

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

*On Divisions in the Church*

<sup>1</sup>Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ.

Q1. What are some words (synonyms) or phrases that describe “worldly”?

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Q2. How would you describe “mere infants in Christ”?

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Q3. Paul wrote, “I could not address you as spiritual...” Is Paul’s statement flattering or condemning? Why?

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<sup>2</sup>I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

Q4. How would you describe the “milk” to which Paul is referring?

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Q5. How would you describe the “solid food” to which Paul is referring?

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Q6. Why do you think Paul stated that the Corinthians were “still not ready”? Why does Paul seem to expect that they should be “ready”?

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Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>3</sup>You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Q7. How should followers of Christ Jesus behave?

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Q8. Since we Believers of Christ Jesus are in the world, should we act “worldly”?

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Q9. ‘Believers of Christ Jesus are to be in the world, not of the world;’ what does this mean to you?

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<sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

Q10. Thinking back to chapter 1, what was Paul’s complaint against the Corinthians?

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**1 Corinthians 1:10, 12-13**

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. . . <sup>12</sup> What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas [Peter]"; still another, "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? . . .

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

Q11. To whom does Paul serve? Why does he consider himself a servant?

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Q12. Are you – the student – an evangelist?

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Q13. Verses 5-6: What are the duties of an Evangelist?

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Q14. As you read verses 5-6, is there comfort to the Evangelist?

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 Paul is repeating what he stated in chapter 2, so he must want to ensure that the Corinthians understand the power and work of the Father! So that no person may boast in his/her evangelism.

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup> For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

**Day 3**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

Q15. What is planted (“he who plants”)?

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Q16. What is watered (“he who waters”)? And does the metaphor refer to real water (H<sub>2</sub>O)?

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Q17. How would you explain “only God... makes things grow”?

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<sup>8</sup>The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

Q18. What might be the “one purpose”?

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Q19. Uh, oh. I thought that salvation was from the LORD. Yet, verse-8 seems to imply that we are rewarded for our actions. How should we interpret verse-8 “rewards”?

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 Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is written to those who already believe in the saving grace of our Lord Christ Jesus. They may continue to require “milk,” but the foundation of their faith is present. Therefore, Paul is reminding them that their obedience to Scripture (to Paul’s words) will be rewarded by God in Paradise. How? That is a mystery and will be revealed when our physical bodies die and our spirit, our soul is ushered into Heaven. We must remember that we Believers represent God to this fallen world. God depends upon you and me to demonstrate mercy, [agapé love](#), and the Gospel of our Lord Jesus to all He brings near to us.

Q20. How can we demonstrate the Gospel?

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Q21. How can we share the Gospel?

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Q22. Are we Believers to work for rewards?

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**Matthew 6:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Matthew 16:27**

"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

*Day 4*

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

 Note: In verse 9, Paul changes metaphors; he moves from agricultural examples to architectural. Paul seems to use these different examples so that his message can impact the widest possible audience – then and now.

<sup>9</sup>For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

Q23. Who are “God's fellow workers”? Can we Believers ever be considered in this category and, if yes, when, or in what situations?

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Q24. Who or what is “God's field, God's building”?

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**Matthew 13:24-30**

<sup>24</sup> Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup> But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup> When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup> "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

<sup>28</sup> "'An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

<sup>29</sup> " 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time, I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.' "

Q25. Referring to Matthew 13:24-30: what does the soil do? Does the soil (or “God’s field” in 1 Corinthians 3:9) provide nutrients to any and all seed? Does summer rain discriminate between wheat and weeds? Is there a lesson in this parable for us?

Soil:

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Nutrients:

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Rain:

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Lesson?

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Q26. If our body is like a “building,” what kind of building might God consider our body?

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**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

Q27. What is the “foundation” that Paul “laid”?

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Q28. Who might be an “expert builder”?

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Q29. Why should we, who believe, be “careful” builders?

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<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Q30. Why is Christ Jesus the “foundation”?

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Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>12</sup> If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Q31. What does “gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw” represent? What is embellishment?

