

## The Book of I Corinthians

# 18

## Morning Devotions

Read a Scripture passage of your choice. Talk with the Lord as you read his Word. When you are finished, go back and select one or two verses and meditate thoughtfully and prayerfully on what he is saying.

## Morning Study

This morning we will read the second section of Paul's first letter to the Corinthian church – **chapters 7-10**. Paul begins now to answer the specific questions they had written to him about. To understand their questions and Paul's answers it is important to remember the background of these Corinthian Christians. J. Sidlow Baxter describes it vividly in *Explore the Book*:

“It is only fair to remember that those Corinthian converts had been born and bred in surroundings which were about as vile and vicious as could be imagined. We can well imagine how staggered and sickened Paul must have been by this huge quagmire of refined voluptuousness and gross sensualism; the filthy rituals of idolatry, and the soul-debasing ‘religions’ which made animal indulgence meritorious; the swaggering pride of (supposed) Greek ‘wisdom,’ and the utter corruption of it all. In all the Bible there is not a more awful description of human sin and degradation than the first chapter of Paul's epistle to the Romans – and it was written from *Corinth!*”

In this section Paul deals with two specific questions the Corinthians had asked about in a previous letter to him:

- Marriage and celibacy and the situations in which we find ourselves in life (**chapter 7**).
- The eating of food offered to idols (**chapter 8**).

He goes on to give two examples:

- The positive example from his own life (**chapter 9**)
- The negative example from Israel's history (**chapter 10**).

Now, with this outline to help, pull up a comfortable chair and read **1 Corinthians chapters 7-10**.

# MEMORY VERSE

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!