

New Testament Recovery Version

Study Guide

Book VII

THE EPISTLES OF PAUL

TO THE

CORINTHIANS

BRINGING SAINTS INTO THE TRUTH

THERE IS THE DESPERATE NEED OF THE LIVING TRUTH

Suppose that on this earth among the human race there had never been such a book as the Bible. If we had not had a Bible in our hands during the past 2,000 years since the Lord Jesus resurrected and ascended to the heavens, everything would be in the air and nothing could be solid. Even the things concerning the Spirit could not be solid. The Spirit depends upon the Word. This is why the Lord said that the words that He spoke to us are spirit (John 6:63)... Without the Word the Spirit might be just “a phantom.” ... whenever people contact the holy Word, many times they get the Spirit ... A principle has been set up through history that there is the desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church exist, and to build up the church.

THE MOST PROFITABLE WRITINGS AND PUBLICATIONS ARE THE LIFE-STUDY MESSAGES WITH THE NOTES OF THE RECOVERY VERSION

Through the past ten years up to the present time it has been fully proven among us that the most profitable writings and publications are the Life-study messages with the notes of the Recovery Version. I wrote these things, not for scholarly study for people to get a degree, but for life ministering, for truth releasing, and for opening up the books of the Bible.

THIS IS NOT TO REPLACE THE BIBLE, BUT TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THE BIBLE

The holy Word itself says in Psalm 119:130: “The opening of Your words gives light,”... Nearly everywhere you go today you find a Bible, but who has entered into the Bible? There has nearly been no entrance. Many have a copy of the Bible, but the Bible has been closed and nearly never opened. Now the Lord has given us a key, an opener. I consider our writings as the opener to open the holy Word. I believe that those of you who have read the Life-study

messages can testify honestly that these messages with the notes of the Recovery Version have opened up a certain chapter or a certain book of the Bible to you. This is not to replace the Bible, but to bring people into the Bible.

SPENDING AT LEAST THIRTY MINUTES IN THE WORD EVERY DAY

We should help the saints to build up a practice or a habit that every day they would spend at least thirty minutes in the Word.... Some saints may decide to study the book of Romans or the book of Hebrews. They should study every day either three times of ten minutes each or one time of thirty minutes. We should charge them to pray-read two or three verses of this book every day. Then they have to study the accompanying message.... The saints do not need to pray-read the Life-study messages, but they have to pray-read the biblical verses in order to get the help to enter into the truth conveyed in these few verses. They also need the help of the notes and the Life-study messages to enter into the truth.

AFTER ONE YEAR OF STUDYING THE BIBLE IN THIS WAY, THERE WILL BE A SOLID CHANGE

After one year of studying the Bible in this way, there will be a solid change in the saints' home life, private life, and church life.

Therefore, as leading brothers try your best in your locality to stir up an atmosphere and to create a hunger and thirst in the saints after the Lord's truth. Tell them that the truth is in the unique holy Word and that the best help to usher them into the Word is the Recovery Version with the notes and all the Life-studies. Of course, we should not practice anything legal. We should not make these things a legal matter that the saints are required to do. However, if the saints do love the Lord's recovery, they must get themselves fed all the time with the healthy food that they may be strong. As a result of eating a proper, regular diet, the saints will be strong and the Lord will have a strong testimony. (*Elders' Training, Book 03: The Way to Carry Out the Vision, pp. 102-104, 108-111*)

Week 1 Day 1 1 Cor. 1:1-9

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please illustrate the two aspects of the church.
2. Please explain “Christ is theirs and ours”.
3. Please illustrate the intrinsic significance of “into the fellowship of His Son”.

