

Parson to Person

1 Corinthians (The Review)

“Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:1–9).

As best as I can track, we started our study in 1 Corinthians on July 3, 2022. That tells us that we studied this book for 2 years and 3 months. Not really a record, but somewhat longer than *some* might have expected.

When we started this study, we reviewed the following list of questions and set the stage to answer each one when pouring over the pages of the book. Today I feel led to go over them again and answer the questions in a post-study follow-up. It may take a week or two—but I think it will be worth it.

1. Can one be a carnal Christian?
2. Can “lukewarmness” be attributed to a Christian?

3. What is the difference between positional and progressive sanctification?
4. Do churches have problems?
5. Are their hypocrites in the Church?
6. Does God endorse the praise and exaltation of “superman” Christian leaders?
7. It is possible to be saved and live in disobedience?
8. Is disobedience endorsed by the Scriptures?
9. Does the Bible endorse “church discipline” among professing believers?
10. Does the Bible endorse eldership and elder-driven leadership?
11. Are we called to judge the unsaved?
12. It is lawful to file a lawsuit against a fellow believer?
13. When divorce occurs, is it always the fault of both parties?
14. Is divorce the unpardonable sin?
15. How do we handle living in a pagan/idolatrous culture?
16. How are we called to live toward “others” in the Christian community?
17. Have Holy Spirit-inspired supernatural gifts ceased?
18. Is there a high watermark rule for those living in Christ?
19. Can Christians abuse and/or misuse the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
20. Did Jesus physically rise from the dead?
21. Will we as believers experience a physical resurrection?
22. Is there going to be a rapture (removal) of the Church at the end of the Church Age?
23. Are Christians called to financially support the ministries of the Church?
24. Is it Biblical to plan ahead when looking into the future?
25. Are believers called to indiscriminately accept all systems of faith/belief?

26. Are believers called to indiscriminately accept all people as the people of *the* faith?
27. Did Paul love the Corinthians in spite of their treatment of him?

It should be clear to all of us that we are not saved by works—nor are we kept by them. We are not saved by righteous living—nor will we forfeit the salvation we have freely received by unrighteousness living. However, as believers we are called to live for the Lord—not for ourselves. We are called to live in righteousness—not in willful sin. The Corinthians needed to hear this, and Paul gave them the lessons.

It is clear to all Bible students that some of the Corinthians heeded the lessons and others—not so much. However, as we should all come to understand, God will finish what He starts in every believer. Let's willfully (by the working power of God who is at work in us) make the choices needed to live for Jesus in a way that befits our profession. We are believers—we are called to act like it.

It is by grace that we have been saved through faith in Jesus. It is by grace through faith that we will walk in Him.

I love you all,
Pastor Paul