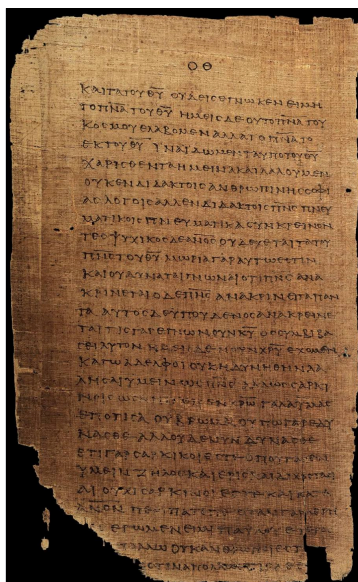


1 CORINTHIANS

Dear Messy Church

AUTHOR	Paul, with his coworker Sosthenes, 1:1. Paul started the church in Corinth himself and stayed there a year and a half, Acts 18:11.
WRITTEN FROM	Ephesus, on Paul's third missionary trip. He planned to stay there until Pentecost, 16:8.
DATE WRITTEN	About AD 53 to 55.
WRITTEN TO	The church in Corinth, Greece, a mix of Jews and Gentiles, a few rich and many poor, 1:26.
WHY HE WROTE	People from Chloe's household reported fights in the church, 1:11, and the church sent Paul a letter full of questions, 7:1.
KEY VERSE	1 Corinthians 13:13. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.



THE OLDEST COPY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

This is page 79 of Papyrus 46, a book of Paul's letters copied in Egypt about AD 200. It holds 1 Corinthians 2:11 to 3:5. You can read the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit, 2:14, then we have the mind of Christ, 2:16, and near the bottom, I follow Paul, 3:4. The number 79 is written in Greek letters at the top.

HOW IT WAS FOUND. In the early 1930s, dealers in Egypt sold the pages in batches. No one knows for sure where they were dug up. The collector Chester Beatty bought some for his library in Dublin, Ireland, and the University of Michigan bought others, including this page. Scholars matched them up and found they were one book. Frederic Kenyon published it from 1934 to 1937.

WHAT IS INSIDE. The whole book once had about 104 sheets, each written on both sides, and 86 survive. This one sheet holds only 1 Corinthians 2:11 to 3:5. Hebrews comes right after Romans, so the copyist thought Paul wrote it. Look for short words with a line over them. Copyists wrote holy

names like God, Lord and Jesus that way, a habit Christians used to show honor to God's name. Most date it to about AD 200, about 150 years after Paul wrote. One scholar argued for about AD 80, but few agree.

Historical Setting

Corinth sat on a narrow strip of land between two seas, with a harbor on each side, Lechaion to the west and Cenchrea to the east. Rome flattened the old Greek city in 146 BC, and Julius Caesar rebuilt it as a Roman colony in 44 BC. By Paul's day it was rich, busy and famous for loose living. Every two years it hosted the Isthmian Games. Paul came about AD 50 to 52 and planted a church, and the Gallio inscription at Delphi dates his trial there, Acts 18:12. This is really at least his second letter to them. The first one, 5:9, is lost.

What Was Going Wrong

FAN CLUBS. Believers picked favorite preachers and split into teams, 1:12.

SEXUAL SIN. A man was sleeping with his father's wife, and the church bragged about it, 5:1 to 2.

LAWSUITS. Believers were dragging each other into pagan courts, 6:1.

A DRUNK COMMUNION. At the Lord's Supper some got drunk while the poor went hungry, 11:21.

SHOWING OFF GIFTS. Everyone spoke in tongues at once, and outsiders thought they were crazy, 14:23.

NO RESURRECTION. Some said the dead are not raised at all, 15:12.

The Idiot Proof Summary

1 Corinthians is a letter to a messy church that Paul still loves. They are gifted, smart and full of energy, but they are also proud, divided and copying the city around them. Paul answers report after report and question after question. Every answer points back to the same place: the cross, the Holy Spirit, love for each other and the risen Jesus. If your church has ever had a fight, this letter is for you.

1 Corinthians at a Glance

CH 1 to 4	STOP THE FAN CLUBS Christ is not divided. Leaders are only servants.
CH 5 to 6	CLEAN UP THE CHURCH Sexual sin, lawsuits and a body that is God's temple.
CH 7 to 10	ANSWERS TO YOUR LETTER Marriage, singleness, idol food and Christian freedom.
CH 11 to 14	WHEN YOU MEET Worship, the Lord's Supper, spiritual gifts and love.
CH 15 to 16	HE IS RISEN The resurrection, then an offering and goodbyes.

Where Jesus Shows Up

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23 TO 24 We preach Christ crucified. To the world it is foolish, but to those who are called He is the power and wisdom of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7 Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed. Points back to Exodus 12.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:4 They drank from the spiritual rock that went with them, and that rock was Christ. Points back to Exodus 17:6.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3 TO 4 Christ died for our sins, was buried and was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures.

What to Watch for in 1 Corinthians

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES	1:18-25, 1:30, 3:11, 15:20
MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	5:7, 10:1-2, 10:4, 15:4, 15:21-23
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE	14:21-22
END TIMES PROPHECIES	15:24-28, 15:51-54
THE HEART	4:5
MIRACLES	12:8-10, 15:5-8
DEMONIC	5:5, 5:10-11, 6:9, 8:1-13, 10:7, 10:14, 10:19-21 and 2 more
NOTABLE	2:9, 9:22, 10:13, 13:1-13, 15:3, 15:33, 16:22
JESUS SPEAKING	Words in red are Jesus speaking, or God the Father speaking from heaven.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

THE OLDEST CREED

Paul says he passed on what he had received: Christ died, was buried, was raised and appeared, 15:3 to 8. Many scholars, even skeptics, date this creed to within a few years of the cross. More than five hundred people saw the risen Jesus, and most were still alive to ask.

THE WEDDING CHAPTER

Chapter 13 is read at weddings all over the world. Paul wrote it to a church at war with itself, to say gifts without love are just noise.

A GREEK COMEDY

Bad company corrupts good character, 15:33, is a line from Menander, a Greek writer of comedies, about 300 BC.

AN ARAMAIC PRAYER

In the Greek, Come, O Lord in 16:22 is one Aramaic word, Maranatha. Paul did not even translate it. The first believers prayed it in the language Jesus spoke.

Did Anybody Listen?

Some did and some did not. Paul made a painful visit and wrote a tear stained letter, 2 Corinthians 2:1 to 4. In 2 Corinthians he is glad many turned around, but new troublemakers showed up. About AD 96, Clement of Rome wrote to Corinth because they were fighting again and told them to reread Paul's letter about factions. The church in Corinth lasted, and its letters became some of the most read pages in the Bible.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

Paul writes to a church he planted, and the news is not good. They have split into fan clubs: I follow Paul, I follow Apollos, I follow Peter. Paul asks, Is Christ divided? Then he says the cross looks foolish to the world, but God's foolishness is wiser than the smartest people on earth.

