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I Corinthians

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I CORINTHIANS

This epistle differs from all other epistles in the New Testament. I Corinthians was written in answer to a previous letter and therefore contains some very direct and practical teachings. Corinth was a particularly wicked and morally corrupt port city, and the believers felt the need for specific answers and teachings. This epistle is very needful for today's church.

No other epistle is filled with so much exhortation. And yet, in spite of the many problems the believers faced, no other church seems as interested in the gifts and manifestations of the Spirit. Some may want to condemn such a church, but the church as a whole today has all these problems and more. The Lord has not come to condemn, but to instruct and teach His church the path and walk of true salvation.

BACKGROUND OF THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH:

The story of the birth of the church at Corinth is recorded in Acts 18:1-17. Answer the next 7 questions from this passage.

1. Where was Paul before he came to Corinth? _____
2. Who did he stay with there? v. 2 _____
3. What did Paul do for a living? _____
4. How often did he go to the synagogue? _____
5. After much opposition and blasphemy, what did he finally do? v. 6 _____

6. How long was Paul in Corinth? v. 11 _____
7. What happened to Paul's co-laborer, Sosthenes? v. 17 _____

CHAPTER 1 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. Who sent greetings with Paul to the Corinthians? v. 1 _____
2. Some may be called to be pastors or teachers, but what are we **all** called to be? v. 2 _____
3. Look up the word "saint" in a standard dictionary and write the definition: _____

4. What two things should be perfectly balanced in our Christian life? v. 5 _____

Just receiving truth and not "giving out" through Christian service will result in spiritual death. We need to be balanced in "utterance" to speak, witness and testify for the Lord as our knowledge of Him and His word increases.

For what four things does the Lord beseech His people, as revealed in verse 10?

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

The people at Corinth were choosing "favorite elders" in the church. This practice manifests a totally carnal attitude toward leadership. Having favorite ministers, people eliminate the true appreciation of the ministry of the Word. We do not listen to a man, but to the word of God!

9. What questions did Paul ask to prove his point? v. 13 _____

10. What would make the preaching of the cross of Christ to be of none effect? v. 17 _____
11. What did the unsaved think of the preaching of the cross? v. 18 _____
12. The gospel story contains the richest depths of wisdom and truth; but man has his own wisdom and thinks the gospel is foolish. Through the beautiful gospel story, what would the Lord do with man's wisdom? v. 19 _____
13. What did it please God to do, in the presence of the wise and intelligent men of the earth? v. 21

14. What is Christ to those of us who are called? v. 24 _____
15. Why has God deliberately chosen the foolish and weak things? v. 27 _____
16. What will no one ever be allowed to do? v. 29 _____
17. What should we all glory in? v. 31 _____

The world still falsely glories in their intelligence, wisdom and skill and considers the gospel foolish and vain. How humble man will be when he stands before the Creator some day!

CHAPTER 2 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. What does Paul remind them that he never "came with" in his ministry? v. 1 _____

2. What did he determine not to know? v. 2 _____

3. What was Paul's humble attitude toward the preaching of the gospel? v. 3 _____

4. Describe Paul's speech and preaching. v. 4 _____

5. What did he want their faith to be in? v. 5 _____

6. What would man never have done if he knew the true wisdom of God? v. 8 _____
7. The Lord says that "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man"

the things God has for His people. But what **has** God done with these great things? v. 10

8. Why has God given us this Spirit? v. 12 _____

9. Why can't the natural man receive or know the things of the Spirit? v. 14 _____

10. What is he that is spiritual able to do? v. 15 _____

Many people will not openly speak for truth because others will say it is "judging" and will misuse Jesus' words in Matthew 7:1,2. But God has blessed us with **His own Spirit**; and we are to freely declare what is true and good, and what is deception and sin.

11. What do we have? v. 16 _____

When we judge with **this** mind, it is righteous and holy.

CHAPTER 3 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. How did Paul have to speak to the Corinthians? v. 1 _____

2. What clearly showed that they were indeed babes and carnal? v. 3 _____

Just as parents would be greatly disappointed and even heartbroken if their child were to suddenly stop growing and maturing at two years of age, so is the Lord heartbroken when we remain as babes (carnal). Every born-again believer is called to be a knowledgeable and mature servant of God.

