



ACCM

Bible Study: Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Topic: Letter to the Corinthians Part 1

INTRODUCTION: The letters to the Corinthians are letters with a message of hope and purpose for a misdirected people (David Lowery – the Bible Knowledge Commentary Commentator on the letter to the Corinthians)

The city of Corinth had a reputation for vulgar materialism. In early Greek literature, it was linked with wealth and immorality so much so that Plato will refer to a prostitute as a 'Corinthian girl'. The word Korinthiazomai means to live like a Corinthian, in actual usage it means to be sexually out of control. The city of Corinth had a thousand temples of prostitutes. Corinth was described by Leon Morris, an Australian New Testament Scholar as intellectually alert, materially prosperous and morally corrupt. Corinth could be viewed as the New York, or Los Angeles or the Las Vegas of our day.

After its destruction by Rome in 146 BC, it was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 46 BC. This was due to its strategic location for trade. The spirit of the world appeared more dominant in the Corinthian Church than the spirit of God. Surprisingly the spirit and the gift of God were very evident in the Corinthian Church.

Apostle Paul's letter to the Corinthians was a response to what the house of Cloe told him about the church in Corinth. I Cor 1:11 and what the delegation brought to him in Ephesus I Cor 16:17

Why do we study the books or letters of the Bible?

1. It shows the bible was written for real people and not a fictional writing.
2. Studying the background information of a book or letter gives us a complete picture of the who, why, how and where about it.

3. As we compare their lives then with ours now, we are able to avoid their mistakes and perhaps abide by their good ethics.
4. It helps us to understand the scenario and culture wherein some of the things were written so as not to take the scripture out of context.

Do you realize that you are writing your own letter? I Cor 3:2.

I Corinthians 1

The first two verses are to the addressee while the next verse is the greeting. Let us take note of how Paul addressed himself here. He must have done this because some people were querying his calling. In fact that is one of the reasons that Corinthians was written. **I Cor 9:1-2**. One thing of importance here is that the Apostle focused on the fact that he was called and called by Jesus Christ. Every minister needs to ask themselves this question from time to time.

This letter was not addressed to non-believers. It was addressed to the sanctified and called to be saints.

The body of chapter one can be broken into two parts

Part 1

The first portion is what the Lord did for them and the fact that they did not come short in any spiritual gifts. We must note that the Corinthian church was rich in spiritual gifts. Finally Paul let them know that the Lord will confirm them and keep them blameless till the end.

Part 2

Apostle Paul used the word I plead with you in the second part. He is pleading with them because he identified a major problem.

What is this problem and note the word used by Paul that he was talking to Brethren not enemies? Verse 10

Why will the people so described in verses 4-7 fall into the problems in verse 11

Why did it become necessary to plead with them concerning unity?

Psalm 133

1. It is good and pleasant
2. In unity whatever is happening touches everyone
3. Disunity leads to loss of focus.
4. Fellowship cannot be truly enjoyed when there is disunity

1. Disunity brings division
2. What brings division in the church I Cor 3:3
 - a) Envy
 - b) Strife
 - c) Pride
 - d) Class
 - e) Politics
 - f) Insecurity
 - g) Gossip
 - h) Ignorance of the ownership of the church 1:2

I want us to note the way Paul reported this matter. Verse 11. He reported the person that told him. Some leaders may not have mentioned the name of the person who told him. That then becomes another reason for further division.

What may have been responsible for the division amongst the Corinthians? Taking sides with leaders. 1:12-13.

How do we take sides with ministers and pastors in today's church?

What is the solution to the type of division highlighted by Apostle Paul? 2:18-25

I 18-31. Another cause for argument was the message of the cross as perceived from a human wisdom. Note that in Paul's argument he used to those who are called. **1:24.** You cannot understand the scriptures using unsanctified common sense. **Rom 12:2.** This type of life will ultimately destroy the person **Luke 9:24-25**

What should be the focus of the ministers? 1: 22- 23

CONCLUSION: The church belongs to God and not man. If we realize this, we should be very careful the way we behave in the body. We must realize that a destruction of the body will upset Christ. God hates division in His church and He expects us to do all we can to keep it together in order to achieve its set goal. Taking sides and holding camps in church will not move it any further instead it will break it and stop its growth. We must do all within us to ensure the church remains in pure unity.