GREETINGS FROM PAUL AND SOSTHENES // ACTS

18:1-11; 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THANKSGIVING // PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11; COLOSSIANS

1:3-14

⁴I always thank my God for you because of the grace He has given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in Him you have been enriched in every way, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will sustain you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

UNITY IN THE CHURCH // PSALM 133:1-3; EPH-

ESIANS 4:1-16

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree together, so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be united in mind and conviction. ¹¹My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹²What I mean is this: Individ-

uals among you are saying, "I follow Paul," "I follow Apollos," "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that I do not remember if I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with words of wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

²⁰Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

²²Jews demand signs and Greeks search for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

WISDOM FROM GOD

²⁶Brothers, consider the time of your calling: Not many of you were wise by human

■ 1CO 1:2 [FIELD NOTES] Erastus, the city treasurer of Corinth, Romans 16:23, may be named on a stone pavement found here. See The Erastus Inscription Field Notes page in Acts, p.-.

■ 1CO 1:18 [FULFILLS] The wisdom of the wise would be confounded ← IS 29:14 · MEDIUM p.-

■ 1CO 1:18 [NOTE] Isaiah 29:14 is quoted in 1:19. God has always turned human wisdom upside down. The cross looked like weakness and defeat, but it was the power of God to save.

■ 1CO 1:19 [QUOTES] Direct ← IS 29:14 p.-

■ 1CO 1:24 [FULFILLS] Called Mighty God (El Gabor) ← IS 9:6 p.-

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

standards; not many were powerful; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ He chose the lowly and despised things of the world, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast in His presence.

³⁰ It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. ³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

Paul did not come to Corinth with fancy speeches. He came preaching Jesus and Him crucified, with the power of the Spirit. God's wisdom is hidden from the world but shown to us by His Spirit. No eye has seen what God has prepared for those who love Him.

PAUL'S MESSAGE BY THE SPIRIT'S POWER

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

SPIRITUAL WISDOM // EPHESIANS 1:15-23

⁶ Among the mature, however, we speak a message of wisdom—but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of the mysterious and hidden wisdom of God, which He destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it. For if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ Rather, as it is written:

NOTABLE

*"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no heart has imagined,
what God has prepared for those who love Him."*

¹⁰ But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of man except his own spirit within him? So too, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ And this is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

¹⁴ The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual man judges all things, but he himself is not subject to anyone's judgment. ¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

The Corinthians are acting like baby Christians, still on milk. Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. Jesus is the only foundation. Everyone's work will be tested by fire someday, and you are God's temple, so do not wreck it.

GOD'S FELLOW WORKERS // HEBREWS 5:11-14

¹ Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual, but as worldly—as infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for solid food. In fact, you are still not ready, ³ for you are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and dissension among you, are you not

■ 1CO 1:30 [FULFILLS] His name would be Yahweh Our Righteousness ← JER 23:5-6 p.-

■ 1CO 1:31 [QUOTES] Quotes ← JER 9:24 p.-

■ 1CO 2:9 [NOTABLE] Often quoted about heaven, but keep reading. Verse 10 says God has revealed these things to us by His Spirit. It is not only about someday. It is about what the Spirit shows believers now.

■ 1CO 2:9 [QUOTES] Direct ← IS 64:4; 65:17 p.-

■ 1CO 2:16 [QUOTES] Direct ← IS 40:13 p.-

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES THE HEART OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

worldly? Are you not walking in the way of man? ⁴For when one of you says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

⁵What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, as the Lord has assigned to each his role. ⁶I planted the seed and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one in purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

CHRIST OUR FOUNDATION // ISAIAH 28:14-22; EPHESIANS 2:19-22; 1 PETER 2:1-8

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds. ¹¹**For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

¹²If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³his workmanship will be evident, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will prove the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as if through the flames.

GOD'S TEMPLE AND GOD'S WISDOM // ROMANS 12:1-8; 1 CORINTHIANS 6:18-20

¹⁶Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸Let no one deceive himself. If any of you thinks he is wise in this age, he should become a fool, so that he may become wise.

¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "*He catches the wise in their craftiness.*" ²⁰And

again, "*The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.*"

²¹Therefore, stop boasting in men. All things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future. All of them belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

Leaders are just servants and managers of God's secrets. Paul gets sarcastic: you are already rich, already kings! Meanwhile the apostles are hungry, beaten and treated like the world's garbage. He is coming to visit soon. Should he bring a stick or a gentle spirit?

SERVANTS OF CHRIST

¹So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Now it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

³I care very little, however, if I am judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴My conscience is clear, but that does not vindicate me. It is the Lord who judges me.

⁵**Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until 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.**

⁶Brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us not to go beyond what is written. Then you will not take pride in one man over another. ⁷For who makes you so superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?

⁸Already you have all you want. Already you have become rich. Without us, you have become kings. How I wish you really

■ 1CO 3:20 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 94:11 p.-

■ 1CO 4:5 [HEART] When the Lord comes He will expose the motives of the heart.

■ 1CO 4:5 [FIELD NOTES] Paul stood before the judge Gallio at the Bema, the raised speaking platform in the forum of Corinth, Acts 18:12. See the Gallio Field Notes page in Acts, p.-.

■ 1CO 3:11 [FULFILLS] The sure foundation ← IS 28:16 p.-

■ 1CO 3:19 [QUOTES] Direct ← JOB 5:13 p.-

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW DEMONIC

were kings, so that we might be kings with you! ⁹ For it seems to me that God has displayed us apostles at the end of the procession, like prisoners appointed for death. We have become a spectacle to the whole world, to angels as well as to men.

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

PAUL'S FATHERLY WARNING

¹⁴ I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you as my beloved children. ¹⁵ Even if 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. ¹⁷ That is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which is exactly what I teach everywhere in every church.

¹⁸ Some of you have become arrogant, as if I were not coming to you. ¹⁹ But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord is willing, and then I will find out not only what these arrogant people are saying, but what power they have. ²⁰ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. ²¹ Which do you prefer? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and with a gentle spirit?

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

A man in the church is sleeping with his father's wife, and the church is proud of how open minded it is. Paul says remove him so he can be saved in the end. A little yeast spreads through the whole batch. Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.

IMMORALITY REBUKED // LEVITICUS 20:10-21; PROVERBS 5:1-23

¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is intolerable even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. ² And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been stricken with grief and have removed from your fellowship the man who did this?

³ Although I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit, and I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. ⁴ When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, along with the power of the Lord Jesus, ⁵ hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the Day of the Lord.

⁶ Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven works through the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Get rid of the old leaven, that you may be a new unleavened batch, as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with the old bread, leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and of truth.

EXPULSION OF THE IMMORAL BROTHER

⁹ I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ I was not including the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹ But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a verbal abuser, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

■ 1CO 5:1 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← LEV 18:8 p.~

■ 1CO 5:5 [DEMONIC] Hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh

■ 1CO 5:5 [NOTE] This is church discipline, not a curse. Put out of the church, the man is back in the world where Satan rules, 1 John 5:19. The goal is that he hits bottom and his spirit is saved. Many believe 2 Corinthians 2:6 to 8 shows he turned around and was welcomed back.