3. What did Paul and Apollos do? v. 6 _____

4. What will every man receive? v. 8 _____

5. What should we take heed of in verse 10? _____

What are three good things we may build upon our foundation? v. 12

6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____

What are three perishable things we do not want on our foundation? v. 12

9. _____ 10. _____ 11. _____

12. What shall the Lord use to reveal our works? v.13 _____

When we stand before the Lord, the test is not how many works or how great the apparent results, but "the fire shall try every man's work of what **SORT** it is." Many times the work of the Lord can be done with impure and carnal motives and yet appear successful. This Judgment Seat of Christ will reveal the root of every work done in the name of Jesus! The experience described here in I Cor. 3:10-15 is also called the "Bema Judgment". Bema is a Greek word meaning "bench". The same Greek word in Romans 14:10 is translated "judgment seat".

13. Read Romans 14:10-12. Who will explain or give account of everything we did as a Christian?

This "Bema Judgment" is totally distinct from the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) where all the unsaved will be judged for sin. At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will not be judged for our sin, but will give an account of what we did with our salvation. It will be a time of great reward for those who have sacrificed and invested themselves in the Kingdom of God.

14. Please write I Cor. 3:14 in your own words. _____

Verse 15 shows us that it will be possible that **all** of an individual's works may be unacceptable to the Lord and therefore burned. We need to value our time here on earth.

15. What are we and who dwells in us? v. 16 _____

16. What will happen if we defile ourselves with sin? v. 17 _____

17. How can we become truly wise? v. 18 _____

By living a Spirit-filled life in Christ, we become foolish to the world. Even our own carnal mind will accuse us of being a fool for serving God and preaching His Word to a cold and hateful world. But we will have just entered into true wisdom!

CHAPTER 4 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Paul continues to refute the carnal attitudes of the Corinthians. He reveals that there is no human merit in any of us, because anything good or profitable has come from God. Verse 1 tells us that ministers are stewards (servants) of the great truths of God. Ministers or servants only give out what the Master has given them.

1. What is one of the important qualities of a good steward? v. 2 _____

2. Who is our ultimate judge? v. 4 _____

3. What shall the Lord make manifest? v. 5 _____

Paul used himself and Apollos as examples of the entire controversy of lifting up one man over another. (v. 6)

4. What did he want them to learn? v. 6 _____

5. Why should we not glory in anything we have? v. 7 _____

Paul uses sarcasm in verse 8 to reveal prideful attitudes. The Corinthians thought they were very spiritual, but Paul was trying to show how carnal they really were.

Paul points out how the apostles bore the brunt of all the persecution and animosity, while the people gloried in their "great spiritual wisdom and strength". (vv. 9,10) All these attitudes are prevalent in the church today. The wealthy and famous people of the church receive great acclaim, while many times the hardest workers are overlooked and misunderstood.

6. What was Paul's condition? v. 11 _____

Paul suffered for his great ministry. He did not attempt to make great gain or profit from the work of God.

7. What was Paul to the Corinthian people? v. 15 _____
8. How does verse 16 show that Paul was sure of his upright Christian walk and total commitment to the Lord? _____
9. What was Timothy sent to do? v. 17 _____
10. When Paul came, he would not be interested in the speech of the ones who were so "puffed up". What would he look for? vv. 18,19 _____
11. The kingdom of God is not in _____ but in _____. v. 20

CHAPTER 5 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The people's carnal attitudes concerning their spirituality is shown to be very shallow by their light attitude toward sin in the church. How the church needs this message today! When God's people are **truly** walking in the Spirit, **sin is judged**.

Paul expressed shock at the degree of the sin committed by a man in the church. Apparently, a man was living with his own stepmother. Paul goes on to say that it is "not so much as named among the Gentiles", or in other words, "you don't even hear about something like that among the unsaved!"

1. What should have been the attitude and the action taken by the church? v. 2 _____

This shows scriptural ground for dismissing someone from the fellowship of believers if there is open and continued sin.

2. What did Paul say to do? vv. 3-5 _____

Paul was believing that, if the individual was put out of the protection of the church and into the hands of Satan, he would repent and seek restoration.

3. To what does Paul liken a little sin in the church? vv. 6,7 _____
4. In the Old Testament, the Jews were to get rid of all the leaven or yeast out of their homes. But this was only a type and shadow. How do we truly celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread? v.8 _____

Leaven is a good type of sin, for its function is to "puff up". At the root of all sin is pride. Spiritual pride is especially deceiving, and therefore, the Corinthians were blind to what was actually important to God.

