

NT Reading Plan 2020

Living Hope Fellowship
1 Corinthians 1-7

Duration & Divisions

In contrast to the Roman church which Paul had not visited when he wrote to them, Paul spent 3 years in Corinth prior to writing 1 Corinthians, the longest *duration* Paul spent in any of the churches he ministered to. Paul had many Bible studies with these people and a well developed relationship with them. Therefore, Paul's pastoral heart is particularly grieved given the fact that there are still so many juvenile *divisions* within this church as well as many examples of immorality among the saints. They know better!

Time & Place

Paul writes 1 Corinthians from Ephesus (approximately 260 miles west across the Aegean Sea) sometime between 53-55 AD. This was the middle of his roughly 30 year lifetime of ministry and during his third missionary journey.

Christ

If you read the first chapter and don't get the message that the church needs to be reminded of who they are in Jesus Christ and how they need to grow to be like him, you have missed the point.

1:1 Paul is called as an _____ of Christ Jesus.

1:2a The church at Corinth has been _____ in Christ Jesus.

1:2b The church has been _____ to be _____ with all other believers who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:2c Christ is the _____ of the Corinthians as well as all other believers.

1:3 Grace and peace come from _____ AND _____.

1:4 God's _____ was given to us in Christ Jesus.

1:5 In him (Christ), you were _____ in every way.

1:6 The testimony of the missionaries who visited Corinth was about _____.

1:7 Having been saved and given spiritual gifts, the church is now _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:8 God the Father will _____ you to the end, _____ in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:9 God the Father _____ of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1:10 Paul's appeal is made in the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:13 In answer to church divisions, Paul asks, "Is Christ _____?"

1:17 Christ sent Paul to _____ not _____ less the _____ of Christ be emptied of its power.

1:23 Instead of worldly wisdom, we _____ Christ crucified.

1:24 Christ is the _____ of God and the _____ of God.

1:30a Because of the Father, you are _____ Christ Jesus.

1:30b Christ Jesus became to us _____, _____, _____, and _____.

1:31 So our _____ should always be in the Lord (Jesus).

Bad Reports

Paul writes 1 Corinthians in response to at least two communications from Corinth which

require a swift, pastoral response: **Chloe's Report** (1:11) regarding divisions in the church (1:10-4:21), sexual immorality (5:1-12; 6:12-20) and lawsuits between believers (6:1-11).

A Letter the Corinthians sent Paul with questions regarding marriage (7:1-40), food sacrificed to idols (8:1-10:33), head coverings (11:1-16), the Lord's table (11:17-34), spiritual gifts (12:1-14:40), and resurrection (15:1-58).

1. In chapter 5, what does Paul command the church to do in response to this ongoing incident of sexual immorality?
2. What should always be the goal of such a seemingly harsh answer from the church (5:5)?
3. In chapter 6, What two things does Paul say the believers will judge one day?
4. In 7:1, Paul is likely quoting the letter from the Corinthians, not giving his own statement. How does this affect the interpretation of an often misused text?

Wisdom & Power

Throughout these chapters, Paul contrasts worldly wisdom with the wisdom of God, earthly power with God's power. To pursue worldly wisdom is actually folly. To boast in anything other than Christ shows weakness. Rather we pursue what both Jews and Greeks alike deem as foolish and weak.

5. What does Paul say God thinks about the wisdom of this world? What will God do to that wisdom?
6. Instead of the arrogant boast of the Corinthians in their own favorite preachers or favorite spiritual gifts, where does all their power come from? There are (hint, hint) three answers.