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 1:2 note 2.
2. See 1 Cor. 1:2 note 9.
3. See 1 Cor. 1:9 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 1-4, 10-12, 14.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 2 1 Cor. 1:10-31

I. Key Verses:

1 Cor. 1:22 For indeed Jews require signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

1 Cor. 1:23a But we preach Christ crucified...

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The _____ of Christ is the center in the accomplishment of God's New Testament economy, which is to have a _____ produced through the redemption of Christ. Paul preached _____ crucified (v. 23; 2:2; Gal. 3:1) and boasted in the cross of Christ (Gal. 6:14). When _____ is taken to replace religious opinions and philosophical wisdom, and when His _____ is working to deal with the flesh attached to any background, divisions will be terminated. The exaltation of natural preference and human wisdom cannot stand before _____ and His cross. (*See 1 Cor. 1:17 note 3*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 5-9, 13-14.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 3 1 Cor. 2:1-16

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and *which* have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

To love God means to set our _____ being — spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and _____ (Mark 12:30) — absolutely on Him, that is, to let our entire being be _____ by Him and lost in Him, so that He becomes _____ to us and we are one with Him practically in our daily life. In this way we have the closest and most intimate _____ with God, and we are able to enter into His heart and apprehend all its _____ (Psa. 73:25; 25:14). Thus, we not only realize but also _____, enjoy, and fully participate in these deep and hidden things of God. (See 1 Cor. 2:9 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 15-21.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 4 1 Cor. 3:1-13

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The believers, who have been regenerated in Christ with God's _____, are God's cultivated _____, a _____ in God's new creation to grow Christ that precious _____ may be produced for God's building. Hence, we are not only God's cultivated land but also God's _____. Corporately, we as the church of God have Christ planted in us. Christ must _____ in us and, in the sense of this chapter, produce out of us not fruit but the precious materials of _____, _____, and precious _____ for the building of God's _____ on earth. (See 1 Cor. 3:9 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 22-30.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 5 1 Cor. 3:14-4:9

I. Key Verses:

- 1 Cor. 3:14 If anyone's work which he has built upon *the foundation* remains, he will receive a reward;
- 1 Cor. 3:15 If anyone's work is consumed, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The salvation that we have received in Christ is not by our _____ (Titus 3:5) and is _____, unchangeable in nature (Heb. 5:9; John 10:28-29). Hence, those believers whose Christian works are not _____ by the judging Lord and who suffer the loss of _____ will still be saved. God's salvation as a _____ gift to all believers is for eternity, whereas the Lord's reward to those (not all) believers whose Christian works are _____ by Him is for the _____ age. The reward is an incentive for their Christian work. (See 1 Cor. 3:15 note 3)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 30-35.*

Note:

Week 1 Day 6 1 Cor. 4:10-5:13

I. Key Verse:

- 1 Cor. 5:7 Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This indicates that the apostle considered the believers God's chosen people, who have had their _____, as typified by the one in Exo. 12. In this _____, Christ is not only the Passover _____ but also the entire Passover. To be our Passover, He was sacrificed on the cross that we might be redeemed and _____ to God. Thus, we may enjoy Him as a feast before God. In this feast no _____ is allowed to be present. _____ and the redeeming _____ cannot go together. (See 1 Cor. 5:7 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 35-36.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 6:11 And these things were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

They are the subjective washing of regeneration as in Titus 3:5, the subjective _____ by the Spirit as in Rom. 15:16, and the subjective _____ in the Spirit as in this verse. All these items of God's salvation were accomplished in us in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (i.e., in the _____ of the Lord, in an organic _____ with the Lord through faith) and in the Spirit of God (i.e., in the power and _____ of the Holy Spirit). First, we were washed from the sinful things; second, we were _____, separated unto God, transformed by God; and third, we were _____, accepted, by God. (See 1 Cor. 6:11 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 37-38.*

Note:

I am burdened that we all understand what the Lord's recovery really is. God's intention in His recovery is to recover Christ as everything. It is to recover Christ as the unique center of God's economy and as everything to us as our portion for our enjoyment.