■ 1CO 5:7 [FULFILLS] The Passover ordinance fulfilled in Christ our Passover ← EX 12:21-27 p.~

■ 1CO 5:10 [DEMONIC] Do not associate with a believer who is an idolater

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

¹² What business of mine is it to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³ God will judge those outside. *"Expel the wicked man from among you."*

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

Believers are suing each other in pagan courts. Paul says it is better to be cheated. Then a hard list of sins that keep people out of God's kingdom, followed by good news: and that is what some of you were. You were washed. Run from sexual sin, because your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

LAWSUITS AMONG BELIEVERS

¹ If any of you has a grievance against another, how dare he go to law before the unrighteous instead of before the saints! ² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

⁴ So if you need to settle everyday matters, do you appoint as judges those of no standing in the church? ⁵ I say this to your shame. Is there really no one among you wise enough to arbitrate between his brothers? ⁶ Instead, one brother goes to law against another, and this in front of unbelievers!

⁷ The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means that you are thoroughly defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? ⁸ Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, even against your own brothers!

MEMBERS OF CHRIST

⁹ Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, ¹⁰

■ **1CO 5:13 [QUOTES]** Quotes ← DT 17:7 p.-

■ **1CO 6:9 [DEMONIC]** Idolaters will not inherit the kingdom of God.

■ **1CO 6:9 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← LEV 18:22; 20:13 p.-

■ **1CO 6:9 [NOTE]** This list is for everyone, not one group. Next to sexual sin it names thieves, the greedy, drunkards, verbal abusers and swindlers. Many churches treat one sin on this list as the one that sends you to hell and shrug at the rest. That is a double standard. Then comes

nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

¹² "Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food," but God will destroy them both. The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also.

¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or don't you know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, *"The two will become one flesh."* ¹⁷ But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.

THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT // ROMANS 12:1-8; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-23

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man can commit is outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹ 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; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.

6:11: and that is what some of you were. But you were washed. See the notes on Romans 1:26 to 27, p.-.

■ **1CO 6:9 [TEXT]** The Greek here has two rare words.

Malakoi means soft ones. Arsenokoitai joins the words for man and bed, and this is its first known use. Many think Paul built it from the Greek of Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13. Most read the two together as the passive and active partner in same sex acts. Others argue they meant something narrower, like men who sold sex or used boys.

■ **1CO 6:12 [NOTE]** CHRISTIAN FREEDOM. Everything is permissible was a Corinthian slogan, and Paul quotes it back to them. He does not deny it. He adds three tests: Is it helpful? Will it master me? 6:12. Does it build others up? 10:23. And remember your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, 6:19. See the Christian freedom note at Romans 14:1, p.-.

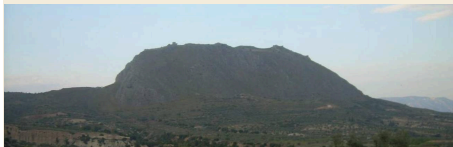
■ **1CO 6:16 [QUOTES]** Direct ← GEN 2:24 p.-

■ **1CO 6:18 [FIELD NOTES]** See the Acrocorinth and the Temple of Aphrodite Field Notes page.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH
FOR THE TEMPLE · LOW FOR THE 1,000 WOMEN

ACROCORINTH AND THE TEMPLE OF APHRODITE

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18 TO 20



The Acrocorinth, the mountain above Corinth. Photo Focal-Point, CC BY SA 3.0.

WHAT IT IS

The Acrocorinth is a huge rock mountain that towers about 1,880 feet over ancient Corinth. On its top stood a small temple of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and sex. You could see it from almost anywhere in the city.

HOW OLD IT IS

The temple on top goes back to Greek times, hundreds of years before Paul. A version of it still stood in his day. The walls you see on the mountain now were built much later by Byzantine, Frankish, Venetian and Turkish armies.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

The mountain was never lost. Carl Blegen of the American School of Classical Studies dug the temple area on the summit in 1926 and found its foundations.

THE FAMOUS CLAIM

The Greek writer Strabo, about the time Jesus was born, said the temple of Aphrodite once owned more than a thousand temple prostitutes. Preachers often say this is why Paul warns Corinth about sexual sin.

THE HONEST SIDE

Strabo was describing the old Greek city before Rome destroyed it in 146 BC, not Paul's Roman Corinth. The temple on top was small, and most historians think the thousand is an old tale or a big exaggeration. Corinth's bad name was real, though. Greeks even had a verb, to corinthianize, meaning to sleep around.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Paul's readers lived under a mountain topped by a temple to a sex goddess, in a city known for loose living. That helps

explain why 1 Corinthians spends so much time on sexual sin, 5:1, 6:18 and 7:2.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Nothing found proves temple prostitution in Paul's day. The sin Paul names in Corinth came from the church's own members, not just the temple on the hill.

7

CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

Now Paul answers their letter. Married couples should not hold out on each other. Being single is a gift, and so is being married. Do not divorce. If an unbelieving spouse leaves, let them go. Time is short, so live for the Lord whatever your situation.

PRINCIPLES OF MARRIAGE

¹ Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good to abstain from sexual relations. ² But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.

³ The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife.

⁵ Do not deprive each other, except by mutual consent and for a time, so you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again, so that Satan will not tempt you through your lack of self-control. ⁶ I say this as a concession, not as a command. ⁷ I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

⁸ Now to the unmarried and widows I say this: It is good for them to remain unmarried, as I am. ⁹ But if they cannot control themselves, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

■ **1CO 7:1 [NOTE]** Now Paul answers their letter. It is good to abstain may be their own slogan, which he corrects. Married couples should not hold out on each other, 7:3 to 5. Staying single is a gift, 7:7, and so is marriage. Do not divorce, which Paul says comes from Jesus Himself, 7:10 to 11. If an unbelieving spouse leaves, the believer is not bound, 7:15. Many churches read that as freedom to remarry. Others say no.

¹⁰ To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. ¹¹ But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

¹² To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If a brother has an unbelieving wife and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³ And if a woman has an unbelieving husband and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his believing wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy.

¹⁵ But if the unbeliever leaves, let him go. The believing brother or sister is not bound in such cases. God has called you to live in peace. ¹⁶ How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

LIVE YOUR CALLING

¹⁷ Regardless, each one should lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is what I prescribe in all the churches. ¹⁸ Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man still uncircumcised when called? He should not be circumcised. ¹⁹ Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commandments is what counts.

²⁰ Each one should remain in the situation he was in when he was called. ²¹ Were you a slave when you were called? Do not let it concern you—but if you can gain your freedom, take the opportunity. ²² For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman. Conversely, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave.

²³ You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. ²⁴ Brothers, each one should remain in the situation he was in when God called him.

