1 Corinthians



The Apostle Paul first visited Corinth on his second missionary journey (pictured above). His second missionary journey lasted about three years and about half of that time (Acts 18:11) was spent working with the church in Corinth. For background, **read Acts 18: 1-21**.

* When Paul got to Corinth, he linked up with a Jewish couple with rhyming names: **Aquilla** and his wife **Pricilla**. Why had they recently come from Rome? The Roman historian Suetonius relates how Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome in 49 A.D. because of their squabbling over a man named “Chrestus” (Christus)
* **“Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he [Emperor Claudius] expelled them from Rome.”**
* Jesus died on the cross and rose again in 33 A.D. Pentecost followed 50 days after the Passover Sabbath. Paul first visited Corinth from 49-51 A.D. and there were already many, many Christians in Rome. What does that tell you about the spread of the Gospel?
* Paul ended up staying with Pricilla and Aquilla. Besides their Christian faith, what did they have in common?
* Where did Paul start his missionary work? (4) What do you think Paul used to try to convince the Jews that Jesus was the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah? What are some Old Testament passages that YOU would use?
* When the Jews kicked Paul out of the Synagogue, where did he go? (7)
* Why would the Christian conversion of Crispus (8) have been so important in giving credibility to that fact that Jesus is the Christ? Crispus and his whole household were then baptized into the Christian faith. Might there have been young children in the household? Infants? How did the Gospel affect many others in Corinth? (8)
* What encouraging words did Jesus relate to Paul in verses 9-10?
* Gallio was the proconsul of Achaia (southern Greece). An inscription found in Delphi, Greece, places Gallio in this position from AD 51-52. That’s how we can date the missionary journeys and letters that Paul wrote. Gallio’s brother was Seneca, Nero’s tutor and mentor at the beginning of his reign.
* **Lucius Annaeus Seneca**, (born c. 4 BCE, Corduba (now Córdoba), Spain—died 65 CE, Rome [Italy]), Roman philosopher, statesman, orator, and tragedian. He was Rome’s leading [intellectual](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/intellectual) figure in the mid-1st century CE and was virtual ruler with his friends of the Roman world between 54 and 62, during the first phase of the emperor [Nero](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nero-Roman-emperor)’s reign.
* **When the Jews brought religious charges against Paul to Gallio, how did Gallio respond? Why didn’t Pontius Pilate respond in the same manner with Jesus?**
* **When the Jews didn’t get their way, what did they do to Sosthenes, the NEW synagogue ruler? (How do we know that Sosthenes was a Christian—see 1 Cor. 1:1)**
* **When Paul left Corinth, he stopped off briefly at Ephesus. Who came with him (besides Timothy, Silas, and Luke)? Pricilla and Aquila stayed in Ephesus—who also came to Ephesus shortly thereafter? (read Acts 18: 24-28) Where was he from? Describe some of his characteristics? Before Paul returned to Ephesus (for about three years out of the four year third missionary journey) to what city did Apollos set sail?**

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**Luther on 1 Corinthians**

During his second missionary journey (1.5 years in Corinth) St. Paul had taught his Corinthians *Christian faith and freedom from the law*. But then the mad saints came along, and the immature know-it-alls. They broke up the unity of the doctrine and caused division among the believers. One claimed to belong to Paul, the other to Apollos; one to Peter, the other to Christ. One wanted circumcision, the other not. Some wanted to be outwardly free; some of the women wanted to go with uncovered hair, and so on. They went so far that one man abused his liberty and married his father’s wife, some didn’t believe in the resurrection of the dead, and some thought lightly of the sacrament.

In short, things got so wild and disorderly that everyone wanted to be the expert and do the teaching and make what he pleased of the gospel, the sacrament, and faith. Meanwhile, they let the main thing drop—namely, that Christ is our salvation, righteousness, and redemption—as if they had long since outgrown it. This truth can never remain intact when people begin to imagine they are wise and know it all . . .

