

WEEK 48 — PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH

Date: AD 53-56

The Story: God continues to do great things through the apostle Paul, whose mission work continues with a third journey, beginning in Ephesus. While there, Paul writes two teaching letters that have been preserved in our New Testament, both to the church in Corinth—a church he started during his second missionary journey. In these letters he addresses several key Christian doctrines and matters of morality, ethics, and Christian practice. His teaching on these issues continues to provide important guidance for the church today, since modern churches deal with many of the same issues.

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

NOVEMBER 27 ACTS 19 • 1 CORINTHIANS 1-2

Today's reading starts with Acts 19 as Paul's third missionary journey begins. He returns to Ephesus, where he shares the gospel for over two years (19:8-10). During this period he writes the letter we call 1 Corinthians, the first of two letters we have from Paul to the church in Corinth. It deals with several problems in the Corinthian church and some issues they wrote to Paul about, beginning with divisions over which Christian leaders they followed. Paul calls the believers to follow Christ alone and calls them to pursue godly wisdom.

Date: AD 53-55 • 1 Corinthians was written in late AD 54 or early AD 55

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Acts 19 • 1 Corinthians 1:1 to 2:5

Kids' Reading*: Acts 19

NOVEMBER 28 1 CORINTHIANS 3-6

Today's reading continues Paul's teaching against believers aligning themselves with anyone but Christ alone. He finishes dealing with this issue in chapter 4 and discusses sexual immorality and lawsuits in chapters 5-6.

Date: late AD 54 or early AD 55

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Corinthians 3-6

Kids' Reading*: 1 Corinthians 8-9

NOVEMBER 29 1 CORINTHIANS 7-10

Today's reading brings up teaching from Paul about marriage and divorce (chapter 7) and about whether a Christian may eat food that has been sacrificed to idols (chapters 8-10). In Greco-Roman culture, temples to the gods were everywhere, and animals were butchered and their meat processed at temples, then offered to the gods for the gods' blessings before being sold in the market. Most meat available for purchase would have been offered to an idol. Paul teaches on when a Christian may or may not eat such meat.

Date: late AD 54 or early AD 55

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Corinthians 7-8 • 1 Corinthians 10

Kids' Reading*: 1 Corinthians 10:14 to 11:1 • 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

NOVEMBER 30 1 CORINTHIANS 11-14

Today's reading deals with three issues. First (11:2-16) Paul addresses proper attire for women when they pray or prophesy; the key issue here is that a woman show proper submission to her husband. Second (11:17-34) Paul corrects an abuse of the Lord's Supper meal in which some believers ate and drank while poorer believers went hungry; Paul's teaching here reminds us of what the Lord's Supper is all about. Third (chapters 12-14) Paul teaches believers not to be arrogant because of gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit, but to do everything in love, using gifts like prophecy and speaking in tongues to build up the church.

Date: late AD 54 or early AD 55

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Corinthians 11-13

Kids' Reading*: 1 Corinthians 12-13

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

DECEMBER 1 1 CORINTHIANS 15-16

Today's reading brings us some of the Bible's greatest teaching on the resurrection of the dead (chapter 15).

The issue at hand is that some Corinthian believers do not believe resurrection—the returning of the body to life—is possible. How then do they believe in Jesus? Paul reaffirms the doctrine of resurrection and gives insight into how we will come to have new, immortal bodies. In chapter 16, Paul gives closing instructions, shares his travel plans, and offers greetings to the Corinthian church.

Date: late AD 54 or early AD 55

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Corinthians 15-16

Kids' Reading*: 1 Corinthians 15

DECEMBER 2 2 CORINTHIANS 1-5

Today's reading comes from the second of Paul's letters we have to the church in Corinth. Paul's credibility as the church's apostle and teacher is the main issue in this letter; it comes up in part because Paul had changed his travel plans unexpectedly, not returning to Corinth when he had originally planned to return (recall 1 Corinthians 16:5-9). In chapters 4-5, Paul explains what his ministry is all about: not secret ways, deception, or anything showy, but mere, human "jars of clay" bringing people into reconciliation with God—and by God's work in such weak, fragile vessels, the Lord is glorified.

Date: late AD 55 or early/mid AD 56

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 2 Corinthians 1:1 to 2:11 • 2 Corinthians 4-5

Kids' Reading*: 2 Corinthians 4-5

DECEMBER 3 2 CORINTHIANS 6-9

Today's reading continues Paul's teaching in 2 Corinthians. Notice the depth of Paul's loving concern for the church as he pleads for them to return his affection (chapters 6-7); he is no lofty apostle commanding the church to do his bidding, but a loving father calling his spiritual children to remember his suffering for the Lord and respect his teaching. Chapters 8-9 deal with the collection Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, which he was gathering from the predominantly Gentile churches he had started and which would become a gift for the Jewish church in Jerusalem—a help for the believers in Judea (a less economically-prosperous region than Corinth and Greece) and a sign of Gentiles' unity with Jews in Christ.

Date: late AD 55 or early/mid AD 56

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: 1 Corinthians 6-9

Kids' Reading*: 2 Corinthians 8-9

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

Acts 19:16 (N, V), 29-52 (T, V)

1Cor 1:13 (V), 23 (V)

1Cor 2:2 (V)

1Cor 3:15 (T), 17 (T)

1Cor 4:10-13 (T), 21 (V)

1Cor 5:5 (T), 7 (V), 9-11 (S, T)

1Cor 6:13 (S, T), 18 (S)

1Cor 7:1-5 (S), 9 (S), 10-15 (T), 18-

19 (C), 21-23 (T), 25-28 (S), 34 (S),

36-38 (S)

1Cor 10:5 (T), 7-10 (S, T, V), 16 (T),

20-22 (T)

1Cor 11:21-22 (T)

2Cor 4:8-12 (T)

2Cor 5:1-4 (N, T)

2Cor 6:4-10 (T, V)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

1Cor 5:1 (S)

1Cor 6:9-10 (S, T), 15-16 (S)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

C = Circumcision
N = Nudity
S = Sexuality
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes
V = Violence