

SERIES
“A LOOK AT 1 CORINTHIANS”
A STUDY IN CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITY AND CHURCH OF CORINTH

1) The City of Corinth was a very wealthy City for its day. It was located on a neck of land in the midst of the Adriatic, Aegean and Mediterranean Seas which became a leading seaport of the region.

2) The spiritual condition of Corinth was Pagan and godless.

- It was the fountain head of immorality in the Roman Empire.
- On a high summit in the center of the City sat the TEMPLE OF APHRODITE whose worship included sexual conduct with the “priestesses” and was rated at a very high value.
- The City had such a reputation of sin that the word “Corinth” means “TO BE IMMORAL.” In that day, immorality was often referred to as “CORINTHIZING.”

3) Paul’s first contact with the City of Corinth is recorded in Acts 18:1-17.

- The initial response of the people was so negative that Paul was about to leave town, but God said to him in Acts 18:10, “**I HAVE MUCH PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.**” So Paul remained there for a year and a half in ministry. **A LESSON FOR PATIENT MINISTRY.**
- Paul made some beloved friends there, including Priscilla and Aquila who God used to comfort and encourage him in his ministry. In Romans 16:3,4 Paul said of them, “**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.**” **A LESSON FOR THE NEED OF GOOD FRIENDS IN MINISTRY.**

4) Most of the believers in Corinth were not very respectful:

- They came from the lower class of people – 1:26.
- They came from a life of paganism – 6:9-11

A LESSON OF HOW THE WORD OF GOD CHANGES PEOPLE.

5) The Church in Corinth was by in large **VERY CARNAL** and filled with sinful situations that were allowed to continue. These included: Divisions among the brethren, the practice of worldly wisdom, gentile philosophy and world view, immorality, incest, the taking of other believers to court, fornication, divorce and remarriage, an improper care for ministers, misunderstanding of spiritual gifts, misunderstanding of women in ministry, improper view of the resurrection, a misunderstanding of financial giving, lack of respect for pastoral leadership, and spiritual immaturity in general that was the foundation of all of the other issues. **With each of these problems Paul gave the perfect solution through the Word of God. A LESSON FOR US TO BRING THE WORD OF GOD TO BEAR ON ALL PROBLEMS WE FACE.**

6) In his letter to Corinth, Paul placed a very strong emphasis on the Judgment

Seat of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit both in the Church corporately and the Individual Christian, the Glory of God, the Lord’s Table, True Godly Love, the exercise of Spiritual Gifts, and the Resurrection of Christ and Believers. **LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN BECAUSE EACH OF THESE ISSUES RELATE SIGNIFICANTLY TO OUR CHRISTIAN CONDUCT.**

7) The date of the writing of 1 Corinthians is 55 AD from Ephesus according to 16:8.

8) The theme of 1 Corinthians is:

“BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION FOR GODLY CHRISTIAN CONDUCT”

REASONS FOR STUDYING 1 CORINTHIANS

- 1) A CLEAR direction from the Lord to do so.
- 2) The issues Paul dealt with back in 55 AD are very much present with us today in 2013 and must be dealt with from the source of the Word of God as Paul handled them in Corinth.
- 3) GODLY CHRISTIAN CONDUCT is needed these days because we live in a world full of biblical compromise that has seeped into and corrupted the Body of Christ.
 - The rejection of Biblical Authority
 - The acceptance of a Secular World View
 - The lack of Holy Living
 - The reduction of an interest in ministry both vocationally and from the lay perspective.
 - The limitation of effective Evangelism
 - The lack of Commitment to the Local Church
 - The breakdown of the Family
 - A misunderstanding and rejection of ABSOLUTE TRUTH
 - The unnecessary Divisions within the Body of Christ
- 4) The KEY TEXT of 1 Corinthians is 6:19,20

CHALLENGE FOR US TODAY AS WE COMMENCE THIS STUDY

- 1) To pray as we work through the Book verse by verse.
- 2) To ask God to use His Holy Spirit to apply each element of this study to our individual lives.
- 3) To order our conduct according to the Biblical Standard.
- 4) To remember that THIS CHURCH belongs to God and MUST function according to His will knowing that we are “CO-LABORERS” with God and must submit to His LEADERSHIP in order to build upon the proper foundation. 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

A LOOK AT THE KEY TEXT

“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.”

- 1) The Holy Spirit permanently indwells every Born Again Christian from the point of salvation. Romans 8:9
- 2) The body of the Born Again Christian belongs to God and should be dedicated to the Lord. Romans 12:1
- 3) Our Salvation was only possible through the price God paid for redemption through His Son Jesus Christ. Romans 3:24
- 4) Our entire life is to be dedicated to Glorifying God in all things.