

How to Best Use This Newsletter

As a reader, you've probably noticed that some articles in 'Just A Minute' provide periodic 'To Dos.' Take the opportunity to think on the assignments and try one that seems interesting. The activities can help you gain depth and acquire insights, and personal conviction, developing motivation to search/seek answers for yourself.

The newly labeled 'Personal Study Section' on Page 2 is designed to help students study I Corinthians. It can provide new ways to approach/explore the chapter. The purpose of this study section is not to provide all the bottom line details of the chapter, but rather, to encourage personal examination of the Word. Have fun with it, but also realize it is vital doctrine to learn as you grow up in Christ.



Organization of I Corinthians

This newsletter will begin to focus on the second section in I Corinthians. Chapters 5-9 deal with corrective doctrines that help saints grow into their sanctified position:

- Chapter 5: Sin in the local assembly
- Chapter 6: Handling legal issues
- Chapter 7: Relationship questions
- Chapter 8: Approaching the weak
- Chapter 9: Responsibilities to others

To Do: Read ahead and look at these chapters for yourself. See if you can find your own topic for each chapter. Maybe you'll find a different conclusion. Another great activity is to divide each chapter into sections. This helps you see how the overall topic is being addressed.

Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold for emphasis.

I Corinthians 5: Walking By Faith, When It's Not Easy



The Corinthians were carnal babes, even allowing a saint in their Church to live in open sin: *"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife."* (I Cor. 5:1) Paul instructed this assembly in how to remove this grievous sin from them, while dealing wisely with the man to help him recover.

Paul charged the saints to initiate the strongest discipline. He used his Apostolic authority, in the name and power of the Lord Jesus Christ, *"To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."* (I Cor. 5:5) Though a member of their church, this man was to be put out to purge sin and give him over to the world, until he learned godly sorrow.

How did it come to this? The Corinthians were puffed up, and did not respond in faith to the basic, wise teaching Paul provided. They didn't view this behavior as vile and ungodly, but as unbelievers, accepted its presence: *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* (I Cor. 2:14)

Saints live in the flesh today too, some doing unmentionable sins, which are also tolerated in many Churches. I Corinthians 5 explains how to deal with similar situations.

What is a response of faith? Abraham is an ideal picture: *"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."* (Rom. 4:20-21) Walking by faith is not always easy, comfortable, or popular. Living by faith can result in losing free time, a friend, job, family member, or even our life. Yet, we can yield unto God, enabling us to put God's will before our own, led by the Spirit in the sound doctrine we believe. Saints at Corinth wouldn't have 'felt like' turning their brother over to Satan, but they eventually responded in faith, trusting and yielding to wise instructions.



Search it out!

Living As Who You Are In Christ

I Corinthians 5: Dealing With Sin In The Assembly

Examine verses!

In this second section of I Corinthians, Chapters 5-9, Paul addresses areas in which the Corinthians were making unwise judgments. He used strong correction in Chapter 5, since the Church wasn't addressing wicked conduct.

The decision to tolerate this sin was affecting the whole local Body of Christ. Before Paul could help the Corinthians mature in their sanctified life, this blatant evil had to be dealt with. This gave Corinth an opportunity to respond in faith. Read the chapter several times to explore it for personal application.

1. Define terms: a) Whenever you're unsure of a word, take a moment to look it up. It is amazing how much can be learned. Skim the chapter to find 2-3 terms to define; now reread the chapter, with new understanding. b) Define/describe how the Corinthians were 'puffed up?' Think of analogies you know. (i.e. a pufferfish, an overblown balloon, rising dough, etc.)

2. Ask yourself questions: In Verse 3, Paul says he was able to judge what the Church ought to do, even though he was not present with them. How did he know? What mistake did the Church make about the

man who did this deed? In Verse 4, what did Paul specifically list in this passage and why? Why the list?