Verse 11 is a tragic reality. We would like to think that anyone called a "brother in the Lord" or anyone who says "Praise the Lord" is someone with whom we can fellowship. But unfortunately, there are brethren who are believers and yet are living in some form of sin. As Christians, we are instructed to separate ourselves from those who continue in such a manner.

5. What things might one who is called a brother still be doing? v. 11 _____

6. What is a railer? (Use other translations or a dictionary.)
-

CHAPTER 6 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

More exhortation from the Lord! When this epistle was read before the church, as was the custom, many hearts were tried and humbled before God.

Apparently, these Christians were entering into lawsuits and legal battles among themselves.

1. Where does Paul say disputes should be settled? v. 1 _____
-

This does not mean legal battles should be fought in the church, but rather, the parties involved should pray and seek counsel from the pastor or elders.

2. Why should we be able to judge things that pertain to this life? v. 3 _____
-

3. In the end, what should a Christian do if the matter cannot be settled? v. 7 _____
-

We are not to act like the world in any way. It is better to suffer loss and let God make up the difference than to fight in the unbelieving civil courts with a brother.

4. What are we now? v. 11 _____
-

5. Make sure you understand verse 12 and then carefully put this verse in your own words. _____
-

Paul begins in verse 13 to sum up the ungodliness of fornication.

6. To whom do we belong and why? vv. 19,20 _____
-

7. Therefore, what should we do? v. 20 _____
-

CHAPTER 7 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

This chapter gives some instruction to the married, unmarried and widowed. There is a discussion of the reasons for remaining unmarried for the work of the ministry, but also the acknowledgment that not everyone has this gift. In such a case, it is best to marry. In verses 3-5, Paul instructs the husband and wife to be totally committed to one another.

1. Paul was unmarried, and he said this was a _____ from God. v. 7
2. What did he feel was the best advice for the unmarried and widows? v. 8 _____
3. If a man or woman has an unsaved partner and the unsaved wants to remain, what should he/she do? vv. 12,13 _____

It is interesting that the unsaved partner is "sanctified" or set apart for special consideration by the

Lord. The Lord is dedicated to building a complete Christian home!

4. What if the unbelieving partner leaves? v. 15 _____
5. What should the Christian husband or wife pray and believe for? v. 16 _____

In verses 17-24, Paul establishes the priority of seeking and serving the Lord in our circumstances rather than seeking to change our circumstances. This is a trap many Christians can fall into...spending all their "spiritual energies" on changing their circumstances instead of fighting the battle of the Lord for souls and revival.

From verse 25 to the end of the chapter, Paul discusses the reasons for remaining single in the work of the ministry. In verse 26, "this present distress", refers to the great persecution and pressure exerted on the Christians of the early church.

6. What are Paul's general instructions in verse 27? _____
7. What will it be like for those who do marry? vv. 28,29 _____
8. What does Paul say that the unmarried care for, and what do the married care for? vv. 32-35 _____

CHAPTER 8 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

This chapter concerns a local controversy that affected all the believers in Corinth. Meat that had been offered to idols was commonly sold in the marketplace. Not everyone worshiped these idols or participated in the ceremonies, but the buying of this meat was a commonly accepted practice. This created a controversy among the new Christians who had suddenly become aware of the ungodliness of idolatry. Basically, Paul teaches that, since an idol is nothing but wood or stone, it doesn't matter if you eat the meat or not. However, there is one higher law to be considered: not to do anything to offend or cause a brother to stumble because of our actions.

1. Many times knowledge alone will lead to pride. In verse 1, what does Paul say knowledge does, and what will love (charity) do? _____

Verse 2 tells us that, if a man thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing as he ought to know! A humble heart is the path to true knowledge.

2. No one has to **prove** how much they love God by how much they know or how much liberty they have. What does verse 3 say? _____
3. What do we know about an idol? v. 4 _____
4. What happens when someone goes against his own conscience? v. 7 _____
5. We are told to take heed (be careful) with our liberties in verse 9. We never want our liberty to become a _____
6. What do we do if we sin against a brother by not being considerate of his weak conscience? v. 12 _____

7. What was Paul's personal stand if this meat would offend his brother? v.13 _____

CHAPTER 9 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

This chapter was written in reply to the challenge false teachers and carnal brethren were making against Paul's ministry. Paul was defending the right of being supported by the church, and yet he gave up that right as unto the Lord.