Therefore St. Paul most severely rebukes and condemns this shameful wisdom, and makes these connoisseur saints out to be fools. He says outright that they know nothing of Christ, or of the Spirit and gifts of God given to us in Christ, and that they had better begin to learn. It takes spiritual folk to understand this. The desire to be wise and the pretense of cleverness in the gospel are the very things that really give offense and hinder the knowledge of Christ and God, and create disturbances and contentions. This clever wisdom can well serve to make for nothing but mad saints and wild Christians. Yet such people can never know our Lord Christ, unless they first become fools again and humbly let themselves be taught and led by the simple word of God. This is what St. Paul deals with in the first four chapters.

**Chapter 5—He rebukes the gross unchastity of the man who married his father’s wife.**

**Chapter 6—Paul rebukes contention and disputing in the courts, especially before the heathen and unbelievers.**

**Chapter 7—Paul gives instruction concerning chastity and married life.**

**Chapter 8 to 11—Paul discusses many different ways in which weak consciences are to be guided and regarded in matters such as eating, drinking, clothing, and the sacrament.**

**Chapters 12 and 13—He discusses the many different gifts of God. Love is the best.**

**Chapter 14—Paul teaches the preachers, prophets, and singers to use their gifts in an orderly manner that edifies the church.**

**Chapter 15—Paul takes to task those who taught and believed falsely concerning the resurrection.**

**Chapter 16—Paul exhorts the people to give brotherly assistance to the needy in the form of material aid.**

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Paul wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus while he was on his approximately four-year third missionary journey (see chart of Paul’s letters.) While Paul was in Ephesus he got a report from “Chloe’s people” (1 Cor. 1:11) that there were problems in the church. What Corinthian church leaders also visited Paul in Ephesus? (1 Cor. 16: 15-18) These men very likely delivered the letter to the Corinthian church. Who also did Paul send with them? (1 Cor. 16:10-11)

Corinth was located in a strategic spot in southern Greece (Achaia). Is was located on an isthmus with the Aegean Sea on one side and the Adriatic Sea on the other side. There is a canal there today (see picture) but 2000 years ago cargo would be unloaded, carted across the isthmus, and then reloaded onto a ship on the other side.



**1 CORINTHIANS—CHAPTER ONE**

**Read 1:1-3**. How does Paul describe himself in verse one? Why might some have questioned the fact that Paul was a *real* apostle? Jesus called the 12—did he also call Paul? How? Why do you think Sosthenes was with Paul in Ephesus instead of back in Corinth? We know that there were major problems in the Corinthian church, yet Paul addresses them as saints? Why? What phrase (borrowed from Paul) do many pastors use when they begin their sermons?

**Read 1:4-9** Paul begins his letter with words of encouragement—list some of those words. How can Paul say that they (and we) will be guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ? (see also Colossians 1:22) Why is praise and encouragement a good way to start when you know that the rebukes are coming?

**Read 1:10-17** What was causing divisions in the church? List the people that were being followed—“I follow . . .” Which is the only one that was right? How can the church get into trouble if it follows a personality instead of the Person of Christ? Can you think of any strong personalities who have led people astray in our time? Why did Paul downplay the idea that a person might had been baptized by HIM. If President Harrison were at church today would everyone want to take communion from him? Apollos was an eloquent speaker—nothing wrong with that—in fact, the church was blessed by him. What point is Paul making in verse 17? Who should be the focus of every sermon? (see John 12: 20-21)

**Read 1: 18-21.** Why would the cross have been folly to the unbelievers? What kind of God and King were the Jews expecting? What kind of God and King did the Greeks respect? How was Jesus unlike what they had in mind? Is creation folly to many today? Is creation a stumbling block to many young people? Is salvation through Christ alone folly to many? What do most people in the world foolishly believe is the way to heaven? Just because the majority believes something, it doesn’t make it right. What are some foolish things that are being taught today as being truthful?