We in the Lord's recovery need to consider our situation with respect to the enjoyment of Christ. How much do you enjoy Christ daily? Do you enjoy Him in all the nineteen aspects revealed in 1 Corinthians? I hope that more and more the saints will be able to declare, "Lord Jesus, I enjoy You and I am very happy in You. Lord, You are everything to me. You are God's power and wisdom. You are my righteousness, sanctification, redemption, and even glory for my glorification. Lord, you are the depths of God. I pray that You will bring me further into the enjoyment of Yourself as these depths."

Human life is filled with problems and entanglements. Simply to be alive is to encounter problems and troubles. This is true not only in the married life and family life, but also in the church life. According to the human way, negotiation is the means of solving problems or resolving entanglements. A brother and his wife may attempt to solve problems in this way. However, this is not the divine way. God's way is to supply you with Christ and terminate you by the cross. Whenever there is a problem in the family life or in the church life, the natural man may immediately try to negotiate and solve the problem through conversation. By the Lord's mercy I can testify that whenever I face this temptation, deep within I have the sense that there is no need for me to talk or negotiate. My only need is to go to the cross and be terminated. Then Christ comes in with the supply to solve every problem. This is God's way to solve all the problems in the church life.

We should pay our full attention to Christ. He is our unique preference and choice. Furthermore, we need to have a proper understanding concerning the cross, realizing that the purpose of the cross is to terminate whatever we are. We need to take this cross and enjoy Christ. This is the unique solution to all problems in the church. (*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians, pp. 35, 45, 47-48*)

Week 2 Day 1 1 Cor. 6:17-7:24

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This indicates the _____ of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit. Our spirit has been _____ by the Spirit of God (John 3:6), who is now in us (v. 19) and is one with _____ spirit (Rom. 8:16). This is the realization of the Lord, who became the _____ Spirit through resurrection (15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17) and who is now with our _____ (2 Tim. 4:22). This _____ spirit is often referred to in Paul's Epistles, e.g., in Rom. 8:4-6. (*See 1 Cor. 6:17 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 38-42.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 2 1 Cor. 7:25-8:13

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 7:40 But she is more blessed if she so remains, according to my opinion; but I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In 1 Cor. 7:10 the apostle said, "I charge, not I but the _____." In v. 12 he said, "I say, I, not the Lord." In v. 25 he said, "I have no _____ of the Lord, but I give my _____." In v. 40 he says, "... according to my opinion; but I think that I also have the _____ of God." All these words indicate the New Testament principle of incarnation (that is, that God and man, man and God, become _____). This differs drastically from the principle of Old Testament prophecy (that is, that man speaks for God). But in the New Testament the Lord becomes one with His _____, and they become one with Him; thus, the two _____ together. (*See 1 Cor. 7:40 note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 43-44.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 3 1 Cor. 9:1-27

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 9:25 And everyone who contends exercises self-control in all things; they then, that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the stewardship that Paul was entrusted with?
2. How was Paul within law?
3. How was the kingdom reward an incentive for Paul to run his course?

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 9:17 note 2.
2. See 1 Cor. 9:21 note 2.
3. See 1 Cor. 9:27 note 4, note 5 .

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 45-46.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 4 1 Cor. 10:1-13

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 10:13 No temptation has taken you except that which is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow that you be tempted beyond what you are able, but will, with the temptation, also make the way out, that you may be able to endure *it*.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This book takes the history of the children of _____ in the Old Testament as a type of the New Testament believers. In 5:7-8 the believers experienced _____ as their Passover and began to keep the Feast of _____ _____. Here in this chapter they are baptized unto their Moses (_____), passing through their Red Sea (the _____ of Christ). They are now eating the spiritual food and drinking the spiritual drink that they might take their journey (the Christian race) toward their _____ (the all-inclusive Christ). Also, they are _____ here (v. 11) not to repeat the history of the children of Israel in doing evil against God, as illustrated in vv. 6-11. (*See 1 Cor. 10:6 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 47-48.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 5 1 Cor. 10:14-11:6

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The one bread signifies the one _____ of Christ. We all are one Body because we all partake of the one _____. Our joint _____ of the one bread makes us all one. This indicates that our partaking of Christ makes us all His one Body. The very _____ of whom we all partake constitutes us His one Body.

