



Lesson 28 – A Message of Warning and Entreaty

Based on 1 Corinthians chapters 1-6

For over three years Ephesus was the center of Paul's work. A flourishing church was raised up here, and from this city the gospel spread throughout the province of Asia, among both Jews and Gentiles. The first epistle to the Corinthian church was written by the apostle Paul during the latter part of his stay at Ephesus. For no others had he felt a deeper interest or put forth more untiring effort than for the believers in Corinth. For a year and a half, he had labored among them, pointing them to a crucified and risen Saviour as the only means of salvation, and urging them to rely implicitly on the transforming power of His grace.

1) What was the purpose of the 1st letter to the Corinthians?

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no _____ among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

After the departure of Paul, however, unfavorable conditions arose; tares that had been sown by the enemy appeared among the wheat, and ere long these began to bring forth their evil fruit. This was a time of severe trial to the Corinthian church. The apostle was no longer with them to quicken their zeal and aid them in their endeavors to live in harmony with God, and little by little many became careless and indifferent, and allowed natural tastes and inclinations to control them.

2) How did Paul find out these things?

1 Corinthians 1:11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of _____, that there are contentions among you.

There came to Ephesus members of the household of Chloe, a Christian family of high repute in Corinth. Paul asked them regarding the condition of things, and they told him that the church was rent by divisions. The dissensions that had prevailed at the time of Apollos's visit had greatly increased. False teachers were leading the members to despise the instructions of Paul. The doctrines and ordinances of the gospel had been perverted. Pride, idolatry, and sensualism, were steadily increasing among those who had once been zealous in the Christian life.

3) How did Paul feel about all the churches he went to?

Romans 9:1-3 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my _____ also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my _____. For I could wish that myself were _____ from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

2 Corinthians 2:4 For out of much affliction and _____ of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the _____ which I have more abundantly unto you.

He knew that in their present condition the believers would not profit by his labors, and therefore he sent Titus to prepare the way for a visit from himself later on. Then, putting aside all personal feelings over the course of those whose conduct revealed such strange perverseness, and keeping his soul stayed upon God, the apostle wrote to the church at Corinth one of the richest, most instructive, most powerful of all his letters.



4) What specifically did he tell the Corinthians?

1 Corinthians 1:5 That in every thing ye are _____ by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;

1 Corinthians 1:7-8 So that ye come behind in no _____; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also _____ you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He referred to their experience in turning from idolatry to the worship and service of the true God. He reminded them of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which they had received and showed that it was their privilege to make continual advancement in the Christian life until they should attain to the purity and holiness of Christ.

The Lord had shown him the difficulties and dangers which would arise in the churches, and, as these evils developed, the apostle recognized their significance. He had been set for the defense of the church. He was to watch for souls as one who must render account to God, and it is consistent and right for him to take notice of the reports concerning the anarchy and divisions among them.

5) What instructions did he give them?

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man _____ how he buildeth thereupon.

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's _____.

He claimed no wisdom of his own but acknowledged that divine power alone had enabled him to present the truth in a manner pleasing to God. United with Christ, the greatest of all teachers, Paul had been enabled to communicate lessons of divine wisdom, which met the necessities of all classes, and which were to apply at all times, in all places, and under all conditions.

6) What else did he warn them?

1 Corinthians 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little _____ leaveneth the whole lump?

Among the more serious of the evils that had developed among the Corinthian believers, was that of a return to many of the debasing customs of heathenism. One former convert had so far backslidden that his licentious course was a violation of even the low standard of morality held by the Gentile world.

7) What did Paul counsel about fornication?

1 Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto _____ for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

8) What else were the Corinthians doing to one another?

1 Corinthians 6:1 Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to _____ before the unjust, and not before the saints?

Abundant provision had been made for the settlement of difficulties among believers. Christ Himself had given plain instruction as to how such matters were to be adjusted.



9) What were those provisions?

Matthew 18:15-18 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him _____: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or _____, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an _____ man and a publican.

10) What did Paul counsel them on this?

1 Corinthians 6:3-4 Know ye not that we shall judge _____? how much more things that pertain to this life? If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least _____ in the church.

Satan is constantly seeking to introduce distrust, alienation, and malice among God's people. We shall often be tempted to feel that our rights are invaded, even when there is no real cause for such feelings. Those whose love for self is stronger than their love for Christ and His cause will place their own interests first and will resort to almost any expedient to guard and maintain them.

11) How should we become the bigger person?

1 Corinthians 6:7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather _____ yourselves to be defrauded?

12) What reminder did he leave us with?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the _____ of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a _____: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

13) What will become of the unrighteous?

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not _____ the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor _____, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

The apostle plainly outlined the result of turning from a life of purity and holiness to the corrupt practices of heathenism.

14) What did he add to that?

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are _____, but ye are _____, but ye are _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

The Corinthian believers needed a deeper experience in the things of God. They did not know fully what it meant to behold His glory and to be changed from character to character. They had seen but the first rays of the early dawn of that glory. Paul's desire for them was that they might be filled with all the fullness of God, following on to know Him whose going forth is prepared as the morning, and continuing to learn of Him until they should come into the full noontide of a perfect gospel faith.

Can you see we are a work in progress?

Would you like to grow into the Fulness of Christ?

When is the time to renounce worldly ways?