**Read 1: 19-31** What is God’s definition of wisdom? Can a person be intelligent and yet be a fool? Explain. “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”—give examples of how we can live that out. What arrogant behavior was being shown by some of the Corinthian Christians? What attitude concerning the Bible do many Christians have today that show that THEY want to be in charge?

**1 CORINTHIANS 2**

**Read 2: 1-5.** Paul had a lot of weakness—he had terrible eyesight—he wasn’t an eloquent speaker like Apollos—he had a bad past. How did God use him anyway? What were some of his strengths that God used for the growth of the kingdom? Who was the focus of Paul’s ministry? The ironic thing is—Paul was 100 per cent against Jesus before his conversion but 100 per cent for Jesus after his conversion.

**Read 2: 6-15.** In Jesus’ parable, what does the wise man built his “house” upon? What does the foolish man build his “house” upon? How does the hymn “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” address this? The wisdom of God is only “secret” for which group of people? God’s Spirit reveals God truth through what? How can we know the thoughts of God? How can we have the “mind of Christ”? When people reject Scripture and rely on their own subjective “truth”, how can it affect their behavior? The Soviet Union? Communist China?

**Patrick Henry--Ratifier of the U.S. Constitution**

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."

**Chuck Colson**, the former special counsel to President Nixon who went to prison for his role in the Watergate cover-up, underwent a religious conversion that changed his life. In 1993, he lectured on the subject, "Can We Be Good Without God?" He said: "What we fail to realize is that rejecting transcendental truth is tantamount of committing national suicide. A secular state cannot cultivate virtue... We are taking away the spiritual element and abandoning morality based on religious truth, counting instead on our heads and our subjective feeling to make us do what is right."

**Read 3: 1-9.** As members of the body of Christ, each of us is different, yet important. What happens when people start thinking that THEY are the ones who are making the church grow? Do you think that Peter, Apollos, or Paul wanted the people to elevate them to “godlike” status? Could it have been a temptation? Could it be a temptation today?

**Read 3: 10-15.** What was Paul’s expertise in building the church? What might yours be? What has to be the foundation for the building—again think of Jesus’s parable—and hymn 575. Even if we mess up something in building the Church, what still saves us?

**Read 3: 16-17.** The Greek word for “you” here is plural—so it is referring to the congregation. What did Jesus say about two or three being gathered in His name? How does a church like HT meet that description? In the Old Testament the temple was established as God’s place among His people. To destroy the “temple” is to destroy God’s Church or its individual members who share the Spirit.

**Read 3: 18-23.** “All things are yours—the Corinthians should benefit from ALL of God’s servants rather than being devoted exclusively to one. “You are Christ’s” Christ’s what? How does that make you feel? “Christ is God’s” What does that say about the relationship *within* the Trinity?

**1 CORINTHIANS 4**

**Read 4: 1-5.** When I was a teacher, we got visited by the principal once or twice per year. It didn’t affect **my behavior** one bit because there was Someone else supervising me 24/7. If a person is living out his/her Christian faith, is it necessary to have a morality supervisor? Why was Paul diligent in teaching correct doctrine? Why was he glad when the Berean church got out their Old Testament scriptures and checked him out? Why should pastors or fellow believers want you to speak the truth to them in love?

**Read 4: 6-7.** Sometimes when I’m asked a biblical question, I have to honestly say—that’s my opinion based on what I know about Scripture. Is it OK not to have all the answers?

**Read 4: 8-13.** Paul uses sarcasm in verse 8 mimicking their boasts. More sarcasm in verse 9—The last people herded through the streets in a Roman military procession were captives, condemned to death---a spectacle—like gladiators condemned to fight to the death. In verses 11-13 Paul uses hyperbole reminding the Corinthians of his suffering on their behalf. In verse 12 Paul talks about working with his own hands. Paul didn’t want anyone to accuse him of profiting from his ministry so he earned his own money. How?

