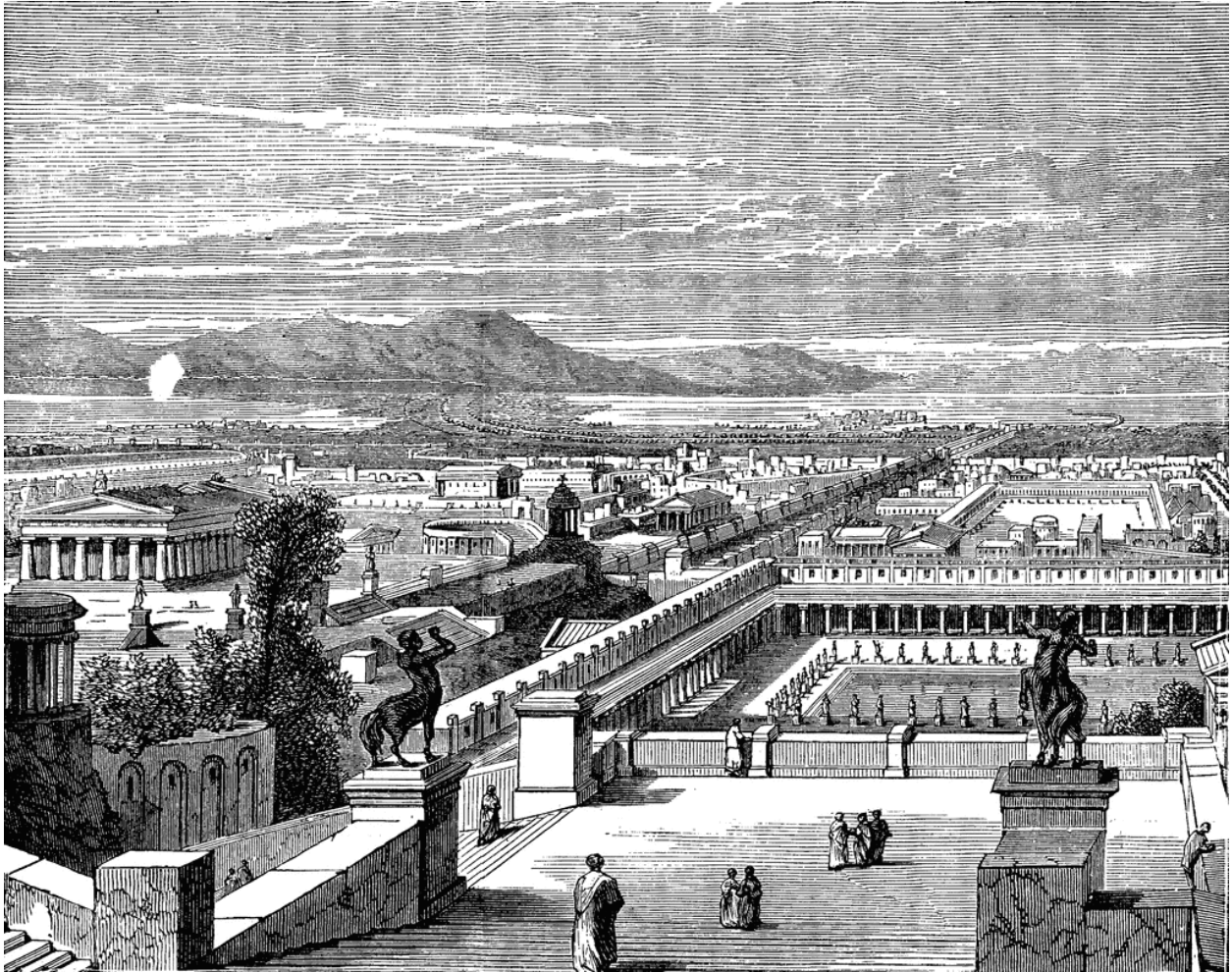


A Study of Paul's Epistle of

1st Corinthians



Auditorium Class

84th Street church of Christ

March - May, 2022

CLASS SCHEDULE -- 1st Corinthians (Auditorium)