THE UNMARRIED AND WIDOWED

²⁵ Now about virgins, I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. ²⁶ Because of the present crisis, I think it is good for a man to remain as he is. ²⁷ Are you committed to a wife? Do not seek to be released. Are you free of commitment? Do not look for a wife. ²⁸ But if you do marry, you have not sinned. And if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this.

²⁹ What I am saying, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; ³⁰ those who weep, as if they did not; those who are joyful, as if they were not; those who make a purchase, as if they had nothing; ³¹ and those who use the things of this world, as if not dependent on them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

³² I want you to be free from concern. The unmarried man is concerned about the work of the Lord, how he can please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is concerned about the affairs of this world, how he can please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the work of the Lord, how she can be holy in both body and spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world, how she can please her husband.

³⁵ I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but in order to promote proper decorum and undivided devotion to the Lord.

³⁶ However, if someone thinks he is acting inappropriately toward his betrothed, and if she is beyond her youth and they ought to marry, let him do as he wishes; he is not sinning; they should get married. ³⁷ But the man who is firmly established in his heart and under no constraint, with control over his will and resolve in his heart not to marry the virgin, he will do well.

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

³⁸ So then, he who marries the virgin does well, but he who does not marry her does even better.

³⁹ A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, as long as he belongs to the Lord. ⁴⁰ In my judgment, however, she is happier if she remains as she is. And I think that I too have the Spirit of God.

8

CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

Can Christians eat meat that was offered to idols? An idol is nothing, and there is only one God. But knowledge puffs up and love builds up. If your freedom makes a weaker believer fall, you have sinned against Christ. Paul says he would go vegetarian forever before he did that.

FOOD SACRIFICED TO IDOLS // EZEKIEL 14:1–11; ROMANS 14:13–23

¹ Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² The one who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But the one who loves God is known by God. ⁴ So about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many so-called gods and lords), ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we exist. And there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we exist.

⁷ But not everyone has this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that they eat such food as if it were sacrificed to an idol. And since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸ But food does not bring us closer to God: We are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do.

⁹ Be careful, however, that your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the

weak. ¹⁰ For if someone with a weak conscience sees you who are well informed eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged to eat food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² By sinning against your brothers in this way and wounding their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to stumble.

9

CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

Paul had every right to be paid for preaching, but he worked for free so nothing would block the gospel. He became all things to all people to win some. Life is a race, so run to win. Athletes train hard for a wreath that dies in a week. We run for a crown that lasts forever.

THE RIGHTS OF AN APOSTLE // DEUTERONOMY 18:1–8

¹ Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you yourselves not my workmanship in the Lord? ² Even if I am not an apostle to others, surely I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

³ This is my defense to those who scrutinize me: ⁴ Have we no right to food and to drink? ⁵ Have we no right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? ⁶ Or are Barnabas and I the only apostles who must work for a living?

⁷ Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Who tends a flock and does not drink of its milk?

⁸ Do I say this from a human perspective? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Isn't He actually speaking on our behalf? Indeed, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows

■ 1CO 8:1 [DEMONIC] Paul teaches about eating food sacrificed to idols

■ 1CO 9:9 [QUOTES] Direct ← DT 25:4 p.~

NOTABLE

and the thresher threshes, they should also expect to share in the harvest.

¹¹ If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much for us to reap a material harvest from you? ¹² If others have this right to your support, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not exercise this right. Instead, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.

¹³ Do you not know that those who work in the temple eat of its food, and those who serve at the altar partake of its offerings?

¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord has prescribed that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. ¹⁵ But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this to suggest that something be done for me. Indeed, I would rather die than let anyone nullify my boast.

¹⁶ Yet when I preach the gospel, I have no reason to boast, because I am obligated to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ If my preaching is voluntary, I have a reward. But if it is not voluntary, I am still entrusted with a responsibility. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not use up my rights in preaching it.

PAUL THE SERVANT TO ALL

¹⁹ Though I am free of obligation to anyone, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), to win those under the law. ²¹ To those without the law I became like one without the law (though I am not outside the law of God but am under the law of Christ), to win those without the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

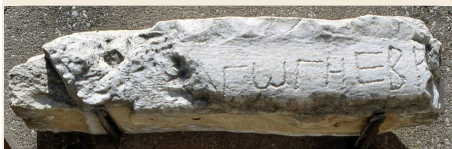
■ **1CO 9:20 [FIELD NOTES]** A stone from a synagogue in Corinth was found. See The Synagogue of the Hebrews Field Notes page.

■ **1CO 9:22 [NOTABLE]** Paul changed his style, not his message. With Jews he lived like a Jew, and with Gen-

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

THE SYNAGOGUE OF THE HEBREWS

1 CORINTHIANS 9:20 · ACTS 18:4 TO 8



The synagogue stone in the museum at Ancient Corinth. Photo Mark Landon, CC BY 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

A broken marble stone, probably from over a doorway, carved with the Greek words SYNAGOGUE OF THE HEBREWS. Only the middle letters survive, and the rest are filled in by experts.

HOW OLD IT IS

The date is debated. When it was found, some scholars thought it came from Paul's time. Most now date the letters later, somewhere between AD 100 and 400. It may mark a later building on the same spot, or a different synagogue.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

American School archaeologists found it in 1898 near the bottom of the Lechaion Road, the main street that led into the forum of Corinth.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Paul preached in the synagogue in Corinth every Sabbath, Acts 18:4. When he was pushed out, he moved next door to the house of Titius Justus. Crispus, the synagogue leader, believed, Acts 18:8, and Paul baptized him, 1 Corinthians 1:14. A later leader, Sosthenes, was beaten at Gallio's court, Acts 18:17, and may be the Sosthenes of 1:1.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

In the Archaeological Museum at Ancient Corinth, Greece.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

There was a Jewish community in Corinth with its own synagogue, just as Acts says. It reminds us that Paul's church started with Jews and God fearing Gentiles before it reached the whole city. To the Jews I became like a Jew, Paul said, 9:20.

tiles like a Gentile, so he could reach people right where they were.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Because the stone is probably later, it may not be from the synagogue where Paul preached.

²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

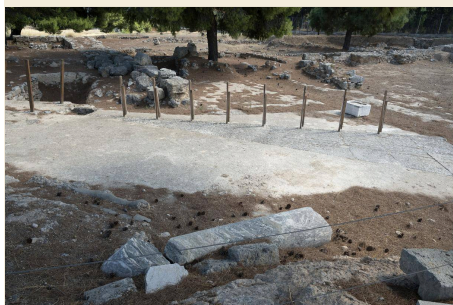
RUN YOUR RACE TO WIN

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way as to take the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games trains with strict discipline. They do it for a crown that is perishable, but we do it for a crown that is imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight like I am beating the air. ²⁷ No, I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH

THE ISTHMIAN GAMES

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24 TO 27



The starting line of the old stadium at Isthmia. The wooden posts show where the starting gate stood. Photo Zde, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

The ruins of Isthmia, the sanctuary of the sea god Poseidon about 10 miles from Corinth. Every two years it hosted the Isthmian Games, one of the four big Greek games along with the Olympics. Athletes came from all over to run, wrestle, box and race chariots.

