

The Book of I Corinthians

23

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 that you believe the Lord is using to speak to your heart. Meditate thoughtfully and prayerfully on what he is saying to you.

Morning Study

Today we will start reading the third section of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians – **chapters 11-14**. In this section, Paul begins to answer the questions the Corinthians had previously sent him by letter. These questions had apparently related to their worship and the specific problems that had arisen in their gatherings as a church. It is important to understand the background to these questions and problems in Corinth, for this reflects in the manner with which Paul writes his answers. Paul deals with three particular issues:

How do women fit into the gatherings of the church?(11:3-16)

In regard to women in the church, Paul answers two queries:

- Should women cover their heads publicly?
- Should they minister publicly?

Paul is addressing the issues raised by the Judaizers who had invaded the Corinthian church after he left. It is to their statements that Paul is replying. For example, **14:34-35** is a direct quote from the Jewish Oral Law, which the Judaizers held to be of equal authority to the Old Testament. Paul is in fact quoting the Judaizers to *refute* the Judaizers.

How should the Lord's Table be conducted?(11:17-34)

This sub-section focuses on issues relating to the breaking of bread and sharing of the Lord's cup.

How should the gifts of the Spirit operate?(12:1-14:40)

This sub-section answers issues concerning the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Now, with this outline to help you, pull up a comfortable chair and read through **chapters 11-14** in one sitting.

MEMORY VERSE

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

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!