March – May 2022

DATE	LESSON MATERIAL FOR CLASS	TEACHER
March 2	<i>No class – Singing Night</i>	
6	Introduction to 1 st Corinthian (1 Cor. 1:1-17)	
9	1 Cor. 1:18-31	
13	1 Cor. 2:1-16	
16	1 Cor. 3:1-23	
20	1 Cor. 4:1-21	
23	1 Cor. 5:1-13	
27	1 Cor. 6:1-20	
30	1 Cor. 7:1-24	
April 3	<i>No class – Gospel Meeting</i>	
6	1 Cor. 7:25-40	
10	1 Cor. 8:1-13	
13	1 Cor. 9:1-27	
17	1 Cor. 10:1-33	
20	1 Cor. 11:1-16	
24	1 Cor. 11:17-34	
27	1 Cor. 12:1-14	
May 4	<i>No class – Singing Night</i>	
8	1 Cor. 12:15-31	
11	1 Cor. 13:1-13	
15	1 Cor. 14:1-25	
18	1 Cor. 14:26-40	
22	1 Cor. 15:1-34	
25	1 Cor. 15:35-58	
29	1 Cor. 16:1-23	

THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

An Introduction

AUTHOR: PAUL, the apostle (1:1; 16:21)

PLACE OF WRITING: EPHESUS (16:8)

TIME OF WRITING:

Probably in the spring of 57 A.D., shortly before the Jewish feast of Pentecost (16:8), during his third missionary journey (Acts 19:1-41).

BACKGROUND OF THE CITY OF CORINTH:

Corinth was situated on the Isthmus of Greece (called Achaia in the Bible) between the Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea, above the Mediterranean Sea. About 50 miles to the east was the city of Athens.

The Corinth of Paul's day was relatively new. The old Corinth (which was famous and powerful in the days of the Peloponnesian War) was burned in 146 B.C. by the Roman proconsul, L. Mummius. Because it was a city devoted to the gods, a hundred years were required to pass before the city could be rebuilt. In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar rebuilt the city, populated it with a colony of veterans and freedmen, and named it Julia Corinthus. It soon became a very important commercial center.

With a population of 400,000 and being a prominent center of commerce in the Mediterranean world, it was a place for all sorts of vice. An example of its immorality was found in the temple of Venus (Aphrodite), which hosted 1000 priestesses dedicated to prostitution in the name of religion. The city's close proximity to the city of Athens probably added the problem of intellectualism. As noticed in the epistle, such an environment had its effect upon the church in Corinth. It is amazing that a church existed at all in such a city.

BACKGROUND OF THE CHURCH AT CORINTH:

The establishment of the church occurred during Paul's second missionary journey. It is recorded by Luke in Acts 18:1-18, which can be divided into three sections:

1. Abiding with Aquila and Priscilla, fellow tentmakers; reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath (Acts 18:1-6).
2. In the house of Justus, abiding there and teaching for a year and six months (Acts 18:7-11).
3. An incident before Gallio, proconsul of Achaia (Acts 18:12-18).

It appears from reading the epistle that the church was adversely affected by the immoral environment found in the city. Pride caused division in the church and disruption in the services (**1 Cor. 1 - 4, 11**). Immorality and immodesty found its way into the church, which gave it a bad reputation (**1 Cor. 5**). The brethren were taking their personal problems with each other before the heathen courts instead of working them out among themselves (**1 Cor. 6**). Other issues affecting the church included questions about marriage (**1 Cor. 7**), meats sacrificed to idols (**1 Cor. 8 – 10**), women praying and prophesying with heads uncovered (**1 Cor. 11**), the use of spiritual gifts (**1 Cor. 12 – 14**), the resurrection from the dead (**1 Cor. 15**), and the collection for the saints in Jerusalem (**1 Cor. 16**). Thus, the church was one beset with problems and questions that needed to be answered.

PURPOSE OF WRITING:

The bad news concerning the problems at Corinth had reached Paul in Ephesus. It seems that this news came from at least two sources: 1) the household of Chloe (**1:11**); and 2) a letter sent to him (**7:1**), possibly by the hands of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (**16:17**).

Therefore, in answer to these reports Paul writes: ***TO CORRECT SINFUL PRACTICES AND REFUTE FALSE DOCTRINE***

THEME:

"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor. 1:10).