HOW OLD IT IS

The games started about 580 BC. The starting line in the photo comes from an older stadium of the 300s BC. When

Rome wrecked Corinth in 146 BC the games moved to nearby Sicyon, and they came back to Isthmia around the time of Paul.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Oscar Broneer of the University of Chicago began digging Isthmia in 1952. He found the temple of Poseidon, two stadiums and a clever starting gate. Ropes held the runners back, and a judge in a pit dropped them all at once.

THE CROWN

Olympic winners got olive leaves. Isthmian winners got a wreath of pine, or in some years dried celery. In a week it was dead. That is Paul's point. Athletes train hard for a crown that is perishable, but we run for a crown that is imperishable, 9:25.

PAUL WAS IN TOWN

Many scholars think the games were held while Paul lived in Corinth, maybe in AD 51. Paul worked as a tentmaker, Acts 18:3, and the crowds needed tents. He may have watched the runners himself.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

At the village of Kyras Vrysi near the Corinth Canal. A small museum on the site shows finds from the sanctuary.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Paul's readers knew exactly what he meant by a race, strict training and a crown that fades. The games were their hometown sport.

10

CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

Israel had God's miracles in the desert and still fell into idols and complaining. Their story is a warning for us. No temptation is too strong, because God always makes a way out. You cannot eat at the Lord's table and the table of demons. Do everything for the glory of God.

WARNINGS FROM ISRAEL'S PAST // NUMBERS

16:41–50; NUMBERS 25:1–5

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud, and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into

■ 1CO 9:24 [FIELD NOTES] See The Isthmian Games Field Notes page.

■ 1CO 10:1 [FULFILLS] Israel passed through the sea. Paul calls this a picture of baptism ← EX 14:22 p.–

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW NOTABLE

Moses in the cloud and in the sea.³ They all ate the same spiritual food⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ These things took place as examples to keep us from craving evil things as they did.⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were. As it is written: *"The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry."*⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.⁹ We should not test Christ, as some of them did, and were killed by snakes.¹⁰ And do not complain, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹ Now these things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.¹² So the one who thinks he is standing firm should be careful not to fall.¹³ No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide an escape, so that you can stand up under it.

FLEE FROM IDOLATRY // EXODUS 20:22-26

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.¹⁵ I speak to reasonable people; judge for yourselves what I say.¹⁶ Is not the cup of blessing that we bless a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one loaf.

- 1CO 10:4 [FULFILLS] The Rock that gives life in the wilderness ← EX 17:6 p.-
- 1CO 10:4 [FULFILLS] Water will flow from the rock for the people ← NUM 20:8 · MEDIUM p.-
- 1CO 10:7 [DEMONIC] Do not be idolaters like Israel at the golden calf
- 1CO 10:7 [QUOTES] Direct ← EX 32:6 p.-
- 1CO 10:13 [NOTABLE] Your temptation is common, so you are not the only one. God is faithful, and with every temptation He makes a way out. Look for the exit sign.
- 1CO 10:14 [DEMONIC] My beloved, flee from idolatry

¹⁸ Consider the people of Israel: Are not those who eat the sacrifices fellow partakers in the altar?¹⁹ Am I suggesting, then, that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything?²⁰ No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God. And I do not want you to be participants with demons.²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot partake in the table of the Lord and the table of demons too.²² Are we trying to provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

ALL TO GOD'S GLORY // 1 PETER 4:1-11

²³ "Everything is permissible," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible," but not everything is edifying.²⁴ No one should seek his own good, but the good of others.

²⁵ Eat anything sold in the meat market

without raising questions of conscience,

²⁶ for, *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."*

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

THE MEAT MARKET OF CORINTH

1 CORINTHIANS 10:25 TO 28



Ruins of shops in the Roman forum of Corinth. The meat market itself has not been found for sure.

- 1CO 10:19 [DEMONIC] Paul asks if idol food or an idol is really anything
- 1CO 10:20 [DEMONIC] Pagan sacrifices offered to demons; cannot partake of the Lord's table and demons' table
- 1CO 10:20 [ALLUDES TO] Refers to ← DT 32:17 p.-
- 1CO 10:23 [NOTE] The same slogan as 6:12. See the Christian freedom note there.
- 1CO 10:25 [DEMONIC] Do not eat food when someone says it was offered to idols
- 1CO 10:25 [FIELD NOTES] See The Meat Market of Corinth Field Notes page.
- 1CO 10:26 [QUOTES] Direct ← PS 24:1 p.-

DEMONIC

WHAT IT IS

Two broken Latin inscriptions from Corinth that mention a **MACELLUM**, a Roman meat and food market, along with a fish market. A rich citizen paid to build it and had his name carved on it.

HOW OLD IT IS

The inscriptions are from the early first century AD, the time of the emperors Augustus and Tiberius. That means the market was standing when Paul lived in Corinth.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

American School digs at Corinth turned them up in the early 1900s. In 1934 the scholar Henry Cadbury connected them to 1 Corinthians 10:25. Many think the market stood near the Lechaion Road, north of the forum, but the building has not been found for sure.

THE WORD PAUL USED

Paul writes **makellon**, a Latin word in Greek letters. It is the only time it shows up in the whole New Testament. He used the same word the people of Roman Corinth used for their market.

WHY IT MATTERED

Much of the meat sold in a city like Corinth came from animals sacrificed at temples. Christians asked, Is it a sin to eat it? Paul says an idol is nothing, so buy it and eat it without asking questions, 10:25. But if someone tells you it was offered to idols, skip it for that person's sake, 10:28.

WHAT IT CONFIRMS

Corinth had a Roman style meat market in Paul's day, just as his advice assumes.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No one knows how much of the meat in this market came from temples. The pieces of the inscriptions do not show where the building stood.

²⁷ If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat anything set before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone tells you, "This food was offered to idols," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience— ²⁹ the other one's conscience, I mean, not your

own. For why should my freedom be determined by someone else's conscience?

³⁰ If I partake in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God. ³² Do not become a stumbling block, whether to Jews or Greeks or the church of God— ³³ as I also try to please everyone in all I do. For I am not seeking my own good, but the good of many, that they may be saved.

11

CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

Paul tackles head coverings in worship, then something worse. At the Lord's Supper the rich eat first and get drunk while the poor go hungry. Paul reminds them what Jesus said: This is My body, this cup is the new covenant in My blood. Examine yourself before you eat.

ROLES IN WORSHIP

¹ You are to imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

² Now I commend you for remembering me in everything and for maintaining the traditions, just as I passed them on to you.

³ But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

⁴ Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵ And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head, for it is just as if her head were shaved. ⁶ If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off. And if it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut or shaved off, she should cover her head.