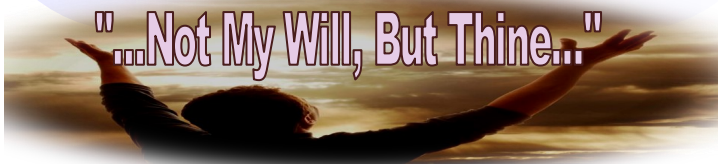
3. Assess and reflect on what's happening: Read Verses 1-3; which of these is Paul doing? a) Making factual statements. b) Responding emotionally. c) Speaking on God's behalf. d) Putting saints under the law. e) Holding saints accountable. f) Other?

4. Use study skills to approach a difficult passage: Utilize the first three approaches above to deal with Verse 5. For example: a) Define 'deliver,' 'destruction,' and 'saved,' and think on these things. b) Ask yourself questions: What does delivered unto Satan mean? How is the flesh destroyed? Is it different from killing his body? c) Assess/reflect on what is happening: Who is the god of this world? (II Cor. 4:4) Look up Romans 1: 24, 26, & 28; is this the same as being put out of the local Church unto Satan. What was the purpose and how would this affect and motivate this man?

5. Note immediate context of a term, but also how it was used before: Assess the word 'leaven' (vs 6-8) in context and use a concordance to explore it further?

6. Read/Think application: Read Verses 9-13. Who is responsible to judge/keep the assembly godly today?

**Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on using many new study insights. When you're ready, try one or two activities above.*



The Lord Jesus prayed, surrendering His will to God, though in great agony in the Garden of Gethsemane: "...his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Luke 22:44) What a picture of yielding!

As we walk by faith, it is surely a spiritual battle in the mind. This is resurrection life, requiring us to trust God and yield, which puts aside our feelings and efforts. The struggle we experience is invisible, but very real & exceedingly challenging; at times; it is in fear and trembling.

Saints at Corinth lived contrary to what they knew and did not yield in faith. The book of I Corinthians reveals their carnal, unwise choices and lifestyle. What love, grace, and mercy for

God to have the foundational issues in the gospel of grace taught to them once again.

Paul's epistles, beginning in Romans 6, teach us how to yield so our functional life is not our own self-exalted efforts, but Christ living in us: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Paul's response to the Lord on the road to Damascus is our pattern, not just in salvation, but also to live: "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6) In other words, What is your will for me God? Then, he proceeded to live it!

To Do: Read Paul's epistles with a purpose; notice what is said about 'His will.' Evaluate: are you living it?



As saints, we live in a fallen creation and a time that is changing so dramatically, we can literally watch it happen. Challenges all around can be hard to deal with in a godly manner. It is so easy to become angry and bitter, respond in the flesh, become overwhelmed, or turn from the Truth and give up to live worldly, as did the Corinthians. We need to stay focused on 'who we really are' by taking in/meditating on sound teaching. This puzzle piece is important!

God says, *"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."* (Col. 3:2-3) Do you need to think differently about yourself and your eternal home in heaven? You are NOT the person you see in the mirror. Your true identity is hid with Christ in God above and He lives within you. Though invisible, this is an eternal reality. *"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."* (Col. 3:4) Christ is your life, literally!



Prayer: A Pause That Can Remind Us of Our Eternal Reality

Spiritual, eternal things can be elusive, but meditation on Scripture with prayer helps us connect with God, His realm, and the Truth of His Word, making these things increasingly real. Life on earth is a physical, temporary place to grow and live as God's representative. When we leave here, God's heavenly realm will be our forever home, we'll have a new body and life above. *"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."* (II Cor. 5:1) Life on earth will pale as eternity is in view.

Staying focused above helps us to attain a confident reality of God, heaven, and our new eternal life. As we spend time reading and meditating on the Word by faith, these invisible, intangible things can become more real than what we see around us. God the Spirit leads and teaches us these deep things as we make opportunities to think about and believe them. It enables us to be sure, determining that what God says is true. Maybe a personal example of prayer-meditation can help:



Each morning before rising, prior to falling asleep, and through the day, I disengage from this world to focus above and be with God. It is a break to be in God's spiritual realm and to think about Him: how much He has done, and what He has taught me in the Scriptures about Himself, heaven, and eternity. For example, I recall that He is real, with the ability to think, walk, talk, see, hear, and feel, as a true Father & God. Thus, I call Him Father, intimately speak one-to-one with Him, and sometimes we even walk together, in my mind.

