



Reading through the New Testament—Week 28

July 16-22

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

Some letters are difficult to write. Especially when you are trying to correct those you are sending it to. It was not easy for Paul to write the letter to the Christians in Corinth. However, he was compelled to write to them trusting that his words would turn them from their actions to receive the forgiveness of Jesus.

Corinth was a rich cosmopolitan city in its time with a population estimated around 700,000. Paul felt deeply invested in this church as he founded it. A tentmaker by the name of Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, started meeting with people and discipling them in their home and the church grew from there. Paul's letter was written in response to the problems and disagreements that arose within the church in Corinth in its early days.

There are three definite reasons why Paul wrote this letter. First, he received a report that there were factions in the congregation (1:11-12). Second, he received a letter from the congregation in which they asked him several questions (7:1) – the questions are implied in the sections beginning with the phrase “now concerning” (7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1). Third, a delegation of three Corinthian Christians (Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus) arrived when Paul was at Ephesus and informed him about the conditions in Corinth.

Chapters five and six discuss three types of moral issues taking place at that time. First, there were reports of incest among some people in the church. Paul advises expulsion from the congregation if the people involved did not cease and desist. Second, some of the Christians in this congregation were taking each other to court over various issues. Third, some Corinthian Christians were not abstaining from sexual immorality. Their thinking was that they were free to do anything.

Overall, there was a lot of issues for Paul to address with the Christians in Corinth.

[See the sermon outline on page 2](#)

THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

"Our Calling"

1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Jeopardy (again)

- "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."

Psalm 23:2 – "He makes me lie down in green pastures . . ."

- "The grass is always greener . . ."
- "If only . . ."

A _____

- "Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has **assigned** to them, just as God called them." (7:17)

O _____

- "Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you – **although if you can** gain your freedom, do so." (7:21)






C _____

- ". . . just as God has **called** them." (7:17)
- "Was a man already circumcised when he was **called** . . . Was a man uncircumcised when he was **called**?" (7:18)
- "Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God **called** them." (7:20)
- "Were you a slave when you were **called**?" (7:21)
- "For the one who was a slave when **called** to faith in the Lord is the Lord's freed person; similarly, the one who was free when **called** is Christ's slave." (7:22)
- "Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God **called** them." (7:24)

Our calling – salvation, faith in Jesus

New Testament in a Year—July 16-22

1 Corinthians

Chapter 3  4  5  6  7 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

1 Corinthians 3 Looking at verses 16-18, in what ways are you “God’s temple”? Jumping ahead, look at what Paul says about this in 6:19-20.

1 Corinthians 4 When Paul says in verse 16, “I urge you to imitate me,” is he bragging about himself or encouraging their faith? Out of the people you know, who is a person of faith you would like to “imitate”?

1 Corinthians 5 Should there be a difference in how we (the church) relates to the actions of those outside the faith and the way we relate to the actions of believers (see vv. 9-11)? Why or why not?

1 Corinthians 6 What is going on here in 6:1-11? What is the real problem? Should a believer (a Christian) engage in a lawsuit against another believer?

1 Corinthians 7 What does this chapter say to you about marriage, divorce, remarriage, or being single? Regardless of your specific situation, how can you show your “undivided devotion” to the Lord?

In general – To get an overall feel for the problems Paul was trying to address in this letter, glance at some of the serious issues he is writing about – 1:11-12; 5:1; 6:1; 6:16; 7:10-11; 8:1; 11:4-6; 11:20-22; 14:26-33; 15:12.

Blessing the World

Life Giving Opportunity | This Tuesday

Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." John 14:6

We know that Jesus gives us life and in turn, we are asked to share that Gospel message of hope to the world around us. We have a unique opportunity to be God's hands and feet, sharing that life, with people all around the U.S. this week. The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive in Luther Hall on Tuesday afternoon from 12:00p-6:00p. There are still time slots available throughout the afternoon! Check out RedCrossBlood.org and put STMICFW in the search to sign up today!

Belonging in Community

Connect Groups are a group of Christians who meet together regularly where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Connection is created through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer.

- Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together.
- Take some time to share any reflections of aha's you had from your reading.

This week we consider our calling as people of faith. We take some time to think about how we are glorifying God in our callings as opposed to seeking other callings or even seeking our own success in those callings.

Are there callings (job positions, family roles, friendships, volunteer roles...etc.) that:

- You would like but do not have?
- Have but struggle with being content in?
- Are thankful for and enjoy?

As followers of Christ we can use everything we do to bring glory to His name.

- What are some of the inward expressions of seeking God in any calling we have? (i.e. content, grounded...etc,)
- What are some of the outward expressions of seeking God in any calling we have? (i.e. How we talk about it, the attitude others see in us...)

As you think about the various callings you have, what are some areas you can personally be intentional about appropriately displaying God's work in and through you? What are some attitudes and behaviors that may need to change in order for this to happen?

As you close, take some time to ask God to give you insight into how He is at work in your daily life and be prepared to join Him in His mission.