⁷ A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the

■ **1CO 11:2 [NOTE] HEAD COVERINGS.** In Corinth, how a woman covered her head sent a message about her marriage and her honor, a bit like a wedding ring today. Many believe Paul was keeping Corinthian worship from looking shameful to outsiders, and the lasting point is honor and order. Some churches still have women cover their heads, because Paul ties it to creation and the angels, 11:8 to 10. Notice 11:5: women were praying and prophesying out loud in church.

DEMONIC JESUS SPEAKING

woman is the glory of man. ⁸ For man did not come from woman, but woman from man. ⁹ Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. ¹⁰ For this reason a woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head, because of the angels.

¹¹ In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. ¹² For just as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

¹³ Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? ¹⁴ Doesn't nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, ¹⁵ but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. ¹⁶ If anyone is inclined to dispute this, we have no other practice, nor do the churches of God.

SHARING IN THE LORD'S SUPPER // MATTHEW 26:20-30; MARK 14:17-26; LUKE 22:14-23

¹⁷ In the following instructions I have no praise to offer, because your gatherings do more harm than good. ¹⁸ First of all, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ And indeed, there must be differences among you to show which of you are approved.

²⁰ Now then, when you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat. ²¹ For as you eat, each of you goes ahead without sharing his meal. While one remains hungry, another gets drunk. ²² Don't you have your own homes in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What can I say to you? Shall I praise you for this? No, I will not!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as

you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

²⁷ Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Each one must examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

³¹ Now if we judged ourselves properly, we would not come under judgment. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

³³ So, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. ³⁴ If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you come together it will not result in judgment. And when I come, I will give instructions about the remaining matters.

12

CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

The Holy Spirit gives gifts to every believer, all from the same Spirit. Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, telling spirits apart, tongues and interpretation. The church is one body with many parts. The eye cannot tell the hand, I do not need you. Every part matters.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

¹ Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. ³ Therefore I inform you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

■ **1CO 11:30 [NOTE]** Fallen asleep means died. Paul links sickness and death in Corinth to treating the Lord's Supper like a party while the poor went hungry, 11:21 to 22. Not every sickness is a judgment, John 9:3. But take it seriously and examine yourself first, 11:28.

■ **1CO 12:2 [DEMONIC]** Before Christ you were led astray to mute idols

MIRACLES

⁴ There are different gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different ways of working, but the same God works all things in all people.

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 the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in various tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who apportions them to each one as He determines.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

¹² The body is a unit, though it is composed of many parts. And although its parts are many, they all form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free, and we were all given one Spirit to drink.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist 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," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a 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 members of the body, every one of them, according to His design. 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 do not need you." Nor can the head say to the feet, "I do not need you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts we consider less honorable, we treat with greater honor. And our unrepresentable parts are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ whereas our presentable parts have no such need.

But God has composed 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 members should have mutual concern for one another. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

THE GREATER GIFTS

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it. ²⁸ And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, and those with gifts of healing, helping, administration, and various tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And now I will show you the most excellent way.

■ 1CO 12:8 [MIRACLE] The nine gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, telling spirits apart, tongues and interpreting tongues

■ 1CO 12:8 [CHEAT CODE] See The 9 Spiritual Gifts, The Real Life Cheat Code pages.

■ 1CO 12:12 [FIELD NOTES] See The Asclepion and Its Body Parts Field Notes page.

DEBATED THE REAL LIFE CHEAT CODE

THE 9 SPIRITUAL GIFTS

(The Real Life Cheat Code)

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7 TO 11

UP UP DOWN DOWN

In 1988 kids found a secret code for the video game Contra: up, up, down, down, left, right, left, right, B, A, start. Type it in and you got 30 extra lives. Other games had a God mode that made you nearly unstoppable. Here is the real version. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul lists nine gifts the Holy Spirit gives to believers. No button combo needed. You just ask, Luke 11:13. It can feel like cheating at life, because you are playing with help from the One who designed the game.

WHO GETS THEM

To each one the Spirit is given for the common good, 12:7. Not just pastors. Not just apostles. Each one. The Spirit decides who gets what, 12:11, and Paul says to eagerly desire them, 14:1. Bible teachers often sort them into three groups of three: gifts that know, gifts that do and gifts that speak.

GIFT 1: A MESSAGE OF WISDOM

God shows you what to do next, like Solomon with the two mothers, 1 Kings 3:16 to 28.

GIFT 2: A MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE

God tells you something you had no way of knowing, like Jesus telling the woman at the well about her five husbands, John 4:17 to 19.

GIFT 3: FAITH

Not the faith that saves you, but a sudden, rock solid trust that God is about to do something big, like Elijah calling down fire, 1 Kings 18:36 to 38.

GIFT 4: GIFTS OF HEALING

God heals the sick through you, like Peter and John at the temple gate, Acts 3:6 to 8.

GIFT 5: WORKING OF MIRACLES

God steps in and breaks the normal rules, like Paul shaking off a deadly snake, Acts 28:3 to 6.

GIFT 6: PROPHECY

Speaking a message from God that builds up, encourages and comforts, 14:3.

GIFT 7: TELLING SPIRITS APART

Knowing whether something is from God, from people or from the enemy, like Paul spotting the spirit in the fortune telling girl, Acts 16:16 to 18.

GIFT 8: TONGUES

Speaking in a language you never learned, either a real human one like Acts 2, or praying in the Spirit, 14:2.

GIFT 9: INTERPRETING TONGUES

God gives the meaning of a message in tongues so the whole church is built up, 14:13.

WHY GOD GIVES THEM

Not to make anyone look important. The Corinthians were showing off, and Paul had to tell them it is all for the common good, 12:7. That is why chapter 13, the love chapter, sits right in the middle of the gifts. A cheat code used to show off is not what God had in mind.

The Cheat Code: Still Working?

1 CORINTHIANS 1:7 · 12:7 · 14:1

DID THE CODE EXPIRE?

Many teachers say the gifts were only needed until the Bible was written, and then they stopped. That view is called cessationism. But look at who Paul was writing to. Not the twelve apostles. Not Mark, Luke, James or Jude. He was writing to regular believers in Corinth: dock workers, slaves, shop owners and a few rich families. None of them ever wrote a word of the Bible. Yet Paul told them to eagerly desire spiritual gifts, 14:1, and said they did not lack any gift as they waited for Jesus to come back, 1:7. If the gifts were only for writing Scripture, it is strange that Paul spent three chapters training people who would never write any.

THE OTHER SIDE

Cessationists answer that the gifts confirmed the apostles' message while the church was being founded, Hebrews 2:3 to 4 and Ephesians 2:20. That is an honest argument made by people who love the Bible, even if many believers today, and this Bible's commentary, lean the other way.

