

STUDY PACK 7

THE EPISTLES OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

“In I and II Corinthians there is more practical, detailed, and scriptural instruction about the affairs in _____ and the problems involved than in all the other epistles of the New Testament.”

~ John R. Rice, *The Church of God at Corinth* ~

I. THEME

- A. I Corinthians – _____ and how to deal with it.
- B. II Corinthians – _____, and a defense of Paul’s apostleship.

II. KEY WORDS

- A. I Corinthians.
Believe 52 times.
- B. II Corinthians.
_____ 7 times.
_____ 18 times.
Glory or boast 20 times.

III. DATE

- A. I Corinthians A.D. 56
- B. II Corinthians A.D. 58

IV. HUMAN AUTHOR

Apostle Paul.

V. RECIPIENTS

The church at Corinth. Also intended to circulate throughout all of Greece.

VI. BOOK NOTATIONS

- A. Number in Bible.
 - 1. I Corinthians 46
 - 2. II Corinthians 47

B. Number in New Testament.

1. I Corinthians 7
2. II Corinthians 8

C. Chapters.

1. I Corinthians 16
2. II Corinthians 13

D. Verses.

1. I Corinthians _____
2. II Corinthians _____

VII. DIVISIONS

A. I Corinthians.

1. To the church as a body: chapters 1-11.
2. To individuals: chapters: 12-16.

B. II Corinthians.

1. Paul's converts: chapters 1-4.
2. Paul's conflicts: chapters 5-7.
3. Paul's convictions: chapters 8-9.
4. Paul's consolation: chapters 12-13.

VIII. SPECIAL NOTES

- A. Corinth was the location of the temple of Aphrodite. Aphrodite was worshipped with prostitution. Over 1,000 women were available there at any time as well as men and boys. Corinth was famous for ungodliness. It was called the sin center of the Roman Empire. To "corinthenize" meant to _____.
- B. Corinth was the chief city of Greece.
- C. The church in Corinth was started by Paul on his second missionary journey.
- D. Paul demonstrates _____ more often in writing to the Corinthians than anyone.
- E. The Corinthians have been called perpetual babies.
- F. Paul defends _____ in both epistles.

- G. The Corinthians had been brought up in paganism and needed to _____
_____.

IX. OUTLINE OF CORINTHIANS

A. I Corinthians.

Disorders of the Church

- I. Personal Disorders: Chapters 1-4
The Problem: following men: chapter 1:12
The cure: exalting Christ: chapter 1:31
- II. Moral Disorders: Chapters 5-6
The problem: yielding to the flesh: chapter 6:12
The cure: living in Christ: chapter 6:15
- III. Home Disorders: Chapter 7:1
The problem: wrong ideas: chapter 7
The cure: benevolence and obedience: chapter 7:3
- IV. Social Disorders: Chapters 8-10
The problem: misused liberty: chapter 8:2
The cure: the glory of God: chapter 10:31
- V. Church Disorders: Chapters 11-14
The problem: misconduct in worship: chapter 11:17, 18
The cure: orderliness and temperance: chapter 14:32-40
- VI. Doctrinal Disorders: Chapter 15
The problem: denial of resurrection: chapter 15:12
The cure: the risen Christ: chapter 15:20
- VII. Financial Disorders: Chapter 16
The problem: wrong motives: chapter 16:14
The cure: tithes and offerings: chapter 16:2

B. II Corinthians.

Introduction: Chapter 1:1, 2

- I. The Ministry of Suffering: Chapter 1:3-11
 - A. Tribulation and consolation: chapter 1:3-7
 - B. Paul's own suffering: chapter 1:8-11
- II. Steadfastness of Paul's Purpose: Chapters 1:12-2:2
 - A. His original plan: chapter 1:12-16
 - B. His stability of mind: chapter 1:17-22
 - C. The reason for his postponed visit: chapters 1:23-2:2

- III. Advice Concerning the Corinthian Offender: Chapter 2:3-11
 - A. Reason for Paul’s first epistle: chapter 2:3, 4
 - B. The necessity of forgiveness: chapter 2:5-11

 - IV. Paul’s Personal Experiences: Chapters 2:12, 13: 7:2-16
 - A. His itinerary: chapter 2:12, 13
 - B. His anxiety: chapters 2:13; 7:2-5
 - C. His meeting with Titus: chapter 7:6
 - D. His subsequent rejoicing: chapter 7:7, 13, 16

 - V. The Ministry of Reconciliation: Chapters 2:14-7:1
 - A. Victorious: chapter 2:14-17
 - B. Accredited: chapter 3:1-5
 - C. Glorious: chapter 3:6-18
 - D. Illuminating: chapter 4:1-6
 - E. Costly: chapters 4:7-5:8
 - F. Motivated: chapter 5:9-21
 - G. Demanding: chapter 6:1-10
 - H. Divisive: chapters 6:11-7:1