Once I'm detangled from the affairs of this life in my prayers, I feel the heaviness of problems drop away; they are left behind, and I acquire a deeper reality of God, Scripture, and my eternal home. As I practice this type of prayer, it becomes easier and faster to focus on the Father to gain this peace the next time; so if you pray this way, be patient as it takes time. This contrast is great as I realize a new depth of joy and peace. It also produces a deeper thankfulness for all He has done, often causing me to tear up once I am with Him. I gain clarity in God's perspective, remembering why I'm on earth...as Christ's ambassador, a member of His own Body, and a soldier to do His work.

Shutting my eyes to pray and meditate to focus above also enables me to ride out sufferings. I don't resist, nor become as anxious in the challenges or sufferings as in the past. It is like being in a fast river on a journey, I yield to God as the current of the problem takes its course. Since all things can work for our good, I prayerfully ponder how it will work for me this time, and thank Him for ever being with me and loving me. It has become a real relationship.

Our true home is in heaven, so as soldiers of Christ, while on earth, we're to take heed: *"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."* (II Tim 2:4) The Corinthians became entangled and were not wise; avoid their mistakes. Read, meditate, pray, and apply what's learned as spiritual, adults soldiers and ambassadors on God's behalf. **To Do:** As you realize the need to be disengaged, try a pause like this to help you maintain or regain your perspective. Practice may also enable you to ride out difficulties more easily. **Focus Above!**

Christian Life Coach Support Services
(804) 519-1210 - lifecoachesdjbj@yahoo.com
Website: Christianlifecoachsupport.squarespace.com

Stamp

To:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)

Confidence in God

Confidence is being assured; it’s a belief or trust that someone or something is reliable. Are you confident in God that He will do what He says and teach you? Are you fully persuaded the Holy Spirit can lead and guide you through the Word? *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” (Rom. 8:14)* The proof is if you do read and are relying on it. The Corinthians weren’t confident & trusted others!



Is there joy to be found in a world such as this? Philippians 4:4 says, *“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”* Can it be possible?

Yes, God’s way, that is, to allow Christ to work in you to gain an eternal perspective. *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” (Rom. 15:13)*

Philippians 4 provides the process by which you can rejoice. **To Do:** Read the chapter to get the detail: Be moderate, bring all things to Him in prayer, with a thankful heart; this brings peace. You’re also to think on things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, and

Keep This Weekend Open To Join Us This Year:

Annual Ladies Florida Retreat

Fellowship Bible Church, Orlando, FL

April 13-14, 2018

Topic: Grace-How To Really Live It (Rom. 14-16)

Contact Sue for details: **(804) 690-6789**



‘On A Personal Side’

We welcome feedback & questions.

From Our Readers

“I think you can be of great help to me as I go about my ministry. I see a great need to deal with trauma in people’s lives...my heart goes with these people...I really want to know more about trauma healing.” (Nigeria)

“Good Newsletter (December).” (Virginia)

“I most certainly want to join the group that will read the Bible in a year...reading it systematically is just right for me!!! (Florida)

Join Us For Fellowship & Bible Study

In the Richmond, Virginia Area

Family Study: Fridays, 7-9pm

Ladies Study: Wednesdays, 10:30-12

Call For Locations: (804) 519-1210

then do the things you’ve learned, received, heard, and seen in Paul. The God of peace will then be with you, enabling you to learn contentment and how to rejoice, even in the challenges. It’s an ongoing, life-long process.

How it works: In time, as you mature and put faith to the Word, you’re filled with Christ’s mind. God then brings forth the fruit of the Spirit, which includes joy: *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith...” (Gal. 5: 22)*

Request subscriptions/past issues or forward questions and ideas using contact information above.