

STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS ***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

Lesson 1 - Thanksgiving - [1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

1CO 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

1CO 1:2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:

1CO 1:3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1CO 1:4 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. [5] For in him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge-- [6] because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. [7] Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. [8] He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9] God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 1 - Thanksgiving - [1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)

1. How did Paul describe himself? ([1:1](#))
2. What specific truths did Paul affirm? ([1:1-9](#))
3. What kind of people were the Corinthian Christians? ([1:2](#))
4. What words of affirmation did Paul have for his readers? ([1:2-3](#))
5. For what traits of the Corinthians did Paul thank God? ([1:4-9](#))
6. In what ways had the Corinthian Christians been "enriched"? Why? ([1:5-6](#))
7. What did the Corinthian Christians have? ([1:7](#))
8. What spiritual gifts did the Corinthians have? ([1:7](#))
9. Why did the Corinthians not lack for any spiritual gift? ([1:7](#))

10. For what period of time were the Corinthians' spiritual gifts given? ([1:7](#))
11. For what were the Corinthians waiting? ([1:7](#))
12. How would the Corinthians be able to live as God called them? ([1:8-9](#))
13. What words of encouragement did Paul include in his opening? ([1:8-9](#))
14. How are Christians able to live as God has called them? ([1:8-9](#))
15. To what has God called all Christians? ([1:9](#))

Lesson 2 - Divisions in the Church - [1 Corinthians 1:10-17](#)

1CO 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. [11] My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. [12] What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

1CO 1:13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into* the name of Paul? [14] I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, [15] so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. [16] (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) [17] For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 2 - Divisions in the Church - [1 Corinthians 1:10-17](#)

16. On what basis did Paul appeal to the Corinthian believers? ([1:10](#))
17. Why did Paul ask the Corinthians to agree with one another? ([1:10](#))
18. What kind of action did the Corinthian church need to take? ([1:10-17](#))
19. What specific problem were the Corinthian Christians having? ([1:11-12](#))
20. How was Paul a part of the Corinthians' problems? ([1:13-17](#))
21. How did baptism cause division in the Corinthian church? ([1:13-17](#))
22. What can result from preaching the gospel with "words of human wisdom"? ([1:17](#))

23. What did Christ enable Paul to do? ([1:17](#))
24. What danger is there in dividing a church? ([1:17](#))
25. What danger was Paul trying to avoid? ([1:17](#))
26. What's wrong with preaching the gospel with "words of human wisdom"? ([1:17](#))

Lesson 3 - Christ the Wisdom and Power of God - [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)

1CO 1:18 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. [19] For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

1CO 1:20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? [21] For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. [22] Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, [23] but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, [24] but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. [25] For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

1CO 1:26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. [27] But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. [28] He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, [29] so that no one may boast before him. [30] It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. [31] Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 3 - Christ the Wisdom and Power of God - [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)

27. To whom is the message of the Cross foolishness? ([1:18](#))
28. To whom is the message of the Cross powerful? ([1:18](#))
29. How can people hear the message of Christ differently? ([1:18](#))
30. What does God's message mean to the person being saved? ([1:18](#))

31. How does the message of the Cross contrast with what most people consider wise? ([1:18-19](#))
32. How does God get His message across? ([1:19-31](#))
33. How does God's wisdom contrast with the world's wisdom? ([1:20](#))
34. How did the demands of the Jews and Greeks contrast with the Corinthians' hope? ([1:22-23](#))
35. How do God's attributes compare with ours? ([1:25-26](#))
36. What were the Corinthians like before they were called? ([1:26-27](#))
37. How does God use the foolish and weak things of the world? ([1:27](#))
38. Why does God express His power and wisdom through "foolish," "weak," and "lowly" means? ([1:28-29](#))
39. What has Jesus Christ become for us? ([1:30](#))
40. What kind of boasting is good? ([1:31](#))