1. What was the seal of his apostleship and his work in the Lord? vv. 1,2 _____

To those who examined or challenged his ministry, Paul declares that he and Barnabas had every right to eat, drink, and have their families provided for by the church. (vv. 3-7)

2. What was his scriptural background from the law? v. 9 _____

3. Why did Paul decide not to use his right or power? v. 12 _____

4. What has the Lord ordained? v. 14 _____

5. How did Paul feel about his call to preach? v. 16 _____

In verse 18 Paul feels that he receives a special reward or blessing by preaching, without making use of his right to financial support.

6. Why did he make himself a servant? v. 19 _____

Verses 20-22 reveal Paul's willingness to totally identify with and understand everyone to whom he ministered.

7. What would everyone who want the mastery or prize of God's very best have to do? v. 25 _____

8. Paul kept the passions and clamorings of his physical nature under strict discipline. Why? v. 27 _____

This verse should serve as a strong exhortation to maintain a disciplined life. Paul knew that he could become a castaway, even after ministering to others.

CHAPTER 10 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 10 further elaborates on the dangers of disobedience to the Lord. The "Old Testament church" (the Jews) is used as an example of some who became "castaways" because of sin.

1. How many of the Jews saw the cloud, passed through the sea, and ate of spiritual meat and drink? vv. 1-4 _____

2. Why were they displeasing to God and overthrown in the wilderness? vv. 5,6 _____

What four sins are mentioned in verses 7-10 that caused such great destruction?

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

Idolatry is anything that can take God's rightful **first place** in our hearts. The Israelites "tempted" the Lord through repeated unbelief when trial arose. Unbelief leads to discouragement and self-pity. Many times we cause God to chasten us by repeated unbelief. Unbelief leads to murmuring, a sin God obviously hated among His people. Murmuring is merely **complaining**. Christians may take it very lightly when they hear complaining or complain themselves, but it is a serious matter with God!

7. Why were all these testimonies written down? v. 11 _____

8. When we think we are doing fine and standing firm, what should we do? v. 12 _____

9. People may feel that they are the only ones facing such a hard testing or temptation, but what does the first part of verse 13 say?

10. What will God **not** do? v. 13 _____

11. What **will** He do? v. 13 _____

In verse 15, the Lord is basically saying, "If you are wise, you will understand this warning".

The remainder of this chapter focuses again on the controversy over eating meat that was offered to idols. The Lord makes it quite clear that the meat itself is not the important issue; what the Lord objects to is fellowship with people in idolatry. The Lord will call us to forsake close friendships and even family ties when these relationships hinder our commitment to Christ and tend to lead us toward serving the other gods of pleasure and selfishness. Read Deuteronomy 13:6-11. Look at how seriously this was dealt with under the Law! The Lord has changed the action, but He has **not** changed His serious attitude in this matter.

In I Cor. 10:16-19, the Lord illustrates that partaking of the New Testament communion and partaking of the Old Testament sacrifices joined people into a certain bond.

12. If we fellowship with those who serve false gods, (these false gods are in reality, devils) with whom are we really having fellowship? v. 20 _____

13. What does God's word say we cannot do? v. 21 _____

The teaching of verses 23-30 can be stated as: Never do anything that will offend another person's conscience.

14. What should be the purpose behind everything we do? v. 31 _____

15. Whose benefit or profit should we not seek and whose should we seek? _____

CHAPTER 11 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The chapter teaches God's order of authority. Every individual has a deep need to feel FREE, but man without Christ goes about this in the wrong way. Within God's order (and not without) is **total freedom**.

1. Who should be the head of every man who has ever lived, will live, or is living? _____

This is true freedom!

2. Also, the only real freedom for woman is in Christ. Woman finds that she is given a place of protection by God. Who is her head? v. 3 _____

3. Even though Christ is equal with God, He took a place of voluntary submission to the Father in order to bring about our salvation. Who is the head of Christ? v. 3 _____

The human race was lost through rebellion and won back by submission!

In the early church the women wore scarves or veils to signify their submission. God also placed it in the heart of woman to have longer hair and man to have shorter. God instituted this to show woman's submission and man's authority! Today we see the complete breakdown of respect for the honorable places man and woman were given by God. **True** women's liberation or man's liberation is found in the places God made and prepared for them. Verse 10 tells us true submission will even be a testimony to the angels!

