


Day 1

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

Apostles of Christ

¹So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.

Q1. Who is “us”? (See 1 Corinthians 3:22)

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Q2. What traits characterize a “servant of Christ”?

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Q3. The Corinthians seem prideful. One Corinthian pridefully follows Paul, a 2nd follows Apollos, and a 3rd follows Cephas (Peter). In your opinion do Paul, Apollos, and Cephas share the same Gospel messages? Why might the Corinthians be divided and not unified?

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Q4. What is (what are) the “secret things of God”?

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Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him — ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

1 Peter 1:10-12

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

²Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Q5. Are we given a “trust”? If yes, what is the “trust”?

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John 14:1 [Jesus said]

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

Romans 4:5 [Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans]

However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 10:11

As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Q6. How would you describe “prove[d] faithful”?

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Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Q7. How do we Believers show faithfulness?

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James 2:14&17

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? . . . ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Q8. Could another word for faithfulness be obedience? Do your non-believing friends and family see your faith in God’s Son Jesus? How?

Obedience?

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Faith visible?

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Faith manifested?

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Day 2

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


³I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

Q9. Why did Paul write that he “care[s] very little if I am judged by you”?


Q10. What is the difference between judgment and discernment?

 Definition: judgment (‘jəj-mənt) [Source: © 2022 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/judgment>]


- 1a: the process of forming an opinion or evaluation by discerning and comparing
- 1b: an opinion or estimate so formed
- 2a: the capacity for judging : DISCERNMENT
- 2b: the exercise of this capacity
- 3a: a formal utterance of an authoritative opinion
- 3b: an opinion so pronounced
- 4a: a formal decision given by a court
- 4b(1): an obligation (such as a debt) created by the decree of a court
- 4b(2): a certificate evidencing such a decree
- 5a (capitalized): the final judging of humankind by God
- 5b: a divine sentence or decision

 Definition: discernment (di-’sərn-mənt) [Source: © 2022 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discernment>]

- 1: the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure : skill in discerning
- 2: an act of perceiving or discerning something

 Definition: discern (di-’sərn) [Source: © 2022 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated; <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discern>]

- 1a: to detect with the eyes
- 1b: to detect with senses other than vision
- 2: to recognize or identify as separate and distinct : see discriminate
(Example: discern right from wrong)
- 3: to come to know or recognize mentally
(Example: unable to discern his motives)

 The concepts between judgment and discernment are subtle yet profound for the Believer. God reserves ‘judgment’ because He alone can discern the truth and the motivations of the involved parties. He alone can pass judgment or impose a consequence that is unbiased and precisely just. We are not to judge the unbeliever; however, we are to discern! (These concepts will be more thoroughly explored when we study 1 Corinthians 5.)


Q11. Verse 3: What is Paul trying to convey? If “I do not ... judge myself”, how do you or I know if we have done right by God?

⁴My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

Q12. Paul continues to discuss his trust in the Lord and his faithfulness to Christ Jesus. Is Paul suggesting that in self-examination of his trust and faith in the Lord, his “conscience is clear”? (Is the judgment of a human trustworthy?) And if so, why is Paul “not . . . innocent?”

Q13. Why is Paul implying that his salvation is not dependent upon how he (a mere human) judges himself, or how other people judge him?

Day 3

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⁵Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Q14. Paul teaches that we are to “judge nothing before the appointed time”. What is the “appointed time”?

Matthew 7:1-2 [Jesus taught,]

¹ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Matthew 12:36-37 [Excerpt from Jesus' rebuke of the religious leaders,]

³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Revelation 20:11-15 [The Message (MSG)] [The Great White Throne Judgment]


I saw a Great White Throne and the One Enthroned. Nothing could stand before or against the Presence, nothing in Heaven, nothing on earth. And then I saw all the dead, great and small, standing there — before the Throne! And books were opened. Then another book was opened: the Book of Life. The dead were judged by what was written in the books, by the way they had lived. Sea released its dead, Death and Hell turned in their dead. Each man and woman was judged by the way he or she had lived. Then Death and Hell were hurled into Lake Fire. This is the second death — Lake [of] Fire. Anyone whose name was not found inscribed in the Book of Life was hurled into Lake [of] Fire.

Q15. What is “self-righteousness”? And is it a good trait to have?

Galatians 6:4 [Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians]

⁴ Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, ⁵ for each one should carry his own load.

⁶Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.

