

1 CORINTHIANS READING PLAN WEEK 2



Our 2nd week in 1 Corinthians covered chapters 3-5. Paul is dealing with a difficult situation among the people. The church in Corinth was filled with a messy group of people. These new Christians had much to learn. Let's dive in for a while.

Chapter 3

1. Verses 1-4 - How did Paul describe the people's level of maturity in Christ?
2. What was it that led Paul to this evaluation?
3. Verse 5-16 - How did Paul say the leaders should be viewed?
4. The people were choosing what preacher/teacher they liked best. This troubled Paul for Jesus was not their focus. Paul says the leaders were farmers and builders: He reminds the people that everyone is on the same team. As farmers: One plants seeds of the gospel, one waters the seeds, but it is God who gives the harvest. As builders: the foundation is Christ, and we build the church on that foundation. We build the church body through our works for Jesus. What does Paul say about our works and how they will be judged?
5. We are not saved by our works; but our works after we are saved are important. Does this passage teach there will be rewards in heaven? There will be those who are saved but receive no rewards. We do not know all that this involves in eternity. Still, there is the truth that in God's eternal

kingdom there will be levels of responsibility and what we do here for Christ will determine how we are used in eternity.

6. Paul related all this to show the people how they were conducting themselves in the church. These people were hindering the work of the gospel by their divisiveness. What is the warning in verses 16-17. The 'temple' in the case is the whole church family,
7. Verse 18-22 shows us that the Corinthians church members thought they were so very wise, clever, brighter than even Paul. In a sense, Paul was calling for them to get over themselves. This theme will continue in chapter 4.

Chapter 4

1. Verse 1-5 - One of the matters we pick up on is there were those in Corinth who did not value Paul as an apostle. That is amazing seeing that he spent 18 months in Corinth. Paul is going to remind them that the Apostles were given unique authority over the churches. Yet Paul, while exercising the authority, kept a humble spirit. How did he say he should be viewed in verse 1? Verse 2 - what is the primary objective of a servant?
2. Paul becomes very blunt. He tells the Corinthians that he doesn't evaluate himself by their opinions - Paul knows his heart is right in this matter. He reminded them that God is the ultimate judge.
3. Verse 6-13 are hard hitting. The people were prideful and arrogant, this must be addressed. Verse 6-13 are filled with sarcasm from Paul about the people. To paraphrase: Paul tells them, "Oh wow, you all are so superior to others, so rich, so strong. You don't need anything from us apostles. I guess this is why you are destroying the church, it is because you know it all. You talk big, but know nothing."
4. Verse 14-23 - What did Paul seek to communicate to the people about his authority?

Chapter 5

1. There was a serious matter of immorality to be dealt with. All sexual acts outside of marriage between a man and woman are sinful. Corinth was a city where through pagan influences, immoral behavior was not a big deal. Yet even the pagans couldn't believe what a particular church member was doing. A man was having a sexual relationship with his stepmom. To make matters worse, the church was proud of their acceptance of this (v.2).
2. What did Paul say they needed to do about this man? What was the goal of putting the man out of the church?
3. "...turn him over to Satan..." Guzik says, "By putting him outside the church, into the world, which is the devil's "domain." The punishment is a removal of spiritual protection and social comfort, not an infliction of evil."
4. This is a reminder that Christians can get caught up in sin. Our goal is to help bring them to repentance and restoration. It is not easy, for so many when confronted became defensive and prideful. Yet, they are not rejecting us, they are rejecting God's word.