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**Revelation 22:18-19**

<sup>18</sup> I [the Apostle John] warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

**Matthew 5:17-19** [The Message (MSG)]

<sup>17</sup> [Jesus taught about His authority,] “Don’t suppose for a minute that I have come to demolish the Scriptures — either God’s Law or the Prophets. I’m not here to demolish but to complete. <sup>18</sup> I am going to put it all together, pull it all together in a vast panorama. God’s Law is more real and lasting than the stars in the sky and the ground at your feet. Long after stars burn out and earth wears out, God’s Law will be alive and working.

<sup>19</sup> “Trivialize even the smallest item in God’s Law and you will only have trivialized yourself. But take it seriously, show the way for others, and you will find honor in the kingdom.

Q32. What is refining and what does it do?

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Q33. Verse 15: how is the person “saved... as one escaping through the flames”?

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**Matthew 6:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

-  As Scripture promises, our eternal future is guaranteed for those of us who believe in the saving grace of our Lord Jesus who is the Son of the Living God (see Ephesians 1:13-14, which follows 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:16). However, we who believe are also expected to obey and to put our faith into action. We who believe are God's voice, hands, and feet in this fallen world. We can pray for others. We can be kind to others. We can care for others. We can be merciful to others. We can listen to others. We can simply sit with the hurting person. We can let our example be God's beacon of light drawing those of the world to Him. We plant, we water, and God makes things grow.
-  Through God's promptings, the unbeliever may wonder at the [agapé love](#) you are sharing with them and ask about your motives; you can truly say that as Jesus shared His love with me, I must 'pay it forward'. Then, you must allow God to work His miracles in the other person's heart as the unbeliever sees, witnesses, and experiences your kind, merciful obedience.
-  Also, we must not judge! This is probably the hardest for us to overcome, because the behavior is ingrained in our worldly culture as we venerate the celebrity and overlook the homeless, as we cherish the handsome, the beautiful, and ignore the imperfect.

**James 2:1-4** [The Message (MSG)]

My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted?

-  When we "judge" a person of this world, we elevate ourselves over the person who is the object of our honor or our scorn. Whereas, God knows the motives of every heart and He alone can pass true judgment. We are not to judge. We are not to discriminate. We must control our biases (through prayer, knowledge of Scripture, and self-discipline). This is true if you are black or white, vaccinated or an anti-vaxxer, Democrat or Republican, a gun-owner or pacifist, woman or man, farmer or city-dweller, wealthy or poor.
-  While we are not to judge people in this world, we should avoid worldly activities that pollute our example as a Believer. We are governed by the Gospel of our Salvation and it is stricter than behavior permitted by our society. We are not to judge the unbeliever; however, we are to discern whether participating in their activities might taint our Christ-like example and be considered hypocrites. That said, we will read in 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 that we Believers are to judge a Believer's conduct.

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

 In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus referenced “rewards” three times. It seems that for those of us who believe in the saving grace of our Lord Jesus, we have an eternal savings account opened in our names in Heaven. Each kindness, each prayer, each Word of the Gospel that we share with others, our gifts of time and money become receipts and are deposited in our Heavenly savings account. Jesus promises Heavenly “rewards” and Paul emphasizes that promise in these verses. Only God knows the splendor of the precise rewards.

**Matthew 6:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your righthand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Matthew 6:6**

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Matthew 6:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** [The Message (MSG)]

It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free — signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.

<sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

Q34. Are we Believers valuable in God's eyes?

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<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness" [Paul quoted Job 5:13]; <sup>20</sup> and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." [Paul quoted Psalm 94:11]

Q35. Again, Paul is repeating himself; how would you summarize what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:18-20?

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### 1 Kings 3:5-7, 9-12

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon [King David's son by Bathsheba] during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

<sup>6</sup> Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. <sup>7</sup> "Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. . . <sup>9</sup> So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. <sup>11</sup> So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, <sup>12</sup> I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. . .

<sup>21</sup> So then, no more boasting about men! All things are yours, <sup>22</sup> whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas [Peter] or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, <sup>23</sup> and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

Q36. What did Paul mean when he wrote "All things are yours"?

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