Partaking of (that is, _____ — vv. 28-30) the one bread _____ us with it. This indicates that our partaking of Christ, our enjoying of Christ, identifies us with Him, making us _____ with Him. (*See 1 Cor. 10:17 note 1, note 2*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 49-53.*

Note:

Week 2 Day 6 1 Cor. 11:7-26

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you declare the Lord's death until He comes.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Why the woman ought to have a sign of submission to authority on her head?
2. What is the difference between the emphasis of the Lord's table and the stress of the Lord's supper?
3. What is the real remembrance of the Lord?

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 11:10 note 2.
2. See 1 Cor. 11:20 note 1.
3. See 1 Cor. 11:25 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 53-56.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 12:3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking in the Spirit of God says, Jesus *is* accursed; and no one can say, Jesus *is* Lord! except in the Holy Spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What does “the Body” imply?
2. Please explain how the Triune God is involved in the gifts, the ministries, and the operations.
3. Please explain the manifestation of the Spirit.

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 11:29 note 3.
2. See 1 Cor. 12:6 note 2.
3. See 1 Cor. 12:7 note 1, 8 note 2, 10 note 4, note 5.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians* Msg. 54-58.

Note:

In verse 17 Paul says, “But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.” The word joined in this verse refers to the believers’ organic union with the Lord through believing into Him (John 3:15-16). This union is illustrated by that of the branches with the vine (John 15:4-5). It is a matter not only of life, but also in life, the divine life. Such a union with the resurrected Lord can only be in our spirit.

The expression “one spirit” indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit. Our spirit has been regenerated by the Spirit of God (John 3:6), who is now in us (1 Cor. 6:19) and is one with our spirit (Rom. 8:16). This is the realization of the Lord who became the life-giving Spirit through resurrection (1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17), and who is now with our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22). This mingled spirit is often referred to in Paul’s Epistles, as in Romans 8:4-6.

We the believers are joined to the Lord as one spirit. This is a great mystery, perhaps the most mysterious matter revealed in the Bible. Who can explain such a mystery? Can you explain how it is possible for us to be one spirit with the Lord? Although we cannot explain it, we can surely experience it. Often I pray in the morning, “Lord, thank You for another day in which to practice being one spirit with You.” What a wonder that sinners such as we can be one spirit with the Lord! The more we consider this matter, the more we realize how wonderful it is.

We have seen that in chapter six Paul covers three vital matters. These matters are so great that it takes much exercise of the spirit for us to assimilate them adequately. How marvelous that our bodies are members of Christ, that we are one spirit with the Lord, and that our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit! The vision concerning this is becoming so clear that sometimes I can hardly contain myself. Let us all look to the Lord for His mercy that we may see the vision shown to Paul. (*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians*, pp. 345-346, 349-350, 352)

Week 3 Day 1 1 Cor. 12:12-31

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What does “the Christ” in 12:12 refer to?
2. What is the spiritual significance of “being baptized into one Body”?
3. What is the spiritual significance of “drinking one Spirit”?

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 12:12 note 2.
2. See 1 Cor. 12:13 note 2.
3. See 1 Cor. 12:13 note 5.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 58-59.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 2 1 Cor. 13:1-14:12

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 14:1 Pursue love, and desire earnestly spiritual *gifts*, but especially that you may prophesy.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the relationship between love and the divine life?
2. What is “to prophesy”?
3. Why is speaking in tongues much less important than prophesying?