FROM RULES TO RELATIONSHIP

Here is where God gets real. Without the

Spirit, the Bible can turn into a rule book: do this, do not do that. With the Spirit, it becomes a relationship. Understanding these gifts is literally the difference between having a relationship with God and having a relationship with your Bible. Jesus told the Bible experts of His day, You pore over the Scriptures because you presume that by them you possess eternal life. These are the very words that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to Me to have life, John 5:39 to 40. The Bible points you to Him. It was never meant to replace Him. Jesus said the Spirit would guide you into all truth, John 16:13. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God, Romans 8:14. The early church did not make big moves without Him. The Spirit said, Set apart Barnabas and Saul, Acts 13:2, and when Paul tried to go one way, the Spirit said no and sent him somewhere better, Acts 16:6 to 10.

GOD MODE FOR REAL LIFE

Picture every big decision going straight to the Holy Spirit first: who to marry, what job to take, where to live, what to say to a friend who is hurting. You are not guessing alone. If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God, James 1:5. Same game, but now you are playing with the Developer sitting next to you.

HOW TO PLAY FAIR

Every cheat code has rules, and so do the gifts. They never go against the Bible, because the Spirit inspired it and He does not contradict Himself. Test everything and hold on to what is good, 1 Thessalonians 5:19 to 21. Use the gifts for others, not for a show. Keep it orderly, 14:40. And love is the point. Without love you are just a noisy gong, 13:1.

HOW TO START

Ask. If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! Luke 11:13. Then read 1 Corinthians 12 to 14, pray, and step out in faith. Up, up, down, down is optional.

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM

THE ASCLEPION AND ITS BODY PARTS

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 TO 27



A clay arm and hand with a sore on it, given to Asclepius by someone who wanted healing. Photo Zde, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

The Asclepion was the temple of Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, on the north edge of Corinth. Sick people slept there hoping for a cure. When they were healed, or hoped to be, they left a clay copy of the body part that hurt: hands, feet, legs, arms, eyes, ears and more.

HOW OLD IT IS

Most of the clay body parts are from the 300s BC. The temple was rebuilt after Rome refounded Corinth and was still in use in Paul's day.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

American School archaeologists dug the Asclepion from 1929 to 1934. Many of the clay pieces had been dumped in pits when the temple was cleaned out long ago.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

Rows of clay hands, feet and arms are on display in the Archaeological Museum at Ancient Corinth, Greece.

THE BODY PICTURE

Paul says the church is one body with many parts. The foot cannot say, I am not a hand, and the eye cannot tell the hand, I do not need you, 12:15 and 12:21. Many scholars think his readers would picture the Asclepion, where body parts hung on the walls cut off from any body. Paul's point: in Christ no part is cut off. Every part belongs.

NOTABLE

A BETTER HEALER

The Corinthians knew a temple where people begged a stone god for healing. Paul tells them the Holy Spirit gives gifts of healing to believers, 12:9.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

Paul never names the Asclepion. The link to his body picture is a good guess, not a sure thing.

13

CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

The love chapter. Without love, the best gifts are just noise. Love is patient and kind. It does not envy, boast, or keep score. Love never fails. Someday we will see face to face. Faith, hope and love remain, but the greatest of these is love.

LOVE

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. ⁶Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be restrained; where there is knowledge, it will be dismissed. ⁹For we know in part and we

■ **1CO 13:1 [NOTABLE]** Read at almost every wedding, but Paul wrote it to a church at war with itself over gifts and status. Without love, even the greatest gift is just noise. Love here is something you do, not just something you feel.

■ **1CO 13:8 [NOTE]** WHEN THE PERFECT COMES. Cessationists say the perfect is the finished Bible, so tongues and prophecy stopped once it was written. Continuists say the perfect comes when Jesus returns, because then we shall see face to face, 13:12, and Paul already said the church would not lack any gift while it waits for Jesus to come back, 1:7. Both sides love the Bible. Either way, love never fails.

prophecy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial passes away.

¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I set aside childish ways. ¹²Now we see but a dim reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love.

14

CHAPTER 14 IN 30 SECONDS

Paul wants them to desire spiritual gifts, especially prophecy, because it builds up the church. Tongues in a meeting need an interpreter, or outsiders will think you are crazy. Take turns, two or three at a time. God is not a God of confusion. Do not forbid tongues, but keep it orderly.

PROPHECY AND TONGUES

¹Earnestly pursue love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. ²For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries in the Spirit. ³But he who prophesies speaks to men for their edification, encouragement, and comfort. ⁴The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

⁵I wish that all of you could speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets so that the church may be edified.

⁶Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? ⁷Even in the case of lifeless instruments, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone recognize the tune they are playing unless the notes are distinct? ⁸Again, if the trumpet sounds a muffled call, who will prepare for battle?

⁹So it is with you. Unless you speak intel-

■ **1CO 14:2 [THE BIG DEBATE]** For more on tongues, see the two Speaking in Tongues pages in Romans, p.~.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

ligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air.

¹⁰ Assuredly, there are many different languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. ¹¹ If, then, I do not know the meaning of someone's language, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me.

¹² It is the same with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, strive to excel in gifts that build up the church. ¹³ Therefore, the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

¹⁵ What then shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you speak a blessing in spirit, how can someone who is uninstructed say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷ You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other one is not edified.

¹⁸ I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. ¹⁹ But in the church, I would rather speak five coherent words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

²⁰ Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹ It is written in the Law:

*"By strange tongues and foreign lips
I will speak to this people,
but even then they will not listen to Me,
says the Lord."*

²² Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers. Prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers.

²³ So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who are uninstructed or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your minds? ²⁴ But if an un-

believer or uninstructed person comes in while everyone is prophesying, he will be convicted and called to account by all, ²⁵ and the secrets of his heart will be made known. So he will fall facedown and worship God, proclaiming, "God is truly among you!"

ORDERLY WORSHIP

²⁶ What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a psalm or a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. All of these must be done to build up the church.

²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, two, or at most three, should speak in turn, and someone must interpret. ²⁸ But if there is no interpreter, he should remain silent in the church and speak only to himself and God.

²⁹ Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. ³⁰ And if a revelation comes to someone who is seated, the first speaker should stop. ³¹ For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. ³² The spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. ³³ For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace—as in all the churches of the saints.

³⁴ Women are to be silent in the churches. They are not permitted to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. ³⁵ If they wish to inquire about something, they are to ask their own husbands at home; for it is dishonorable for a woman to speak in the church.

■ **1CO 14:23 [NOTE]** Paul is not against tongues. He is against chaos. In a meeting, only two or three should speak, one at a time, with someone to interpret, 14:27 to 28. Otherwise visitors will think the church has lost its mind.

■ **1CO 14:25 [ALLUDES TO]** Refers to ← IS 45:14 p.~

■ **1CO 14:34 [TEXT]** Some old copies put 14:34 to 35 after 14:40. Because of that, the scholar Gordon Fee argued a copyist added these verses later. Every known copy has them somewhere, and most scholars think Paul wrote them.

■ **1CO 14:34 [NOTE]** Many believe Paul was fixing disorder in one church, likely wives calling out questions during the teaching, 14:35. That fits 11:5, where women pray and prophesy out loud, and Phoebe and Junia, leaders Paul praised in Romans 16:1 and 16:7. Others read these verses as a rule for women in all churches, 14:33.

