1 CORINTHIANS

The City Of Corinth
• Major city of trade and commerce

• Diverse ethnic groups

• Dominated by the temple of Aphrodite

• Rampant sexual immorality

• Transient population

The Church At Corinth
• Racial and social mixture

• Observed class distinctions

• Converts from a permissive background

• Prided themselves on “wisdom”

• Plagued by divisive controversies

Paul Addresses Problems
1. Divisions in the church

2. A case involving incest

3. The Lord’s Supper being profaned

4. Chaos in the worship services

Paul Answers Questions
1. Marriage, sex, and single life

2. Eating food consecrated to idols

3. Women’s place in public meetings

4. Spiritual gifts (ministries)

5. The nature of the resurrection

Challenges The Reader Faces
1. Understanding the situations at Corinth that Paul addresses

2. Recognizing what is relevant to our own lives

3. Following Paul's train of thought

Background Details

• Paul's authorship has been widely accepted from the earliest of times.

• It was written during the end of his three year stay at Ephesus, early part of 55 A.D.

Organization Of The Book

• The letter is loosely organized.

• Theological principles are appealed to when offering correction for specific problems.

• Begins with an emphasis on the cross and ends with a teaching on the resurrection.

Chapters 1 - 2
- • Appeals to the cross of Jesus
- • Condemns divisions and factions
- • Jesus is the wisdom of God

Chapters 3 - 6
- • Divisions and splinter groups
- • Church discipline regarding incest
- • Sexual immorality
- • The matter of suing other believers

Chapters 7 - 10
- • Marriage, marital rights, singleness
- • Eating meat offered to idols
- • Paul defends his apostleship

Chapters 11 - 14
- • Spiritual gifts (ministries)
- • Guidelines for public meetings
- • Head coverings
- • Lord's supper
- • Love

Chapter 15
- • Christ's resurrection as our foundation
- • The nature of the resurrection

Chapter 16
- • Personal matters and instructions
- • Various greetings

1Corinthians' Contribution

1. Centrality of the cross and resurrection

2. The "weakness" of the cross

3. The meaning of the Lord's Supper

4. Christ's resurrection is foundational

5. Unity of the church is essential

6. Various doctrines related to church life

Other Contributions

• The church is the body of Christ

• Church discipline

• The Cross is foundational

• God's revelation is our guide for life

• The HS should be the power behind the life of the church

• Pride and dissension tear apart the very fabric of the church

Practical Lessons

1. Christians must participate in the life of the local church

2. The focus should be on encouraging others rather than elevating self

3. Be content in your current situation

4. Problems in the church must be faced

5. Only a healthy church can serve as a witness to the outside world

6. Marriage is sacred before God