4. Write out verse 12 in your own words. _____

The remainder of the chapter (beginning in verse 17) concerns the communion service. The people of Corinth were turning their communion service into a sort of church dinner. This destroyed the sacredness of communion.

In verse 19, Paul says that there will always be heresies and divisions among them as long as some people are determined to prove they are right.

5. What did the Lord ask about their church dinners? v. 22 _____

This should serve as a warning to the church today to be careful. Too much emphasis on social gatherings can destroy a deep spiritual respect for the house of God and for spiritual relationships among the brethren.

6. As shown in II Cor. 5:16, how should we **not** know our brethren? _____

This is what happened at Corinth.

Because of the need for exhortation, the rest of the chapter contains some of the best New Testament teaching on the communion service.

7. For whom was Christ's body broken? v. 24 _____

8. What do we show or proclaim every time we partake of communion? _____

In verse 27, "unworthily" does not speak of or point to our faults and weaknesses but to a disre-

spectful or light attitude toward this act of worship and faith.

9. What should we do before we partake of communion? v. 28 _____
10. What does the person do, who receives communion unworthily? v. 29 _____

11. How do we escape the judgment of God? v. 31 _____
If we neglect to examine and judge ourselves continually, we will stray away from the straight and narrow walk. If we fail to be careful and watchful, the Lord will have to chasten us.
12. What is the purpose of this chastening? v. 32 _____

CHAPTER 12 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

This is one of the most frequently studied chapters in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit was sent to the church to be our guide and comforter and to give the power to live for Christ.

Read John 14:26; 15:26,27 and Acts 1:8. Because the Holy Spirit is **God**, He has an infinite number of ways to manifest Himself in and through our lives. The Holy Spirit is literally the life of Jesus Christ being lived **right through** us!

In chapter 12 we are taught about some of the **gifts** of the Spirit. However, there are other gifts referred to in the New Testament; see also Romans 12:6-8. The Lord has many different ways of ministering to and building up His people. These gifts are ministries of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to better equip God's people to live in and minister to a lost and dying world.

1. What was Paul's desire concerning spiritual gifts? v. 1 _____

2. If these gifts help to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ, then who is the power behind them? v. 3 _____
3. Does every church body operate and administrate exactly the same way? vv. 5,6 _____

4. How many people are given the manifestation of the Spirit in their lives? v. 7 _____

Verses 8-10 list the nine gifts of the Spirit. Below are listed all nine gifts with a short explanation and references after each one. The references provide Bible examples of each gift in operation in the lives of God's servants. Check the boxes after you have read the examples under each gift.

5. **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE** - This does not merely mean knowledge, but a "word" of knowledge. The Lord speaks to His people special knowledge or information to meet a need.
 - A. The Holy Spirit reveals Ananias' and Sapphira's lie to Peter. Acts 5:1-3
 - B. To expose Gehazi's lie. II Kings 5:20-27 []
6. **WORD OF WISDOM** - This is not just a high degree of insight or understanding, and therefore is not limited to age or experience. A "word" of wisdom is like the word of knowledge but contains a wider scope or reveals an entire plan.

- A. The idea for the selection of deacons. Acts 6:1-3
- B. God's revelation to Peter that the Gentiles would be accepted. Acts 10:9-22 []

7. **GIFT OF FAITH** - Without the ministry of the Holy Spirit, faith in Jesus Christ would never be expressed in the heart of man; but at certain times of need, the Holy Spirit will impart a special faith to face special circumstances.

- A. Life restored to Eutychus after he fell to his death during a church service. Acts 20:7-12
- B. Paul shook off a viper into the fire. Acts 28:3-6 []

8. **GIFTS OF HEALING** - It is interesting to note that the word "gifts" is plural, and in Greek the word "healing" is also plural. Man does not have the gift of healing to use at his own will. When the Holy Spirit has control, **He** can then manifest these gifts as **He** wills!

- A. Peter at Lydda. Acts 9:32-34
- B. Paul and Barnabas at Lystra. Acts 14:8-11 []

9. **WORKING OF MIRACLES** - A miracle is a manifestation of supernatural power in the natural realm. To the Lord these are not spectacular events; but to us, when God moves, it is **supernatural**.

- A. Joshua told the sun and moon to stand still until he finished the battle. Joshua 10:12-14
- B. Philip's translation by the Spirit of God after the eunuch's water baptism. Acts 8:35-40
- C. Stephen and Paul worked miracles. Acts 6:8 and Acts 19:11,12 []

The Lord loves to manifest His greatness by interrupting man's small world and the "natural order of things". Through this, the Lord reminds His people of His mighty power!