**Read 4: 14-21.** Paul follows the law with some gospel. Is it possible to have too many chiefs and not enough Indians? What did Paul mean when he said, “you have countless guides in Christ but not many fathers”? Paul urged the people to imitate him—should we do the same or is that putting too much pressure on ourselves? Who did Paul send with the letter to help out? What warning did Paul give to the arrogant Christians?

**I CORINTHIANS 5**

**Read 5: 1-5.** In the book of Genesis, Reuben married one of his father Jacob’s “wives.” After Rachel died, he married Bilhah, Rachel’s servant, who was the mother of two of his half-brothers. That was frowned upon even before the Law was given, but Leviticus 18:8 made it official. Greek and Roman culture also rejected the practice. Paul orders that this man be excommunicated (5). For what purpose? What are the steps in church discipline? (Matt. 18)

**Read 5: 6-8** Why did Paul urge them to get rid of the boasting? Who is supposed to be the focus?

**Read 5: 9-13.** In verse 9 Paul refers to a previous letter that he wrote to the Corinthian church. This letter we do not have. But we do know some of the things Paul talked about. Who were the Corinthians not to associate with? The unbelievers or the unrepentant believers? In these verses Paul talks about judging. Can we judge behavior? Do we judge behavior as a parent? A teacher? A police officer? What are not to judge—who is the only Judge of the soul? When Jesus talked about looking at the speck in your brother’s eye while ignoring the log in your own, was He telling us that we can’t judge behavior? What was His point then?

**1 CORINTHIANS 6**

**Read 6: 1-8.** How are we supposed to settle disputes with fellow Christians? Why is it such a bad witness for two Christians to have to take their case before an unbeliever? In a divorce case where one of the parties is an unrepentant sinner, is it really like two believers taking their case to court? Even then, can things be worked out in a civil manner?

**Read 6: 9-11.** Paul lists some of the things that were probably going on in the Corinthian church. Every person is a sinner. Should we be identified, though, with the sins that tempt us? What’s our new identity according to verse 11?

**Read 6: 10-20.** There were lots of temptations in Corinth. There were even temple prostitutes that some of the Christian converts had visited in their former “religion.” What are some things that are **lawful** for us but not good for us? Name some. We don’t have to follow the dietary laws of the Old Testament any more—so should we go to McDonald’s and say “Supersize me”? In the context of marriage sex is a good thing—but how can the same activity be a bad thing? Today, many young couples live together without being married—who is this especially bad for? When a person commits adultery or fornication how is that hurting God? (15-17). The Holy Spirit lives in you—do we ever sadden the Holy Spirit by the places we go or the things we watch? How do we flee from sexual immorality?

**1 CORINTHIANS 7**

**Read 7: 1-5.** One of the questions that was given to Paul was “Is it good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman?” What was Paul’s answer to this question? If a married couple doesn’t have sexual relations for a long time what could be the result? (5) Is it ever a good idea in marriage to withhold sex to punish the other spouse?

**Read 7: 6-7.** What is the gift of celibacy? Why did Paul choose not to get married? Did the other apostles have wives? (1 Cor. 9:5)

**Read 7: 8-11.** Paul believed that Jesus was coming back to judge the world soon—quite possibly in his lifetime. Why would remaining single have fit his missionary lifestyle? Paul says it’s ok to remain single, but it’s better to get married than to burn with passion. About 1000 years ago the pope at that time commanded that all priests should be single and celibate. What problems did/does that cause? What are the two biblical reasons for divorce?

**Read 7: 12-16.** The Corinthians wanted to know—what if I’m married to an unbelieving husband or wife—what should I do? What is Paul’s answer? What if children are involved? Should you go into a marriage with an unbeliever? With the idea that they’ll become Christian?

