

November 29/Day 333

- Taking a break from Acts to read the letter written to Corinth after Paul's visit there.

1 Corinthians 1

Verse 1

- There was a Sosthenes mentioned in Acts 18 who united with the Jews in attacking Paul. If this is the same Sosthenes, he would have been converted in the meantime, since he is now called a brother. There is no way of knowing if this is the same man.
- Who wrote this letter?

Verse 2

- To whom is this letter written?
- What word is used for believers in this verse? Believe it or not, if you are a believer according to Scripture, you are a saint. You don't have to be perfect to be a saint and you don't have to wait on a church leader to declare you are one.

Verses 3-9

- How does Paul begin his letter? Is it positive or negative?

Verses 10-17

- Do you remember what exhort means?
- What seems to be the reason for Paul's letter?
- We tend to like certain Bible teachers based on their style of teaching. There's really nothing wrong with that, but here Paul is speaking of the church being completely divided over which teacher to follow. We saw in a previous passage that Apollos was a great teacher. We know Paul and Peter were called and equipped by God. God uses a variety of us to minister by His will.
- In what way did Paul NOT preach the gospel? Have you ever known a teacher to spin a tale, or to work the crowd?

Verse 18

- There is no need for a Bible teacher or preacher to use cleverness of speech. We are called to teach the truth of the Scriptures. The authority of the Scripture will do its work.

Verses 19-25

- At the birth of Jesus, we saw wise men come from other nations. The “magi”, from where we get our English word, magician. In Greece, we saw philosophy and seeking after wisdom. Has the wisdom of the world helped men come to know God?
- The Greeks (Gentiles) searched for wisdom, what did the Jews seek? Because they were seeking the wrong thing, what was the cross?
- What is the foolishness and weakness of God greater than, if there were such a thing?

Verses 26-31

- What do the foolish things of the world do? Who chose them to do this?
- What other two words are used in verse 28 in reference to what God has chosen?
- To boast means to place your trust in something. In what are we to boast?

1 Corinthians 2

Verses 1-5

- If we just picked up the Bible here and began reading, having not already read the book of Acts, what would the first phrase tell us?
- What does Paul continue to tell us about his message and teaching style?
- What does verse 3 tell us about Paul’s struggle? What was this fear according to verse 5?

Verses 6-9

- Paul is still making sure they understand the wisdom of the world and the wisdom from God are two different things.

Verses 10-13

- What does God’s Spirit do?
- Who can know the thoughts of God?
- What does all of this have to do with wisdom?

Verses 14-16

- A natural man is living by his natural or worldly nature. He is not spiritual, having not been re-generated or born-again. What can a natural man not accept?
- What is our application in regard to how others receive us or behave toward us?
- Who has the mind of Christ? How? Just wait until we get to Philippians!!

1 Corinthians 3

Verses 1-4

- A true believer will be continually growing in faith. A religious person who has made a profession of faith will remain an infant and behave in childish ways, but a true believer will not remain an infant.
- Some teachers believe there is such a thing as “carnal Christians”, but I don’t believe this is what Scripture teaches. If we follow Paul’s train of thought, he is saying, in essence, though you say you have believed... Paul approached every church with the understanding that not all who profess, have actually believed.

Verses 5-9

- How does Paul answer his two questions?
- How does he describe how God uses a variety of people to minister?
- Who causes growth? So, if we have God, we will be growing, maturing?
- According to verse 9, Paul and Apollos are “fellow workers”. How does this term contrast with the Corinthian argument?

Verses 10-15

- Fire purifies and cleanses. It burns away that which is useless. How will fire test each man’s work? Remember the context, this is in regard to ministry work.

Verses 16-17

- Where does the Spirit of God dwell? Why?

Verses 18-23

- What must a man become in order to become wise? This is a great paradox.
- What is foolishness before God?

1 Corinthians 4

Verses 1-5

- How should we desire men to regard us? What would our lives have to be like in order for this to happen?
- In verses 4 and 5, Paul is saying that there is nothing in his life that he knows of for which he needs to repent (have a change of mind resulting in a change of direction), but there could be something of which he is unaware. When we become born-again, there is an initial cleaning-up that God does within us, but there are patterns in our beliefs and behaviors that have been programmed within us through our environment and our upbringing. God reveals

these to us over time as He peels back layers of conditioning and programming. We wouldn't survive if He did it all at once.

Verses 6-10

- God may be working on us in an area He hasn't yet revealed to another and vice-versa. Believers are all on the same path, but at differing stages. We need to be patient with each other, and not think we are superior in any way. God is working on each of us in His timing.

Verses 8-13

- What are apostles to the world?
- How have they been treated and how had they responded?

Verses 14-21

- Explain verse 15.
- Remembering context, why would Paul say to imitate him?
- What would Timothy do among them? Could he have possibly delivered the letter?

See you tomorrow.