 - VI. The summons to Stewardship: Chapters 8:1-9:15
 - A. Macedonian example: chapter 8:1-6
 - B. Appeal to generosity: chapter 8:7-15
 - C. Mission of Titus: chapters 8:16-9:5
 - D. Challenge to liberality: chapter 9:6-14
 - E. Gratitude for Christ – the supreme Gift: chapter 9:15

 - VII. Vindication of Paul’s Ministry: Chapters 10:1-12:13
 - A. Accusations against him: chapters 10:1-10; 13:3
 - B. Object of his glorying: chapter 10:11-18
 - C. Corinthians’ gullibility: chapter 11:1-4
 - D. Paul’s proven apostolic authority: chapters 11:5-12:13

 - VIII. Paul’s Proposed Journey: Chapters 12:14-13:10
 - A. Its purpose: chapter 12:14-18
 - B. An advance warning: chapters 12:19-13:10
- Conclusion: Chapter 13:11-14

X. COMMENTARY

- A. John R. Rice.

“The city of Corinth is some sixty miles west of Athens on the Peloponnesus peninsula. The old city of Corinth was at the foot of Acrocorinth like many ancient cities. This central hill was a place of worship and a place for defense in case of war. The older Corinth had been destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C. but it was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in the year 44 B.C., peopled with numerous

colonists, mostly Roman freemen. Then many Greeks had come and afterward there was a Jewish colony.

Godet says that “at the time when the apostle arrived in it, the city counted from six to seven hundred thousand inhabitants, of whom two hundred thousand were freemen and four hundred thousand slaves,” Corinth was one of the three greater cities of the Roman Empire, along with Rome and Ephesus. It was situated on the isthmus connecting the Peloponnesus and the mainland of Greece. It had two great ports – Cenchrea, nine miles away on the southern side, and Lechaem, a mile and a half distant on the northern side of the isthmus.

Ellicott says, “The two things which in older days had made Corinth famous in Grecian history still rendered her a place of supreme importance. From a military point of view, she might be regarded as the key to the Peloponnesus, and commercially she was the central point of the vast trade which was carried on between Asia and Europe. The storms which so constantly raged on the southern shore of Greece drove the vast tide of commerce through the safer overland route, which lay through Cenchrea and Lechaem.”

B. Adam Clarke.

“Corinth, to which this and the following Epistle were sent, was one of the most celebrated cities of Greece. It was situated on a gulf of the same name, and was the capital of the Peloponnesus or Achaia, and was united to the continent by an isthmus or neck of land that had the port of Lecheum on the west and that of Cenchrea on the east, by which it commanded the navigation and commerce both of the Ionian and Aegean seas, consequently of Italy on the one hand and of all the Greek Islands on the other. In a word, it embraced the commerce of the whole Mediterranean Sea, from the straits of Gibraltar on the west to the port of Alexandria on the east, with the coasts of Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and Asia Minor. It is supposed by some to have been founded 1,504 years before the Christian era. It was at first but a very inconsiderable town; but at last, through its extensive commerce, became the most opulent city of Greece, and the capital of a powerful state. It was destroyed by the Romans under Mummius, about 146 years before Christ, but was afterwards rebuilt by Julius Caesar.

Corinth exceed all the cities of the world for _____, such as temples, palaces, theatres, porticos, cenotaphs, baths, and other edifices; all enriched with a beautiful kind of columns, capitals, and bases, from which the Corinthian order in architecture took its rise. The temple of Venus was not only very splendid, but also very rich, and maintained, according to Strabo, not less than 1,000 courtesans, who were the means of bringing an immense concourse of strangers to the place. Thus riches produced luxury and luxury a total corruption of manners; though arts, sciences, and literature continued to flourish long in it, and a measure of the martial spirit of its ancient inhabitants was kept alive in it by means of those public games which, being celebrated on the isthmus which connects the Peloponnesus to the mainland, were called the Isthmian games, and

were exhibited once every five years. It is well-known that the apostle alludes to these games in different parts of his Epistles.

As we have seen that Corinth _____, and _____, it is no wonder that, in its heathen state, it was exceedingly corrupt and profligate. The inhabitants of it were as lascivious as they were learned. Public prostitution formed a considerable part of their religion; and they were accustomed in their public prayers to request the gods to multiply their prostitutes! And in order to express their gratitude to their deities for the favors they received, they bound themselves, by vows, to increase the number of such women; for commerce with them was esteemed neither sinful nor disgraceful. So notorious was this city for such conduct that the verb to “Corinthize” signified to act the prostitute.