

INTRODUCTION TO CORINTHIANS

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INTRODUCTION

A. CITY OF CORINTH:

1. An ancient city having been established about 1350 B.C.
2. In 146 B.D. rebelled against Rome and was completely destroyed. Rebuilt in 46 B.C. by Julius Caesar.
3. Situated on an Isthmus between two seas it was natural that it developed into a great city. Controlled the sea trade and land trade of Greece.
4. A city filled with idols and known throughout the world for its immorality. The temple of Aphrodeite, known to Romans as Venus, owned a 1000 harlots who's sandal message "Follow Me". To Corinthianize was to debase - to bring to the lowest moral level.
5. Into this city Paul came in A.D. 51 or 52. Alone, broke, and si-dis-discouraged from what had happened at Athens.

B. At this time Corinth was a city of some 600,000 people. Paul stayed there a year and a half. Then in about 57 A.D. from Ephesus wrote letter to the church in Corinth.

THE BASIC MESSAGE

- A. First, the Christ and His gospel constitute the solution to every problem, and the answer to every question.
- B. SECOND, the book is designed to encourage brethren to be faithful to God and His will. (1:9; 15:1-2; 15:58).
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AN AMAZING PARADOX

- A. Corinth was a wicked, corrupt, licentious city. A city of idolatry.
- B. The church of God is composed of those who are "called out of" and who are "separated from" the world.
- C. What a contrast! The city of Corinth and the church of God.
- D. Broad-mindedness led to toleration of wickedness.
1. It was bad when Lot moved his house into Sodom; IT WAS FAR WORSE WHEN SODOM MOVED INTO HIS HOUSE.
 2. It is good for a boat to be in the water, but bad for water to be in boat.
 3. It was good for the church to be in Corinth, but it was bad for Corinth to be in the church.
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CHURCH PROBLEMS

A. THE CHURCH HAS ALWAYS HAD PROBLEMS!

1. On the Divine side it is absolute perfection.
2. On the human side there are imperfections.
3. Every problem is on the human side.

B. PROBLEM OF DIVISION: (1:10 - 4:21).

1. God desires unity. Christ prayed for unity, and brethren are instructed to “keep the unity of the Spirit.”
2. Not unity at any price....But unity upon the terms of Gospel of Christ.

C. OF FAILURE TO GROW: (3:1-3).

1. When one is baptized into Christ he is a babe, regardless of his age.
2. But we cannot be pleasing to God unless we grow.
3. We grow by study, prayer, faithful attendance and by diligent service.

D. TOLERATION OF SIN:

1. They failed to recognize “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”
2. Instead of mourning they were “puffed up.”
3. Church discipline (withdrawal of fellowship) is definitely demanded by the Bible teaching.

E. OF SINFUL LITIGATION:

1. Brethren - over “the smallest matters”...trivial, trifling, petty. ‘
2. Paul instructs that all such action is sin.

F. PROBLEMS RELATING TO MARRIAGE:

1. Relationship between husband and wife. If one is an unbeliever.
2. Whether to marry or not...or marry again after husband/wife dies.

G. RELATED TO LORD’S SUPPER: Paul stressed:

1. That the Supper is to be observed “in remembrance” of Christ.
2. It proclaims the Lord’s death til he come.
3. That it has to be partaken of in a worthy manner.
4. That personal examination is necessary.

H. OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.... of the Resurrection...even the Contribution.

SOLUTION

When brethren are determined to think as the Bible teaches and speak and DO what the Bible teaches they will **BE** what the Bible teaches. (1:10).

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The Gospel Is Power

- A. In Romans 1:16 Paul declares.....
 - B. One of the greatest illustrations of the power of the gospel is found in:
 - 1. I Corinthians 6:9-11; READ
 - 2. “And such were some of you”...Note past tense. What had happened?
 - 3. “But ye were washed, but ye were sanctified, but ye were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit of our God.”
 - C. That power which can take a sorry, sinful, low-down human being and transform him into an upright, honorable citizen of the Kingdom of God is power indeed! **Thank God for the power of the gospel.**
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