**Read 7: 17-24.** What are Paul’s instructions concerning circumcision or the lack of it? How does Paul use a play on words when describing a Christian who is a slave and a Christian who is free? How does Paul address the slavery issue with the Christian man, Philemon?

**Read 7: 25-31.** These verses are the word of God but these are Paul’s thoughts. God wants us to know what was going on in Paul’s mind. (see Acts 5: 33-40) Did Paul believe that the return of Jesus was immanent?

**Read 7: 26-40.** What was Paul’s advice to the unmarried and the widows? How might his belief about the Last Day have affected his advice? When a woman’s husband dies, the woman is free to marry again—with what stipulation?

**1 CORINTHIANS 8**

**Read 8: 1-13.** Is eating food offered to an idol a sin? It depends. What does this mean? Why would eating food offered to idols have bothered many of the Corinthian converts? Is drinking alcohol a sin? If a person thinks it’s a sin and does it anyway, is it a sin for them? If you have friends (who think drinking alcohol is a sin) come to your house for dinner, would it be a sin for you to have a glass of wine out for every person at the table?

**1 CORINTHIANS 9**

**Read 9: 1-7.** Why does Paul always have to defend himself—that he is truly an apostle? What made him an apostle equal to the 12? What rights did Paul and Barnabas give up that the other apostles (including Peter) and the brothers of the Lord (James and Jude) did not? Paul’s main job was that he was a missionary, but what did he do to earn a living for himself? Why did Paul do that? Did he have to do that? What examples does he give to show that a missionary shouldn’t have to work two jobs? Soldier? Vineyard worker? Dairy farmer?

**Read 9: 8-14.** Paul goes on with his reasoning that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. Nevertheless, Paul earns his material needs by working with canvas. Why? Do Lutheran pastors and teachers see their work as a calling? Is money their motivation to serve in God’s kingdom? If that would be the motivation, how would that be a problem?

**Read 9: 15-18.** If Paul gets no money for his missionary work, then what is his motivation? How was it freeing for Paul NOT to get a paycheck from the churches?

**Read 9: 19-23.** The gospel and Christian morality cannot be compromised, but what can we do to remove barriers to the gospel message? (I ate the eyeball of a goat)

**Read 9: 24-26.** Some Christians believe “once saved, always saved.” What does the Bible teach? (parable of the seeds, the prodigal son)

**1 CORINTHIANS 10**

**Read 10: 1-5.** There were a lot of idols in Corinth, a lot of heathen temples, but the people of God were to separate from their old way of life. The metaphor of going through the waters and being baptized into Moses talked about leaving slavery and being joined to God’s family. How does baptism separate us from slavery, from the unbelieving world? (see 1 Peter 3: 18-21) God fed them with manna and quail and gave them water from a rock. Who does Paul call the “spiritual Rock” the Living Water that sustained them? Even though they saw the great miracles of God (10 plagues, parting of the Red Sea, manna and quail, water from a rock) many still rebelled against God (v5)

**Read 10: 6-13.** We’re all traveling through the wilderness (so to speak) and are heading to the Promised Land. Don’t be idolaters as some of them were—what happened at Mt. Sinai? Don’t indulge in sexual immorality—the Corinthian temples had paid temple prostitutes as part of their “worship.” (see Numbers 25: 1-5, 9) We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents. (see Numbers 21: 4-9) After all of those Old Testament reminders and warnings, what encouraging words did Paul have for the Corinthians and for us? (verse 13) Is everyone tempted? Do we have to yield to the temptation?

**Read 10: 14-22.** How do we flee from idolatry? What do we run TO? How does verse 16 describe the Lord’s Supper? Read also 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29. There are three basic understandings of the elements of the Lord’s Supper:

**Roman Catholic**: the bread and wine change into the body and blood of the Lord (transubstantiation)

**Reformed churches:** the bread and wine simply represent the body and blood of Christ

**Biblical (which Lutherans accept):** with the bread and wine a person also receives (in a supernatural way) the body and blood of Christ.