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 13:4 note 1.
2. See 1 Cor. 14:1 note 3.
3. See 1 Cor. 14:2 note 1, 12 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 60-61.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 3 1 Cor. 14:13-33

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

This is like the Feast of _____ in ancient times. The children of Israel brought the produce of the _____, which they had reaped from their labor on the land, to the feast and offered it to the Lord for His enjoyment and for their mutual participation in fellowship with the Lord and with one another. We must labor on _____, our good land, that we may reap some produce of His riches to bring to the church _____ and offer. Thus the meeting will be an exhibition of _____ in His riches and will be a mutual enjoyment of _____ shared by all the attendants before God and with God for the _____ up of the saints and the church. (*See 1 Cor. 14:26 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 61-63.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 4 1 Cor. 14:34-15:19

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What does “the women should be silent in the churches” mean?
2. Please explain the intrinsic significance of “the grace of God”.
3. Why was it necessary to deal with the heretical saying that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 14:34 note 2.
2. See 1 Cor. 15:10 note 1.
3. See 1 Cor. 15:12 note 1.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 63-66.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 5 1 Cor. 15:20-34

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please explain that Christ was the firstfruit of resurrection.
2. How did God abolish sin and death?
3. What is the meaning that the apostle “dies daily”?

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 15:20 note 2.
2. See 1 Cor. 15:26 note 1.
3. See 1 Cor. 15:31 note 1.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 66-67.*

Note:

Week 3 Day 6 1 Cor. 15:35 -58

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Through creation Adam became a living _____ with a soulish _____. Through resurrection Christ became a life-giving _____ with a _____ body. Now He is a life-giving Spirit in resurrection, with a spiritual body, ready to be _____ by His believers. When we believe into Him, He enters our spirit, and we are joined to Him as the life-giving _____. Hence, we become one _____ with Him (6:17). Our spirit is made _____ and is resurrected with Him. Eventually, our present soulish body will become a _____ body in resurrection, just like His. (*See 1 Cor. 15:45 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians Msg. 67-68.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

1 Cor. 16:18 For they refreshed my spirit and yours.
Acknowledge therefore such ones.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Why did the dealing with “collection for the saints” come after the dealing concerning the reality of resurrection life?
2. Why do the New Testament saints meet on “the first day of the week”?
3. Please explain how to “refresh our spirit and yours”.

Answer:

1. See 1 Cor. 16:1 note 1.
2. See 1 Cor. 16:2 note 1.
3. See 1 Cor. 16:18 note 1, note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 1 Corinthians* Msg. 69.

Note:

THE PROPHESYING MEETING

In addition to calling on the name of the Lord, those in the early church did a great deal of speaking about the Lord Jesus. They spoke about Him to one another and to the unbelievers. Their speaking was a way of prophesying, the kind of prophesying emphasized in the New Testament. Unlike the prophets in the Old Testament, those who believe in Christ do not need to wait for the Spirit of the Lord to come upon them in order to prophesy. From the time we first called on the name of the Lord, Christ as the living Spirit has been in our spirit. For this reason, Paul could say, “He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit” (6:17). How marvelous that the Spirit is mingled with our spirit! Furthermore, this spirit is subject to us (14:32). Because our spirit is subject to us, there is no longer the need to wait for the Spirit to come upon us. Instead, we simply need to exercise our spirit. Surely the Christians in the beginning of the church life exercised their spirit to speak to one another and to unbelievers on behalf of the Lord.

Whenever we gather together in the meetings of the church, we should exhibit what we daily enjoy of the Lord. In an exhibition people manifest or display something they have or have produced. It is possible to exhibit only what we have, not what we do not have. The proper Christian meeting should be an exhibition of our Christian life. It should be a display of the riches of Christ we experience in our daily walk. If we exercise our spirit to contact the Lord daily, then in the church meetings we shall have something of Christ to share with the saints.

I have the full assurance that the Lord intends to recover our intimate daily contact with Himself and our living by Him. In particular, I expect the Lord to gain the young people in this regard because they are less under the influence of tradition. Let us all rise up to repudiate traditional Christianity. If we repudiate the religious traditions and care only for the living Christ, we shall have a proper spirit, a spirit of power, love, and a sober mind. Then in the meetings we shall bubble over with the Spirit. The more we speak of the Lord, the more we shall have to say. (*Life-Study of 1 Corinthians*, pp.576-577, 582)

Week 4 Day 1 2 Cor. 1:1-14

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 1:4 Who comforts us in all our affliction that we may be able to comfort those who are in every affliction through the comforting with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the emphasis for I and II Corinthians respectively?
2. Please present the apostle as a pattern of a person living Christ.
3. What does the “gift” in verse 11 refer to?