■ **1CO 14:21 [FULFILLS]** God would speak to His people through foreign tongues ← IS 28:11 · MEDIUM p.~

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

END TIMES PROPHECIES

MIRACLES

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

³⁶ Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only ones it has reached?

³⁷ If anyone considers himself a prophet or spiritual person, let him acknowledge that what I am writing you is the Lord's command. ³⁸ But if anyone ignores this, he himself will be ignored.

³⁹ So, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. ⁴⁰ But everything must be done in a proper and orderly manner.

15

CHAPTER 15 IN 30 SECONDS

Some in Corinth said the dead do not rise. Paul says Jesus died, was buried, rose on the third day and was seen by more than five hundred people. If Christ is not raised, our faith is useless. But He is. We will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Death, where is your sting?

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

¹ Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, and in which you stand firm. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ And last of all He appeared to me also, as to one of untimely birth.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and am unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by

the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is worthless, and so is your faith. ¹⁵ In that case, we are also exposed as false witnesses about God. For we have testified about God that He raised Christ from the dead, but He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised.

¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If our hope in Christ is for this life alone, we are to be pitied more than all men.

THE ORDER OF RESURRECTION

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own turn: Christ the firstfruits; then at His coming, those who belong to Him.

²⁴ Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power. ²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God

■ **1CO 14:39 [NOTE]** Paul's last word on gifts: be eager to prophesy, do not forbid tongues, and do it all in order.

■ **1CO 15:3 [NOTABLE]** One of the oldest Christian creeds. Paul passed on what he received, and many scholars, even skeptics, date it to within a few years of the cross. More than five hundred people saw the risen Jesus, and most were still alive to ask.

■ **1CO 15:4 [FULFILLS]** On the third day He will raise us up ← **HOS 6:2** - MEDIUM p. -

■ **1CO 15:5 [MIRACLE]** The risen Christ appeared to Peter, the Twelve, and over five hundred

■ **1CO 15:20 [FULFILLS]** The firstfruits sheaf was waved on the day after the Sabbath ← **LEV 23:10-11** p. -

■ **1CO 15:20 [FULFILLS]** His resurrection assured ← **PS 118:17-18** p. -

■ **1CO 15:23 [PROPHECY]** Each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power → **STILL TO COME**

■ **1CO 15:25 [QUOTES]** Direct ← **PS 110:1**; **8:6** p. -

END TIMES PROPHECIES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

has put everything under His feet.” Now when it says that everything has been put under Him, this clearly does not include the One who put everything under Him. ²⁸ And when all things have been subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will be made subject to Him who put all things under Him, so that God may be all in all.

²⁹ If these things are not so, what will those do who are baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them? ³⁰ And why do we endanger ourselves every hour? ³¹ I face death every day, brothers, as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³² If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for human motives, what did I gain? If the dead are not raised,

*“Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.”*

³³ Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good character.” ³⁴ Sober up as you ought, and stop sinning; for some of you are ignorant of God. I say this to your shame.

THE RESURRECTION BODY

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” ³⁶ You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He has designed, and to each kind of seed He gives its own body.

³⁹ Not all flesh is the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another, and fish another. ⁴⁰ There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the splendor of the heavenly bodies is

of one degree, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is of another. ⁴¹ The sun has one degree of splendor, the moon another, and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead: What is sown is perishable; it is raised imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam a life-giving spirit.

⁴⁶ The spiritual, however, was not first, but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the earthly man, so also are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so also shall we bear the likeness of the heavenly man.

WHERE, O DEATH, IS YOUR VICTORY? // HOSEA 13:9-14

⁵⁰ Now I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come to pass: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “Where, O Death, is your victory?
Where, O Death, is your sting?”

■ 1CO 15:29 [NOTE] BAPTIZED FOR THE DEAD. No one knows for sure what this means. Some say believers were baptized in place of Christians who died before they could be. Some say people were baptized because of the dead, hoping to see believing loved ones again. Some say Paul was pointing to what another group did, without approving it, to prove that even they believed in the resurrection. The Latter Day Saints baptize living people for the dead based on this verse. No other verse teaches it.

■ 1CO 15:32 [QUOTES] Direct ← IS 22:13 p.~

■ 1CO 15:33 [NOTABLE] Paul quotes a line from the Greek playwright Menander, from his comedy *Thais*, about 300 BC. By Paul's day it was a common saying.

■ 1CO 15:45 [QUOTES] Direct ← GEN 2:7 p.~

■ 1CO 15:51 [PROPHECY] We shall all be changed → STILL TO COME

■ 1CO 15:54 [QUOTES] Direct ← IS 25:8; HOS 13:14 p.~

NOTABLE

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

16

CHAPTER 16 IN 30 SECONDS

Paul asks them to set money aside each Sunday for the poor in Jerusalem. He is staying in Ephesus until Pentecost because a great door is open. Timothy and Apollos are mentioned. Paul signs off in his own handwriting with an Aramaic prayer, Come, Lord. Then, my love to all of you.

THE COLLECTION FOR THE SAINTS // 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1–15

¹ Now about the collection for the saints, you are to do as I directed the churches of Galatia: ² On the first day of every week, each of you should set aside a portion of his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will be needed. ³ Then, on my arrival, I will send letters with those you recommend to carry your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ And if it is advisable for me to go also, they can travel with me.

PAUL'S TRAVEL PLANS // ROMANS 15:23–33

⁵ After I go through Macedonia, however, I will come to you; for I will be going through Macedonia. ⁶ Perhaps I will stay with you awhile, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. ⁷ For I do not want to see you now only in passing; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹ because a great door for effective work has opened to me, even though many oppose me.

TIMOTHY AND APOLLOS // PHILIPPIANS 2:19–30

¹⁰ If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, just as I am.

¹¹ No one, then, should treat him with contempt. Send him on his way in peace so that he can return to me, for I am expecting him along with the brothers.

¹² Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was not at all inclined to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.

CONCLUDING EXHORTATIONS

¹³ Be on the alert. Stand firm in the faith. Be men of courage. Be strong. ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

¹⁵ You know that Stephanas and his household were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints. Now I urge you, brothers, ¹⁶ to submit to such as these, and to every fellow worker and laborer.

¹⁷ I am glad that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you.

¹⁸ For they refreshed my spirit and yours as well. Show your appreciation, therefore, to such men.

SIGNATURE AND FINAL GREETINGS // COLOSSIANS 4:15–18; 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16–18

¹⁹ The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings.

Aquila and Prisca greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.

²⁰ All the brothers here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

²¹ This greeting is in my own hand—Paul.

²² If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be under a curse. Come, O Lord!

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

²⁴ My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

■ **1CO 16:22 [NOTABLE]** In the Greek, Come, O Lord is one Aramaic word, Maranatha, the language Jesus spoke. Paul left it untranslated in a Greek letter, which shows the very first believers were already praying for Jesus to come back.