The following words are taken from page 219 of “A Summary of Christian Doctrine,” a book used to train Lutheran pastors and teachers in biblical doctrine:

The sacramental union obtains only during the sacramental action. Nothing has the nature of a sacrament apart from the use instituted by Christ.

Though the entire Communion liturgy be chanted or spoken, if no one actually ate or drank, there would be no Sacrament. The words of Christ: “This is my body,” “This is my blood,” did not refer to all the bread and wine on the table, over which He spoke the blessing, but only that bread and wine, what was actually eaten and drunk.

Early Lutheran theologian, John Quenstedt, said, “Christ does not say absolutely of the consecrated bread that it is His body, but of the bread that was spoken and given to eat. First, He says, “Take and eat,’ and then He says, “This is my body.’”

The sacramental union, therefore, is not effected by the pastor’s consecration of the bread and wine, but it obtains only in the bread and wine we eat and drink, and while we eat and drink them. We have no Biblical ground to assume that the bread is the body of Christ before we eat it, and that it continues to be the body of Christ after we have eaten it. The sacramental union ceases with the sacramental action.

Page 220 of that same book states, “The Lutheran Church does not teach **“consubstantiation**” which means that bread and body form one substance, or that the body is present, like the bread, in a natural manner; nor does it teach **impanation**, which means that the body of Christ is locally enclosed in the bread. The purpose of the words “in, with, and under the bread” is not to explain the sacramental union, which cannot be explained, but to reject the false teaching of transubstantiation. The body and blood of Christ are **really, but supernaturally, present** in the Sacrament, and **all** communicants receive them orally, with their mouths, together with the bread and wine.

**Read 10: 23-33.** Again, Paul says that you can eat meat that’s been sacrificed to idols. There’s nothing wrong with the protein. But if it bothers your conscience or the consciences of others, don’t do it.

**1 CORINTHIANS 11**

The situations described in this section are largely foreign to our modern context. In Roman culture, both men and women conveyed their status, including their marital situation, by their appearance. A head covering, basically a shawl draped over the head, conveyed that a woman was married and intended to remain in that situation. Some Roman women, however, sought to live as “new women” who did not intend to remain faithful to their husbands. Women who uncovered their heads immodestly drew attention to themselves by signaling that they were available to other men. In the name of “Gospel freedom” and “rights,” this thinking and behavior began to influence Christians in Corinth. Paul’s instruction, as in chapters 8-10, reminds the Corinthians that their actions always communicate something to others. They are to refrain from behavior that communicates something at odds with the Christian life.

**Read 11: 2-16.** Is submission a bad word? Did Jesus submit to the will of the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane—not my will but Yours be done? Are men and women supposed to submit to one another out of reverence to Christ? (see Eph. 5:21) Is the husband supposed to be the spiritual leader of the family? What happens when he fails to accept that role? What is a woman’s head covering? (v15) Do women have to wear a head covering in our society? What non-Christian religion still follows this as a law?

**Read 11: 17-22.** What abuses were taking place in the Corinthian church?

**Read 11: 23-32.** Jesus said, “This IS my body, this IS my blood.” Could he have said, “This represents my body, this represents my blood?” How does verse 27 teach the biblical understanding of the Lord’s Supper? If an unbeliever participated in the Lord’s Supper, would he receive the body and blood of the Lord in a supernatural way? Would it benefit him? (v29) Should a person ever say, “I shouldn’t come to the Lord’s Supper because I’m not worthy?” How did people in “the old days” prepare for the Lord’s Supper?

* Have I confessed and repented of my sins?
* Do I believe that I am receiving the actual body and blood of Christ, under the bread and wine, into my mouth, for the forgiveness of sins?
* Do I share the confession and unity of this congregation?
* With the Lord’s help, will I amend my sinful life?