10. **PROPHECY** - This does not necessarily refer to telling future events. I Cor. 14:3 states that prophecy is for "edification, exhortation and comfort". The word prophecy simply means to "flow forth". This gift brings messages of edification and comfort to the body of Christ. The need for knowledge of the future is met through study of God's word. However, this does not eliminate the word of knowledge, prophecy or a vision confirming and elaborating upon future events.

- A. By word of prophecy, the Holy Spirit confirmed the call that was already on Paul and Barnabas for the ministry. Acts 13:2-4
- B. Agabus confirmed what Paul knew earlier. Acts 20:22-24 and Acts 21:10,11 []

11. **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS** - The gift of discerning of spirits is the supernatural endowment of the Holy Spirit to detect the presence of demons, or evil spirits. This gift has been mistakenly called the gift of discernment", referring to someone's ability to understand people or situations. This application is a misuse of scripture.

- A. Paul's ministry in Acts 16:16-18.
- B. The disciples experienced recognition of and power over demons. Luke 10:17-19 []

12. **DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES** - The gift of tongues a supernatural utterance in a language never learned by the speaker and not understood by the mind of the speaker and usually not under-

stood by the hearer. This is why there is also the gift of interpretation. I Cor. 13:1 tells of "tongues of men and angels". Sometimes the tongue is not even an earthly language! However, the gift is also given to impart a known language in the presence of someone who speaks that language.

- A. 120 people were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues. Only 15 known languages are mentioned. Acts 2:4-11
- B. Cornelius and his house received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. Acts 10:44-47.
- C. Paul gave instructions and guidance for messages in tongues spoken to the church. I Cor. 14:5,13 []

13. **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES** - This gift provides the interpretation to a message in tongues. The interpreter does not understand the tongues, but the meaning is imparted supernaturally.

- A. The Corinthian church. I Corinthians 14:5, 13, 27, 28. []

14. How does the Spirit of God divide or give these gifts? v. 11 _____

These gifts are given as **the Lord wills** and not according to man's will and demands. The Lord teaches us that not everyone in the body of Christ is used by God in the same way. There are as many functions in the body of Christ as there are members!

15. How many bodies are there? vv. 12,13 _____

16. How many members are there? v. 14 _____

Sometimes a Christian will feel he is more important than others, and yet some feel that they are not really important at all as part of the body of Christ. The Lord teaches a lesson in order to balance out these wrong and hurtful attitudes.

17. What would happen if the whole body were an eye? vv. 15-17 _____

18. What can one member of the body never say or feel toward another? v. 21 _____

Paul says in verses 22 and 23 that our natural bodies have members which seem feeble or not useful, but many times these are the most necessary....and so it is in the body of Christ.

19. What should all the members have? v. 25 _____

When we hurt one part of our natural bodies, all the attention of our other members goes to hold, soothe, or help that hurt foot, hand, elbow, etc. Paul says it should be the same in the body of Christ (v. 26).

20. What should everyone do when one member is honored? v. 26 _____

Sometimes there will be envy and strife instead of rejoicing.

21. What are we to covet earnestly? v. 31 _____

CHAPTER 13 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The last verse of chapter 12 is our introduction to this chapter. There is something even better and greater than all these wonderful gifts of the Spirit--it is **love**. How perfectly balanced is God's word! The Lord knew that, because of the power involved in the gifts of the Spirit, man would tend to over empha-

size the gifts and leave aside the root and essence of Christianity and God Himself---LOVE.

1. What will all our spiritual life become without love? v. 1 _____

The brass gong and cymbal are instruments that sound harsh and empty unless they are part of an entire orchestra. This is just what our life is without true love; harsh and empty. All the spiritual gifts and thousands of great deeds of faith cannot fill in or replace love, the most important thing in heaven and earth, in time and eternity.

What four great things could you have in your life and yet become nothing? v. 2

2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____

Write out the five qualities of love found in verse 4 in your own words.

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Write out the four qualities found in verse 5 in your own words.

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

How opposite from our human nature these qualities are! Human nature always vaunts itself, seeks its own, and is easily provoked. We should be grateful that our Lord sought not His own, was not easily provoked, and suffered long with us, or we would not even be here!