--- From Executable Outlines ---

Brief Outline of 1st Corinthians

I. Salutation (1:1–9)

II. Reply to Report from “house of Chloe” (1:10–6:20)

- A. Party Strife (1:10–3:23)
- B. Defense of Paul’s Ministry (4:1–21)
- C. Criticism of Immorality (5:1–13)
- D. Criticism of Lawsuits (6:1–11)
- E. Reply to Libertinism (6:12–20)

III. Reply to Questions in Letter (7:1–16:9)

- A. Marriage (7:1–24)
- B. Virgins (7:25–40)
- C. Things Sacrificed to Idols (8:1–11:1)
 - 1. Evaluated by the idol (8:1–13)
 - 2. Evaluated by freedom (9:1–27)
 - 3. Evaluated by relation to God (10:1–22)
 - 4. Evaluated by relation to others (10:23–11:1)
- D. Problems of Worship (11:2–34)
 - 1. The covering of the head (11:2–16)
 - 2. The Lord’s table (11:17–34)
- E. Spiritual Gifts (12:1–14:40)
- F. The Resurrection of the Body (15:1–58)
- G. The Collection (16:1–9)

IV. Concluding Salutations (16:10–24)

Textual Outline of 1st Corinthians

I. Introduction (1:1- 9)

II. Dealing with Problems Reported to Paul (1:10 – 6:20)

- A. Problem of Factionalism (1:10 – 3:23)
- B. Problem of Rejecting Paul's Work (4:1-21)
- C. Problem of the Fornicator and Church Discipline (5:1-13)
- D. Taking Problems between Brethren to Civil Courts (6:1-11)
- E. Responsibility to Glorify God with the Body (6:12-20)

III. Dealing with Questions Asked by the Corinthians (7:1 – 16:9)

- A. "Now Concerning" – Marriage and Present Distress (7:1-40)
- B. "Now Concerning" – Idolatry and Personal Liberty (8:1 – 11:1)
- C. "Now... Remember Me" and Apostolic Tradition
 - 1. Submission and Customs (11:2-16)
 - 2. Pattern for Lord's Supper (11:17-34)
- D. "Now Concerning" – Spiritual Gifts (12:1 – 14:40)
- E. "Now..." Concerning – The Resurrection (15:1-58)
- F. "Now Concerning" – The Collection (16:1-9)

IV. Concluding Remarks (16:10-24)

--- Textual Outline of 1st Corinthians by Harry Osborne ---

²⁶ For ^[k]you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many ^[l]noble, *are called*.

²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the ^[m]base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.

³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — are righteousness and sanctification and redemption — ³¹ that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:2 *set apart*
- b. 1 Corinthians 1:5 *speech*
- c. 1 Corinthians 1:6 Or *among*
- d. 1 Corinthians 1:10 Have a uniform testimony
- e. 1 Corinthians 1:10 *schisms or dissensions*
- f. 1 Corinthians 1:11 *quarrels*
- g. 1 Corinthians 1:18 Lit. *word*
- h. 1 Corinthians 1:20 *debater*
- i. 1 Corinthians 1:23 Gr. *skandalon, offense*
- j. 1 Corinthians 1:23 NU *Gentiles*
- k. 1 Corinthians 1:26 *consider*
- l. 1 Corinthians 1:26 *well-born*
- m. 1 Corinthians 1:28 *insignificant or lowly*

Questions for 1st Corinthians – Chapter 1

1. Where do we read of the establishment of the Corinthian church? _____
2. What is the approximate date of this epistle being written? _____
3. What is the purpose of this epistle? _____
4. How was Paul called to be an apostle of Christ? _____
5. What three things characterized the “church of God in Corinth”? _____

6. Concerning the brethren in Corinth, Paul was always thankful “for the _____
of _____ given to you by _____.”
7. What manifested that the church in Corinth had received the “grace of God”? _____

8. What is the first problem that Paul addressed in this epistle? _____

9. What did Paul plead with the Corinthian brethren to do in order to solve this
problem? _____

10. Who reported to Paul that there were contentions within the members of the
church in Corinth? _____
11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it
because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. _____

12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? _____

13. What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? _____

14. “For since, in the _____ of _____, the _____ through _____ did not know _____, it pleased God through the _____ of the message _____ to save those who _____.”

15. What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? _____

16. What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? _____

17. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? _____

18. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? _____

19. “For you see your _____, brethren, that not many _____ according to the _____, not many _____, not many _____, are _____.”

20. Why has God chosen the foolish, weak and base things of the world? _____

Thought Question:

Why are most of the worldly wise, wealthy and noble not attracted to the gospel message? How has the world changed the gospel message to attract those who are not attracted to the original gospel message? _____
