequence of wonderful events from the resurrection of Christ until eternity is revealed in 1 Corinthians 15:23-28.

challenge

"Evil company corrupts good habits." 1 Corinthians 15:33 No matter your age or stage in life, this principle holds true. Watch the company you keep this week.

memorize

"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen." 1 Corinthians 15:13

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." 1 Corinthians 15:19

"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." 1 Corinthians 15:20

Lesson 24

The Resurrection Body of the Believer and The Great Mystery of the Rapture of the Church 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

background notes

1.

2.

3.

doctrinal points

1. The resurrection body will be glorious and spiritual.
2. The resurrection body will be imperishable and immortal.

practical application

Don't determine your doctrine from illustrations.

questions

1. What is the main topic of 1 Corinthians 15?
2. What truths did 1 Corinthians 15 teach about the resurrection of Christ?
3. What does it mean that our resurrection bodies will be spiritual bodies?
4. Besides 1 Corinthians 15, what other scripture passage teaches us about the Rapture?
5. What is a "mystery" in the Bible?

answers

1. The bodily resurrection of believers
2. The resurrection of Christ is shown to be a fact of history and the foundation of the Christian faith. If Christ is not risen from the dead, the Christian faith has no basis.
3. Not that they will be immaterial, rather our resurrection bodies will be in tune with our renewed spirits in Christ. We will have sinless, eternal bodies like our Lord's glorious resurrection body.
4. 1 Thessalonians 4
5. A biblical mystery is truth that was concealed in the Old Testament, and now is revealed in the New Testament. The mystery here is the Rapture, not the resurrection.

discuss/consider

1. Besides what we learn in 1 Corinthians 15, we can learn much about our resurrected bodies by studying Christ's resurrected body (Philippians 3:21). Think back to the Gospel accounts. What was His resurrection body like? What could He do in it?
2. Discuss the wonderful change that will take place at the Rapture. How does the Rapture affect believers who are alive in Christ and those who have already died? When could the Rapture occur?

challenge

Has this study of 1 Corinthians 15 affected your beliefs on resurrection? This is a wonderful truth of Scripture!

memorize

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

*"Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"
1 Corinthians 15:54-55*

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

**A Number of Practical Matters Concerning the Ministry and
Paul's Closing Greeting and Benediction
1 Corinthians 16**

background notes

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

doctrinal point

1. The Lord's servants should abound in the work of the Lord.
 - 1) Put aside as the Lord prospers.
 - 2) Plan ahead as the Lord wills.
 - 3) Pave the way for other servants.
 - 4) Prepare the saints for battle.
 - 5) Praise the good works of others.
 - 6) Pass on the greetings of the family.
 - 7) Pray in line with Scripture.

practical application

When the door opens wide, expect opposition inside.

questions

1. We see in this passage that believers abounding in the work of the Lord should give money to the Lord. How much money should you give? How often should you give?
2. Is it wrong for believers to plan ahead?
3. How did Paul pave the way for Timothy?
4. What is an often overlooked part of our armor for spiritual battle?
5. How did Paul send his own personal greetings?

answers

1. You should give “as the Lord prospers,” in proportion to your income. You should give regularly, here the Corinthians gave weekly.
2. No, in fact, goal setting in the work of the Lord is scriptural. But all our plans should be subject to the Lord’s will and therefore flexible.
3. He gave the Corinthians notice that Timothy was coming and he commended him to make the Corinthians more familiar with him.
4. Love. See 1 Corinthians 16:14 and 1 Thessalonians 5:8.
5. By writing them himself in verse 21, rather than dictating it as he did the rest of the letter.

discuss/consider

1. If we are abounding in the work of the Lord, we should be quick to recognize and commend fellow believers who are also abounding in the work of the Lord. Are you quick to praise the good works of others? Or are you quicker to criticize the mistakes of others?
2. Think back on your study of 1 Corinthians. What is the most interesting thing you have learned? What was the most impactful or surprising?

challenge

When God opens the door for ministry, the Enemy will be active in bringing opposition. Be aware of this and remember what you have learned from Paul’s example in ministry.

memorize

“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.” 1 Corinthians 16:2

“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love.” 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

“If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!” 1 Corinthians 16:22