Answer:

1. See 2 Cor. 1:3 note 2, 4 note 1.
2. See 2 Cor. 1:9 note 1.
3. See 2 Cor. 1:11 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 1-2, 15-16.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 2 2 Cor. 1:15-2:11

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 1:21 But the One who firmly attaches us with you unto Christ and has anointed us is God.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

God establishes the apostles with the believers in _____. This means that God firmly attaches the apostles together with the _____ unto Christ, the anointed One. Hence, the apostles and the believers are one not only with Christ, the anointed One, but also with one _____, sharing the _____ that Christ has received of God.

The apostles with the believers have been attached to Christ, the _____ One. This shows that the apostles ranked themselves with the believers in being attached to Christ by the _____ Spirit, not considering themselves a special group separate from the believers in God's all-inclusive _____. (*See 2 Cor. 1:21 note 2, note 3*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 3-4, 17-18.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 3 2 Cor. 2:12-3:6

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, *ministers* not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. What is the meaning of “leads us in triumph”?
2. How are we a letter of Christ?
3. Please explain the function and qualification of the New Testament ministry.

Answer:

1. See 2 Cor. 2:14 note 1.
2. See 2 Cor. 3:3 note 1, note 2.
3. See 2 Cor. 3:3 note 2, 5 note 1, note 3, 6 note 2, note 4.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 5-6, 19-20.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 4 2 Cor. 3:7-18

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please explain how Christ is the Spirit.
2. What is “the Spirit”?
3. How do we experience being transformed?

Answer:

1. See 2 Cor. 3:17 note 2.
2. See 2 Cor. 3:17 note 3.
3. See 2 Cor. 3:18 note 7.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 7-8, 21-24, 38.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 5 2 Cor. 4:1-12

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In the apostles' speaking concerning their ministry for God's new covenant, _____ very significant and expressive metaphors were used to illustrate how they, as the _____ of the new covenant, and their ministry were constituted, how they behaved and lived, and how their ministry was carried out::(1)_____ in a triumphal procession for the celebration of Christ's victory; (2) Incense-bearers to scatter the _____ of Christ; (3) _____ written with Christ as the content; (4) _____ beholding and reflecting the glory of Christ in order to be transformed into His glorious image; (5) _____ vessels to contain the Christ of glory as the excellent treasure . These vessels are like today's camera, into which Christ the figure enters through the flash of God's shining. (See 2 Cor. 4:7 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 9-10, 26, 30-34.*

Note:

Week 4 Day 6 2 Cor. 4:13-5:8

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner *man* is being renewed day by day.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. Please explain the meaning of “spirit of faith”.
2. What are the “outer man” and the “inner man”?
3. Please explain how to experience “being renewed day by day”.

Answer:

1. See 2 Cor. 4:13 note 2.
2. See 2 Cor. 4:16 note 1.
3. See 2 Cor. 4:16 note 3.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 10-12, 31- 35.*

Note:

I. Key Verses:

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

2 Cor. 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Truth Quiz:

1. How does the love of Christ constrain us?
2. What is living to the Lord?
3. Please explain the two steps of being reconciled to God.

Answer:

1. See 2 Cor. 5:14 note 2.
2. See 2 Cor. 5:15 note 2.
3. See 2 Cor. 5:20 note 2.

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 13-14, 27-29, 36-37.*

Note:

In verse 14 Paul goes on to say, “For the love of Christ constrains us.” Once again the word “for” indicates a connection, a continuation. We are ambitious to please the Lord, for His love is constraining us. The love of Christ in verse 14 is the love which was manifested on the cross through His death for us.

