

The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Synopsis

Written by the Apostle Paul
To the Church at Corinth, near Athens.

- Chapter 1: Division was apparent in the church.
In His great wisdom, God chose ordinary, not extraordinary, people
- Chapter 2: God's wisdom is communicated to inspired men in words.
- Chapter 3: Those inspired men are servants of God, not leaders of divisions.

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| <p>They had — and still — required a diet of milk</p> <p>Division was the evidence seen by Paul.</p> <p>The demonstration of their divisions.</p> <p>God's men are His servants, not party leaders.</p> <p>The genuine source of growth is God.</p> | <h3>1 Corinthians 3</h3> <p>1. Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ.</p> <p>2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.</p> <p>3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?</p> <p>4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?</p> <p>5. What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task.</p> <p>6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.</p> <p>7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.</p> | <p>The leader must make the adjustments.</p> <p>They were far below their men who has the Spirit for</p> <p>Time should enable progress</p> <p>Our relationship with God (our relationship with men.</p> <p>It takes workers to create</p> <p>(</p> |
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| <p>There is a oneness among the servants.</p> <p>God had provided Paul with the expertise as a foundation man.</p> <p>The foundation was (and is) Christ.</p> <p>The workers must build with good materials.</p> <p>God will test the work and reward the workers.</p> | <p>8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.</p> <p>9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.</p> <p>10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.</p> <p>11. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.</p> <p>12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,</p> <p>13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.</p> <p>14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.</p> | <p>God consider's each worker</p> <p>The servants are field workers</p> <p>Skill is needed by the workers</p> <p>God laid the foundation.</p> <p>This is discussing the workers not each person's salvation</p> <p>(Judgment Day?</p> <p>Not all workers will be working.</p> |
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| <p>Poor workmanship will not cause the worker to be lost.</p> <p>The church is now the temple where God dwells.</p> <p>Division destroys the temple.</p> | <p>15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.</p> <p>16. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?</p> <p>17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.</p> <p>18. Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise.</p> <p>19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "HE CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS" ;</p> <p>20 and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THAT THE THOUGHTS OF THE WISE ARE FUTILE."</p> | <p>Even if it is a worldly</p> <p>God defends his property.</p> <p>We need God's view of li</p> <p>Worldly wisdom, exalting foolishness.</p> <p>Job 5:13</p> <p>Psalm 94:11</p> |
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| <p>Stop boasting about <u>your</u> leaders.</p> <p>You are part of something eternal and all encompassing.</p> | <p>21. So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, 23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.</p> | <p>Boast God and what He has done not just focus on one</p> |
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3:3 Stephen Brown explains that when a group of thoroughbred horses face attack, they stand in a circle facing each other and, with their back legs, kick out at the enemy. Donkeys do just the opposite; they face the enemy and kick each other!

How often the church does just that -- ignoring the real enemy while we attack fellow believers.

3:7 A couple of years ago, the Associated Press released a study done by an agricultural school in Iowa. It reported that production of 100 bushels of corn from one acre of land, in addition to the many hours of the farmer's labor, required 4,000,000 pounds of water, 6,800 pounds of oxygen, 5,200 pounds of carbon, 160 pounds of nitrogen, 125 pounds of potassium, 75 pounds of yellow sulphur, and other elements too numerous to list. In addition to these things, which no man can produce, rain and sunshine at the right time are critical. It was estimated that only 5% of the produce of a farm can be attributed to the efforts of man. If we were honest, we'd have to admit that the same is true in producing spiritual fruit.

3:13 An old missionary couple had been working in Africa for years and were returning to New York to retire. They had no pension; their health was broken; they were defeated, discouraged, and afraid. They discovered they were booked on the same ship as President Teddy Roosevelt, who was returning from one of his big-game hunting expeditions.

No one paid any attention to them. They watched the fanfare that accompanied the President's entourage, with passengers trying to catch a glimpse of the great man.

As the ship moved across the ocean, the old missionary said to his wife, "Something is wrong. Why should we have given our lives in faithful service for God in Africa all these many years and have no

one care a thing about us? Here this man comes back from a hunting trip and everybody makes much over him, but nobody gives two hoots about us."

"Dear, you shouldn't feel that way," his wife said.

"I can't help it; it doesn't seem right."

When the ship docked in New York, a band was waiting to greet the President. The mayor and other dignitaries were there. The papers were full of the President's arrival, but no one noticed this missionary couple. They slipped off the ship and found a cheap flat on the East Side, hoping the next day to see what they could do to make a living in the city.

That night the man's spirit broke. He said to his wife, "I can't take this; God is not treating us fairly."

His wife replied, "Why don't you go in the bedroom and tell that to the Lord?"

A short time later he came out from the bedroom, but now his face was completely different. His wife asked, "Dear, what happened?" "The Lord settled it with me," he said. "I told him how bitter I was that the President should receive this tremendous homecoming, when no one met us as we returned home. And when I finished, it seemed as though the Lord put his hand on my shoulder and simply said, 'But you're not home yet!'"

Yes, there are rewards for faithfulness, but not necessarily down here.

-- Ray Stedman