**1 CORINTHIANS 12**

**Read 12:1-11.** How do you know that you have the Holy Spirit living in you? What are some gifts of the Holy Spirit? (verses 8-11) For what purpose? (7) Every Christian has the fruit (singular) of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

**Read 12:12-30.** Each one of us has different gifts from the Holy Spirit. How does Paul describe the Church? In what way is the Church like a body? At the beginning of this book we were reading about the disharmony in the church: I follow Paul, I follow Apollos, I follow Peter. There were a lot of chiefs and not enough Indians. Why was this part of Paul’s letter so important to the Corinthians and to us? How can we encourage each other and build each other up concerning the gifts that God has given us as individuals?

**Read 1 CORINTHIANS 13**

**This is called the love chapter in the Bible. The word for love throughout this chapter and in most of the New Testament is** ἀγάπην. What is the main characteristic of agape love?

Describe unconditional love. How did/does Jesus display unconditional love for you and me?

What gift do some Christians like to think is a gift that makes them a “real” Christian? (v1) What about those who think that because they know a lot about the Bible that that makes them a super Christian? What is the gift that all of us can display with God’s help? Hint: It’s the greatest of these.

Love is patient Love isn’t irritable or resentful

Love is kind Love doesn’t rejoice at wrongdoing

Love does not envy or boast Love rejoices with the truth

Love is not arrogant or rude Love bears, believes, hopes all things

Love doesn’t insist on its own way Love endures all things

How does Jesus meet the definition of love in all of the above?

How do we show spiritual maturity?

**1 CORINTHIANS 14**

**Read 14: 1-5.** What is the gift of tongues? The disciples spoke in tongues (different languages) that people from different countries understood. There are three main views of speaking in tongues: The Charismatic View, the Religious Psychology View, and the Cultural-Historic View. The Cultural-Historic View is the view that Luther had in mind as he translated 1 Cor. 12-14. Listen as I read the three views from the Concordia Study Bible—**page 1969.**

What is the gift of prophecy? Why is it so important in the Church?

**Read 14: 6-12.** What word does Paul use when speaking of tongues? (v10) Besides helping ourselves, what else should we use our spiritual gifts for? (v12)

**Read 14: 13-19.** Why does Paul downplay the gift of tongues? What church today puts great emphasis on the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues? We honor each Person of the Trinity, but which Person is emphasized in the Lutheran church? Why? (John 1:18)

**Read 14: 20-25.** Some people are gifted at learning different languages and can use that gift with missionary work in different lands. But would it be effective to use that foreign language to preach a sermon at HT? Would it edify or annoy the people?

**Read 14: 26-40.** Worship has two parts: 1. What God does for us, and 2. Our response of prayer and praise to Him. Which element of worship is mentioned in verse 26? Worship should be orderly. Name some of the elements of worship at HT. What do we do first, second, etc.?

**1 CORINTHIANS 15**

**Read 15: 1-11.** In this chapter Paul reminds Christians of the importance of the resurrection. What did Jesus tell his disciples well before He was crucified? (read Matthew 16: 21-23; Matthew 17: 22-23; and Matthew 20: 17-19. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, what would we all have to honestly admit? If Jesus had not risen from the dead, we’d all be wasting our time here this morning. What truth does Paul teach about Jesus in verses 3-4? Name the people that Jesus appeared to after His resurrection from the dead. (verses 5-8). Why would Paul mention to the Corinthians that most of the 500 who saw Jesus are still alive? Who is James that Paul mentions in verse7? Why mention him separately? Did James always believe in his half-brother? (John 7: 1-5) If Jesus had not risen from the dead, and if the disciples had stolen the body as the religious leaders falsely claimed, what would each of the disciples have known for a fact? Do people die for a lie when they know it’s a lie? In verses 9-11 Paul calls himself the least of the apostles. Why would he say that?