The Greek word rendered constrains literally means presses on from all sides, holding to one end, forcibly limiting, confining to one object within certain bounds, shutting up to one line and purpose, as in a narrow, walled road. The same Greek word is used in Luke 4:38; 12:50; Acts 18:5; and Philippians 1:23. In such a way the apostles were constrained by the love of Christ to live to Him and to be well-pleasing to Him.

We have seen that to be constrained means to be pressed from all sides and held to one end. When we are constrained, we are limited, as if walking on a narrow, walled road, and forced to go in a certain direction. Although we love the Lord, we are not always willing to take His way. Without being walled in by Him, we probably would have escaped from Christ and the church. But the love of Christ constrains us; it presses us from every side and holds us to one goal. We have no other way. There is no other way for us to take. Actually, this is not our choice. If the choice had truly been ours, we all would probably be somewhere else today. No, it is not up to us to make the choice; it is the love of Christ that constrains us.

According to 5:14 and 15, the love of Christ constrains us to live to Him. Verse 15 says, “And He died on behalf of all, that those who live may no longer live to themselves, but to Him Who died for them and has been raised.”

If we would live to the Lord, we must deny our outward man. The outward man is the flesh. When we live to Christ, we do not live by our outward man, by our flesh. This means that living to Christ requires that we live by our inward man, by our regenerated spirit. (*Life-Study of 2 Corinthians, pp.317-318,319-320*)

Week 5 Day 1 2 Cor. 6:1-7:7

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 6:14 Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In 2 Cor. 6:14, *Dissimilarly* means *diversely*, implying a difference in _____. This refers to Deut. 22:10, which forbids the _____ together of two dissimilar animals. Believers and unbelievers are diverse peoples. Because of their divine nature and holy _____, the believers should not be yoked together with the unbelievers. This should be applied to all intimate relationships between believers and unbelievers, not only to _____ and business.

Hence, the apostle exhorted them not to be _____ yoked with unbelievers but to be _____ that they might be fully reconciled, brought back, to God. (See 2 Cor. 6:14 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 39-45.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 2 2 Cor. 7:8-8:15

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 8:2 That in much proving of affliction the abundance of their joy and the depth of their poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The act of love shown in the giving of material things to the _____ saints. The believers' grace was the issue of God's grace, which was motivating them. In the fellowship concerning the ministry to the saints, the apostle referred to the grace of _____ parties: (1) the grace of _____, which was given to the Macedonian believers to motivate them and enable them to give with _____ (vv. 1-2); (2) the grace of the _____, which allowed the believers to participate in the ministry to the needy saints (v. 4); (3) the grace of the _____, which was their ministering of material things to the needy ones (vv. 6-7); and (4) the grace of _____, that He became _____ that we might become _____ (v. 9). (See 2 Cor. 8:7 note 5)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 45-46.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 3 2 Cor. 8:16-9:15

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 9:10 Now He who bountifully supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and cause the fruits of your righteousness to increase.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

God cares for His children and _____ them in two ways: in the way of miracles, as shown by the _____, and in the way of natural law, as shown by _____ and reaping. Concerning both of these means of supply, _____ is the source. He is the One who sends the manna, and He is the One who _____ the seed for sowing and the bread for food. Having a deep realization of these facts and possessing a thorough knowledge of God's economy, the apostle had the _____ and the _____ to encourage the impoverished saints in Macedonia (8:2; 9:2) to give of what they had to meet the needs of others. (See 2 Cor. 9:10 note 1)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 47-49.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 4 2 Cor. 10:1-18

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 10:13 But we will not boast beyond *our* measure but according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

For we do not dare to class or compare ourselves with any of those who commend themselves; but they, _____ themselves by themselves and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding. But we will not boast beyond *our* _____ but according to the measure of the _____ which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you. For we are not extending ourselves beyond our bounds, as if we did not reach you, for we were the first to come even as far as unto you in the _____ of Christ. *We are* not boasting beyond *our* measure in others' _____, but have the hope, as your faith is _____, to be magnified in you according to our _____ unto abundance. (2 Cor. 10:12-15)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 50-51.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 5 2 Cor. 11:1-33

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present *you* as a pure virgin to Christ.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

In the garden of Eden, _____, the wife of Adam, was deceived by the serpent, _____, through his questioning and undermining of God's word, and was thus carried away to the tree of knowledge and distracted from the simplicity of eating the _____ of _____. Here the church in Corinth, the _____ virgin betrothed to Christ, was being deceived by the Judaizers.

