

The Book of I Corinthians

16

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 which you believe God is using to speak to you and meditate thoughtfully and prayerfully on what he is saying.

Morning Study

This morning we begin reading Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. To understand why Paul writes the way he does let's first become familiar with this city and with what was happening in the Corinthian church.

Corinth was, in many ways, the chief city of Greece. It had a population of about 250,000 free people and as many as 400,000 slaves. With its two harbors, it was a crossroad for travellers and was a busy, prosperous commercial centre between East and West. At least 12 temples dotted the city, the most infamous being the temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, whose worshipers practiced religious prostitution. This fostered gross immorality, so much so that the Greek verb "to Corinthianize" came to mean "to practice sexual immorality." The Corinthians were interested in Greek philosophy and placed a high premium on wisdom.

Read Acts 18:1-18

Paul came to Corinth around AD 50 (about 20 years after the ascension of Jesus). He preached the Gospel first in the synagogue, but when he was opposed by the Jews he turned his focus to the Gentiles and many of the Corinthians "believed and were baptized."

Paul's letter to the Corinthian church was not only in reply to a letter they had written to him enquiring about marriage and the eating of meats offered to idols (**1 Corinthians 7:1; 8:1-13**), but was also written in response to information that Paul had received from several sources concerning factions that were developing, false teaching they were following, and immorality that was rampant in the church.

With this background understanding we will now read Paul's letter. Because of its length, we will divide the reading of Corinthians into three sections. This morning read **chapters 1-6** right through in one sitting.

MEMORY VERSE

For the message of the Cross is foolishness
to those who are perishing, but to us who
are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

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!