The basic thought of verse 7 is "love is trusting". It is a miserable existence to be unable to trust others. True love is willing to trust everyone because ultimately our trust rests in God and no one else.

Love will last forever and therefore will outlast all other spiritual gifts and graces. Prophecies, tongues and knowledge will pass away when we step into eternity, but love will **never** cease. (v. 8). The word of God even tells us that, in the fullness of the love of God and the perfection of heaven, prophecies and knowledge will seem childish. We will be glad to put away these things when we dwell in the next world.

15. For now we still struggle and labor to see all the reality and truth of the Kingdom of God; yet, how do we see? v. 12 _____

16. How well shall we know and understand God some day? v. 12 _____

17. What is the greatest of all spiritual gifts and graces? _____

CHAPTER 14 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

This chapter gives very valuable teaching concerning the use of and respect for the gifts of the

Spirit.

1. According to verse 1, what should one desire? _____
2. When one speaks in tongues, to whom is he speaking? v. 2 _____
What are the three ways that prophecy can minister? v. 3
3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

This shows that prophecy does not refer only to foretelling future events. Prophecy is "speaking forth" the mind and will of God.

6. When someone speaks in tongues, who is edified? v. 4 _____
Jude 20 speaks of building up our faith through "praying in the Holy Spirit".
7. What two things are more edifying to the whole church than speaking in tongues? v. 5

As verse 4 revealed, speaking in tongues edifies individuals. Paul now points out that just speaking in tongues in church accomplishes nothing for the **body as a whole**.

8. If someone only speaks in tongues, who is the speaker like? v. 11 _____
9. When gathered together as a body, what are believers to seek? v. 12 _____

Apparently, the Corinthians were placing too much emphasis on speaking in tongues in the public assembly.

10. For what should a man pray if he speaks in an unknown tongue in the church assembly? v. 13 _____
11. When praying in an unknown tongue, what part of the person prays? v. 14 _____
12. To what extent did Paul speak in tongues? v. 18 _____
13. What was Paul's goal and purpose in the church assembly? v. 19 _____
14. To whom are tongues given for a sign? v. 22 _____
15. What might the unbeliever think if all speak in tongues? v. 23 _____
16. An example of this is given in Acts 2:1-13. Even though 120 people were blessed by God on the day of Pentecost, what did the onlookers think? Acts 2:13-15. _____
17. What can God do through prophecy when it is exercised in the church? v.25 _____

What are the three things that serve as a general rule for the body? vv. 26,40.

18. _____ 19. _____
20. _____

Sometimes people may disrupt the service by speaking out; but God does all things in order. Even though people may claim that they couldn't help but speak, verse 32 states that Christians are in a position to keep things in order.

21. Of what is God **not** the author? Of what **is** He the author? v. 33 _____

In the Jewish synagogues and in the early church, all the men sat on one side of the church and the women on the other. In verses 34 and 35 the women are told not to call to or try to talk to their husbands during church so that order may be maintained in the house of God. This is also a general exhortation for good manners in the church.

22. What does Paul say in verse 39 concerning the use of tongues and prophecy in the church?

CHAPTER 15 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

This chapter is a wonderful discourse concerning the hope and assurance of the resurrection. The Holy Spirit first establishes the absolute doctrine of the **bodily** resurrection of Christ. After establishing this as a firm foundation, we are given the assurance of our own bodily resurrection in the next life. The fact that Christ arose with His physical body (He ate, walked, talked and showed Himself) completely separates Christianity from false doctrines. Many will speak of an after-life in a vague "spiritual" manner. But Christ's resurrection with His glorified body assures us of victory over the flesh and a home and life in heaven that will have substance.

1. Who actually saw the risen Christ? vv. 3-6 _____

2. Did Paul see the risen Christ? v. 8 _____

3. Why did Paul feel he was not worthy to be an apostle? v. 9 _____

4. All of us feel our unworthiness at times, but what should we be able to say with Paul? v. 10

5. What were some people in the church saying? v. 12 _____

What two things are totally useless and in vain if Christ did not rise from the dead?

6. _____ 7. _____

8. What are we if Christ did not rise? v. 15 _____

The resurrection is so important that, if it is not true, then our entire message is false. The resurrection of Christ confirms all the power and promises of God.