Because of this undermining preaching, the apostle was fearful that the Corinthians would be distracted by the teachings of the Judaizers and would be separated from the genuine appreciation, _____, and enjoyment of the precious _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as their life and their _____. (See 2 Cor. 11:3 note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 52-54.*

Note:

Week 5 Day 6 2 Cor. 12:1-21

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

Sufferings and trials are often _____ by the Lord for us that we may experience Christ as grace and _____. Hence, in spite of the apostle's entreaty, the Lord would not remove the _____ from the apostle.

For the sufficiency of the Lord's grace to be magnified, our _____ are required; for the perfectness of the Lord's power to be shown forth, our _____ is needed. Hence, the apostle would most gladly boast in his weaknesses that the _____ of Christ might tabernacle over him. _____ is the supply, and power is the strength, the ability, of grace. Both are the resurrected _____, who is now the life-giving Spirit dwelling in us for our enjoyment. (See 2 Cor. 12:9 note 1, note 2)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 55-57.*

Note:

I. Key Verse:

2 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

II. Your Favorite Verses: _____, _____, _____.

III. Crucial Points of the Truth:

The grace of the Lord is the Lord Himself as _____ to us for our enjoyment (John 1:17 and note 1; 1 Cor. 15:10 and note 1), the love of God is _____ (1 John 4:8, 16) as the _____ of the grace of the Lord, and the fellowship of the Spirit is the Spirit Himself as the _____ of the grace of the Lord with the love of God for our participation. These are not three _____ matters but three aspects of one thing, just as the Lord, God, and the _____ are not three separate Gods but three "hypostases ... of the one same undivided and _____" God. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are the _____, the supporting substances, that compose the one Godhead. (*See 2 Cor. 13:14 note 1*)

IV. Further Reading: *Life-Study of 2 Corinthians Msg. 57-59.*

Note:

In 2 Cor. 13:14 we have a threefold blessing: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." This threefold blessing involves the Triune God, for here we have the grace of Christ the Son, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

To speak of the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit is actually to say that the love is God, that the grace is Christ, and that the fellowship is the Holy Spirit. Thus, we have God the Father as love, we have God the Son as grace, and we have God the Spirit as fellowship. This means that we have the Triune God in a direct way as our enjoyment. What we have is not merely a blessing from Him or by Him.

In the New Testament the real blessing is the Triune God Himself. As we have pointed out, this blessing is threefold, a blessing of grace, love, and fellowship. With love as the source, grace as the course, and fellowship as the transmission, the Triune God reaches us to be our life, our life supply, and our enjoyment. Now in a practical way we can enjoy the Triune God all day long. This is our unique New Testament blessing.

After His resurrection, Christ charged His disciples to disciple the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19), that is, to bring the believing ones into the Triune God, into an organic union with the processed God, who has passed through incarnation, human living, and crucifixion and has entered into resurrection. It is based upon such an organic union that at the conclusion of his second Epistle to the Corinthians the apostle blesses the believers with the blessed Trinity in the participation of the Son's grace with the Father's love through the Spirit's fellowship.

Thus, it is evident that the divine revelation of the trinity of the Godhead in the Holy Word, from Genesis through Revelation, is not for the study of theology, but for the apprehension of how God in His mysterious and marvelous trinity dispenses Himself into His chosen people, that we as His chosen and redeemed people may, as indicated in the apostle's blessing to the Corinthian believers, participate in, experience, enjoy, and possess the processed Triune God now and for eternity. (*Life-Study of 2 Corinthians, pp. 523-524, 527, 529*)