 He only mentioned himself and Apollos (and not the other heads of parties), so that his motive in rebuking this schismatic [divisive] spirit may not be misunderstood — which possibly it might have been had he written strongly and directly regarding Cephas and his admirers — and that those who read the Epistle [letter] might learn a lesson of humility. All that was said in condemnation of the spirit which exalted the Apostle and Apollos into party leaders, would apply with equal or greater force to all others; for they, as the planter and the waterer of the Corinthian vineyard, the layer of the foundation and the builder-up of the Corinthian spiritual temple, were certainly the two whose exaltation by their followers might have seemed most pardonable. [©Charles John Ellicott, Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers, undated, & the Rev. E. G. PUNCHARD, DD; https://biblehub.com/commentaries/ellicott/1_corinthians/4.htm]

Q16. The Corinthians are divided: I follow Paul, I follow Apollos, I follow Cephas. Does verse-6 imply ‘unity’? Why?

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Q17. What is Paul saying in the last sentence “Then you will not take pride in one man over against another”?

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Q18. It seems to be a basic human trait: if you favor one viewpoint against another, do you typically elevate the one you favor and belittle the other? With that thought in mind, how might people who favor Apollos consider the people who follow Paul?

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Q19. What does Paul mean, when he wrote, “Do not go beyond what is written”?

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Acts 17:11

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Revelation 22:18-19

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. ¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Q20. In verse 6, Paul states that he has “applied these things to myself and Apollos”. What things? (Read the following passage 1st Corinthians 3:5, which we just reviewed.)

1 Corinthians 3:5


What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task.


Q21. What is Paul truly concerned about in the Corinthians beliefs and does his concern apply to us, today?

1 Corinthians 1:10

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.

Day 4

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

 In 1st Corinthians, chapter-12 we'll study the verses related to the gifts, the talents, that God has given each one of us. For now, please read the following passages and see how God has planned this life for you and me.

^{7a} For who makes you different from anyone else?

Q22. How do you answer Paul's question?

Psalm 139:13, 14, &16 [King David wrote]

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. . . .

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

1 Corinthians 12:7-28

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the Same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

¹² The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So, it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body -- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free -- and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And in the church, God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

^{7b} What do you have that you did not receive?

Q23. Do you believe that you are a self-made person? Or did God in His infinite wisdom give you certain gifts, specific talents?

Q24. If a person thinks that s/he has no talent, how might that person discover God's gift and strengthen it?

^{7c} And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

Q25. If a person thinks that it is humble to say that s/he has no talent, then is that person denigrating God's gift(s)?

Q26. If we say we have no talent, might we squelch the Holy Spirit?

Q27. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit's power when you obey? Is it easy to exercise your talents?
Experience?


Easy?


Q28. A prevalent character trait of today is this: "I put myself through school. I have a good job. I work hard. My boss likes the work I do. I earn every penny I'm paid!" Is this a good Biblical attitude? Why or why not?

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Day 5

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 Paul seems to switch to dripping sarcasm in the 1st three (of four) exclamations of verse 8.

⁸ Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings — and that without us! How I wish that you really had become kings so that we might be kings with you!

Q29. Why might Paul be comparing the Corinthians to “rich . . . kings”?

⁹ For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels as well as to men.

Q30. Paul was so rich in the Lord Jesus Christ. Why do you think he was lamenting about being at the end of the parade (procession) and “condemned”?

 Paul suffered greatly as he obeyed the Lord and preached the Gospel of the Risen Lord. The following verses from 2nd Corinthians summarize some of the physical trauma he suffered.

2 Corinthians 11:21^b-27

^{21^b} What anyone else dares to boast about — I am speaking as a fool — I also dare to boast about. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.

²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

¹⁰We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! ¹¹To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. ¹²We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; ¹³when we are slandered, we answer kindly. Up to this moment we have become the scum of the earth, the refuse of the world.

Q31. Why do you think Paul told the Corinthians that they “are so wise in Christ”?

Q32. In verse 12, Paul said that they worked “hard with our own hands”. What was Paul reminding them about?


1 Thessalonians 2:8-9

⁸We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow.

Day 6

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¹⁴ I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. ¹⁵ Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. ¹⁶ Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

Q33. What was Paul's objective in these words to the Corinthians?

Q34. What did Paul mean when he said that he "became your father through the gospel"?

¹⁷ For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.

Q35. Does Paul's Gospel message change depending upon the church in which he is preaching?

 Typically, when the apostles wrote to a church, they would entrust the delivery of their letter to a trusted partner. In the case of this first letter from Paul to the Corinthian Church, he entrusted the delivery to Timothy. Timothy would then be a witness to the authenticity of the letter, answer questions, share any additional insights, continue to minister to the church for the duration of his stay, and then return to the apostle to share his thoughts, concerns, and observations.

¹⁸ Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you.

Q36. What is a typical character trait that accompanies arrogance?

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

¹⁹But I will come to you very soon, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only how these arrogant people are talking, but what power they have. ²⁰For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. ²¹What do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a whip, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

Q37. If you were a Corinthian, who just listened to this letter read aloud, what might you be thinking about now? Anger? Contrite? Conscious of sin? Or other? Why?

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