**Read 15: 12-19.** Some people like to claim that Jesus was simply a great teacher and role model and nothing else. Why is that not one of the choices? Jesus is one of three things: a liar, a lunatic, or Lord. Explain. Why did Paul say “if in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied”?

**Read 15: 20-28.** In verses 21-22 Paul is speaking only about those who are Christians. God so loved the **world . . . whoever believes in Him** shall not perish but have everlasting life. Explain the difference between objective and subjective justification.

**Lutheran theologians often speak of justification as having two aspects, objective and subjective. Objective justification is God’s verdict of “not guilty” upon the world for the sake of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Subjective justification means that the benefits of God’s verdict of “not guilty” become yours through faith.**

When Paul had to stand before Governor Felix (and later Festus and Agrippa) in Caesarea. he spoke of the resurrection. Read Acts 24: 10-15. What Paul said in verse 15 made Governor Felix uncomfortable. Why? Jesus spoke of weeping and gnashing of teeth—who is He talking about? Read Revelation 20: 11-15. Will there be a resurrection of the just and the unjust? Who are the just (the justified ones)? On what basis are they justified?

What is the final **enemy** to be destroyed? (v26)

**Read 15: 29-34.** From frustration, Paul now resorts to sarcasm and even mockery. If there is no resurrection from the dead, what might be our philosophy? (v32) If there is no resurrection from the dead, why would Paul choose to be tormented—stoned, beaten, mocked, etc.? Did Jesus teach baptism for the physically dead? What Christian “cult” does baptize (by proxy) for the dead? What did the parable about the rich man and Lazarus teach about the futility of trying to save those who have already died outside of the Christian faith?

**Read 15: 35-49.** When Jesus rose from the dead, how did His body look different from the one that was taken off the cross? When Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, were they recognized by Peter, James, and John. Did Moses and Elijah have name tags so that Peter, James, and John could recognize them? We are in the image of God, but it’s a fallen image (see Genesis 9:6 and Genesis 5: 1-3) Because of Adam’s fall into sin, all of us have a disease called a sinful nature. When our bodies are raised from the dead, we will no longer have a sinful nature. What is Paul talking about in verse 49?

**Read 15: 50-58.** Can we go to heaven with a sinful nature? (v50) What about people who are still alive when Jesus comes back on the Last Day? What happens to their bodies that need to shed the disease called a sinful nature? (51-53)

Read Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14. (Compare to verses 54b and 55)

Do we have the victory over sin now? What other victory are we still looking forward to? What words of encouragement does Paul give to the Corinthians and us? (v58)

**1 CORINTHIANS 16**

**Read 16: 1-4.** The people of Jerusalem and Judea were suffering through a famine. How did the greater Christian church support them? What principles of giving are mentioned in these verses?

**Read 16: 5-11.** Paul’s plan (which he kept) was to leave Ephesus (after his three year stay) and revisit Macedonia (northern Greece) and Achaia (southern Greece). Paul did eventually get to Corinth and stayed there about three months. It was from Corinth that Paul wrote the book of Romans during the winter of A.D. 55-56. Paul was going to send Timothy ahead. Why did Paul have to say “let no one despise him”? What should be our attitude toward a pastoral student at our church?

**Read 16: 12-18.** Paul here mentions Apollos, a native of Alexandria, Egypt (who had been to Corinth after Paul but was now on to other missionary work.) Which three Corinthian men had visited Paul in Ephesus? How does Paul put his stamp of approval on them? Have you ever been helped by getting a stamp of approval from someone?

**Read 16: 19-24.** Pricilla and Aquila got kicked out of Rome (Acts 18) and first met Paul in Corinth. Now, they were ministering with Paul in Ephesus. They even had church in their home. What verse gives us a clue that Paul’s eyesight wasn’t too good? What event might have caused that poor eyesight? What Greek word for love does Paul use in his closing?

ἡ ἀγάπη μου μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

Agape my (be)with all (of)you in Christ Jesus