9. Can we have our sins forgiven if there is no resurrection? v. 17 _____

10. What would happen to our Christian friends and relatives who have died if there is no resurrection? v. 18 _____

We are fools if Christ is not risen! This is what Paul says in verse 19. Why try to live for righteousness and deny ourselves if there is no resurrection? If we are not sure that we "lay up treasure in heaven" by the life we lead now, then we surely are miserable. But **CHRIST IS RISEN!** Therefore we are assured of our resurrection. (v. 20).

11. Why did the resurrection come by a man (Jesus) with a physical body? v.21 _____

12. What is the last enemy of mankind that shall be destroyed? vv. 25, 26 _____
Sin and the devil are both conquered before this enemy of death is finally destroyed.

13. What happens to death in Revelation 20:14? _____

Death is still an enemy to be conquered even for Christians who know and believe in the final resurrection. Death brings separation and sorrow with the loss of friends or family. Some day there will be no such thing as **death!** Praise be to our God!

Verse 29 has caused some question. Some have yielded themselves to false doctrine by using this verse and believing that through water baptism we can "save" someone who has already died. Many commentators believe this verse refers to an erroneous practice in the early church in which an individual could be baptized in place of a person who died before he was baptized. We must not assume that Paul condoned this false practice.

In verses 30-32 Paul presents a very valid question. Basically he is saying, "What are we going through all these spiritual battles for if there is no resurrection?" He goes on to say, "If it's not true, then we might as well stop living a life of self-denial and just eat, drink and be merry!" Of course, we **will** rise again and live forever, and so we are exhorted to "awake to righteousness and sin not".

Our human nature likes to have all the answers and to perfectly understand everything. Paul reveals in verse 35 some of the questions that were being asked.

14. What were some asking? v. 35 _____

Paul says they are foolish to look for these answers now, for the quickening will only be fully revealed after death. (v. 36) Verses 37-41 teach us that God gives different bodies to every part of His creation; and therefore, we are to trust Him to give us a glorified body in the resurrection.

15. What does every seed have? v. 38 _____

We don't think of the wheat stalk, cornstalk or flower as the "body" for the life that flows inside, but this is how God sees!

16. What are the four kinds of bodies, or flesh, listed in verse 39? _____

17. What are the three bodies, or glories, in verse 41? _____

Perhaps this teaching makes it more clear why our bodies are called houses in scripture (II Corinthians 5:1-4). Whether men, animals, plants, or planets, what we see is only the external form that houses the life within.

In verses 42-44 we are given some facts about the spiritual body we will receive after death.

Name the four things said about this body that will be raised.

18. _____

19. _____

(Please continue on next page)

20. _____
21. _____

In verse 45 the Lord Jesus is called the last Adam because He is now creating a new race of people called the sons of God! We can be included among the sons of God with a heavenly nature through the miracle of being born again. (vv. 47-49).

22. What cannot inherit the Kingdom of God? v. 50 _____
If we have not been born again, our life is a mere flesh and blood existence!
23. How long will the miraculous transformation of our bodies take according to verse 52?

The twinkling of an eye is less than a blink!

24. Will there be any noise at the rapture? v. 52 _____
What will it be? _____

25. Look also at I Thessalonians 4:16. Along with a trumpet, who will give a loud shout? _____

26. What will swallow up death? v. 54 _____

27. Why is the sting taken out of death for us? vv. 55, 56 _____

28. Why should we give thanks to God? v. 57 _____

Therefore, because the resurrection is true and our labor will not be in vain, what three things are we told to be in verse 58?

29. _____ 30. _____

31. _____

CHAPTER 16 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The concluding chapter of I Corinthians begins with instruction concerning offerings that were being taken for the saints at Jerusalem who were facing terrible persecution.

1. How often were they to take offerings? vv. 1,2 _____
2. Did Paul want to take an offering when he came to Corinth? v. 2 _____

Paul wanted the brethren to be willing to give from their own hearts and not have to be pressured by his presence.

3. Along with an open door from the Lord, what do we usually find? v. 9 _____
4. How were the brethren to care for Timothy when he came? vv. 10,11 _____

List the four commands of verse 13 in your own words. (Read other translations.)

- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. What were those of the house of Stephanas addicted to? v. 15 _____

It is possible to be addicted to something good!

Paul's final comments contain a strong exhortation and reminder of the destiny of the individual who will not love and serve God.

- 10. Write out the meaning of verse 22. (Use another translation.) _____

Our labors, works and involvements in the Lord are important, but above all else, we must **LOVE THE LORD!**

I have answered all questions to the best of my ability.

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____