



Lesson 29 – Called to Reach Higher Standard

Based on 1 Corinthians chapters 9-15

In our last lesson we covered some of the issues Paul was addressing in His 1st letter to the Corinthians. Today we'll be covering the last half of the Letter written to the young and growing church in Corinth.

1) What analogy did Paul make to impress their minds?

1 Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but _____ receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Paul in his letter to them made a striking comparison between the Christian warfare and the celebrated foot races held at stated intervals near Corinth. Of all the games instituted among the Greeks and the Romans, the foot races were the most ancient and the most highly esteemed. They were witnessed by kings, nobles, and statesmen. Young men of rank and wealth took part in them and shrank from no effort or discipline necessary to obtain the prize.

2) What parallel did he make?

1 Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an _____.

In these contests great risks were run. Some never recovered from the terrible physical strain. It was not unusual for men to fall on the course, bleeding at the mouth and nose, and sometimes a contestant would drop dead when about to seize the prize. But the possibility of lifelong injury or of death was not looked upon as too great a risk to run for the sake of the honor awarded the successful contestant.

The runners put aside every indulgence that would tend to weaken the physical powers, and by severe and continuous discipline trained their muscles to strength and endurance, that when the day of the contest should arrive, they might put the heaviest tax upon their powers. How much more important that the Christian, whose eternal interests are at stake, bring appetite and passion under subjection to reason and the will of God!

3) How did Paul view this?

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into _____: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a _____.

the Christian must put forth the utmost exertion in order to gain the victory. In the Corinthian games the last few strides of the contestants in the race were made with agonizing effort to keep up undiminished speed. So, the Christian, as he nears the goal, will press onward with even more zeal and determination than at the first of his course.

4) Why?

1 Corinthians 9:25 ...Now they do it to obtain a corruptible _____; but we an incorruptible.

5) What similar thing did he tell the receivers of the Letter to the Hebrews?

Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us _____ every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto _____ the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Envy, malice, evil thinking, evil speaking, covetousness, these are weights that the Christian must lay aside if he would run successfully the race for immortality. Every habit or practice that leads into sin and brings dishonor upon Christ must be put away, whatever the sacrifice.



- 6) What wisdom did Jesus give us?

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, _____ it _____: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

- 7) How is the race before us different than the Corinthian races?

1 Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but _____ receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Such is not the case in the Christian warfare. Not one who complies with the conditions will be disappointed at the end of the race. Not one who is earnest and persevering will fail of success. The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. The weakest saint, as well as the strongest, may wear the crown of immortal glory. All may win who, through the power of divine grace, bring their lives into conformity to the will of Christ.

Nothing is small that will help or hinder. Every act casts its weight into the scale that determines life's victory or defeat. And the reward given to those who win will be in proportion to the energy and earnestness with which they have striven.

- 8) What was Paul's goal?

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the _____, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

He realized that if he did not carry out in his life the principles he believed and preached, his labors on behalf of others would avail him nothing. His conversation, his influence, his refusal to yield to self-gratification, must show that his religion was not a profession merely, but a daily, living connection with God.

- 9) What other idea did he remind them of?

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for _____: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

- 10) To whom was he referring?

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our _____ were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual _____ that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Paul pointed the Corinthians to the experience of ancient Israel, to the blessings that rewarded their obedience, and to the judgments that followed their transgressions. He reminded them of the miraculous way in which the Hebrews were led from Egypt under the protection of the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. Thus, they were safely conducted through the Red Sea, while the Egyptians, essaying to cross in like manner, were all drowned. By these acts God had acknowledged Israel as His church.

- 11) What warning did Paul make about it?

1 Corinthians 10:5-6 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were _____ in the _____. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

It was when the children of Israel sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play, that they threw off the fear of God, which they had felt as they listened to the giving of the law; and, making a golden calf to represent God, they worshiped it. And it was after enjoying a luxurious feast connected with the worship of Baalpeor, that many of the Hebrews fell through licentiousness.

- 12) How many people perished because of a momentary lapse in judgement?

1 Corinthians 10:8 Neither let us commit _____, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.



13) What advice is still good today?

1 Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he _____ take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be _____ above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

14) How should we conduct ourselves around others?

1 Corinthians 10:31-32 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the _____ of God. Give none _____, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

Paul urged his brethren to ask themselves what influence their words and deeds would have upon others and to do nothing, however innocent in itself, that would seem to sanction idolatry or offend the scruples of those who might be weak in the faith.

15) Paul made another analogy to the church in Corinth. What was it?

1 Corinthians 12:14-16 For the body is not one member, but _____. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the _____, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the _____?

16) What was his point?

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all _____ into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

By a comparison of the church with the human body, the apostle aptly illustrated the close and harmonious relationship that should exist among all members of the church of Christ.

17) What did Paul tell us about God in Chapter 13?

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding _____, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am _____. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me _____.

No matter how high the profession, he whose heart is not filled with love for God, and his fellow men is not a true disciple of Christ. Though he should possess great faith and have power even to work miracles, yet without love his faith would be worthless.

18) What words about love reveal the character of God?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Charity suffereth long, and is _____; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily _____, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the _____; Beareth all things, believeth all things, _____ all things, endureth all things.

1 Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is _____.

19) What last thing did Paul need to address to the Church there?

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ _____ for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he _____ the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was _____ of Cephas, then of the twelve:

In the lowering of the moral standard among the Corinthian believers, there were those who had given up some of the fundamental features of their faith. Some had gone so far as to deny the doctrine of the resurrection. Paul met this heresy with a very plain testimony regarding the unmistakable evidence of the resurrection of Christ.



20) With what did he try to reason with them?

1 Corinthians 15:12-14 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no _____ of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not _____: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also _____.

1 Corinthians 15:17-19 And if Christ be not _____, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are _____. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most _____.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the _____ of them that slept. For since by man came _____, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made _____.

The apostle carried the minds of the Corinthian brethren forward to the triumphs of the resurrection morn, when all the sleeping saints are to be raised, henceforth to live forever with their Lord.

21) What did Paul look forward to?

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be _____, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the _____ shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 So when this corruptible shall have put on _____, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, _____ is swallowed up in victory.

Glorious is the triumph awaiting the faithful. The apostle, realizing the possibilities before the Corinthian believers, sought to set before them that which uplifts from the selfish and the sensual, and glorifies life with the hope of immortality.

22) What was his parting advice to the believers there in Corinth?

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, _____, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Thus, the apostle, in the most decided and impressive manner, endeavored to correct the false and dangerous ideas and practices that were prevailing in the Corinthian church. He spoke plainly, yet in love for their souls. In his warnings and reproofs, light from the throne of God was shining upon them, to reveal the hidden sins that were defiling their lives.

After the letter had been dispatched, Paul feared lest that which he had written might wound too deeply those whom he desired to benefit. He keenly dreaded a further alienation and sometimes longed to recall his words. With trembling anxiety, he waited to receive some tidings as to the reception of his message...

Can you see Paul loved the church in Corinth?

Would you like to benefit from the counsels given to them?

When is the time to crucify your lusts?