

**WEEK 1:**

**DAY 1: PAUL WROTE TO THE CORINTHIANS**

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

1. Do you like to receive letters from a friend? Most of us like to receive letters. We especially like to get letters from those who love us and want to help us. There are many letters like this in the New Testament.

In this book we will study a letter which was written by the Apostle Paul. He wrote this letter to Christians who lived in the city of Corinth.

Take your Bible now and find the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. It is in the New Testament. At the beginning of the letter, you will find its full name. Write it here.

---

2. It is called The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Today we will learn two things about this letter.

(1) It is Paul who wrote First Corinthians.

(2) He wrote it to the Christians at Corinth and to all believers.

The people who live in Mashona land, Rhodesia, are called vaShona. The people who live in Kenya are called Kenyans. What were the people called who lived in the city of Corinth?

---

3. These people were called Corinthians. Corinth was a big city at the time of this letter. It was like the biggest city in the country where you live.

Corinth was a very important city. It was by the sea and many ships went there. Much trade and business was done there. But Corinth was also a very sinful city. There were many idols to false gods and people worshipped these idols.

Do you think it was easy to live for God in a big sinful city like Corinth?

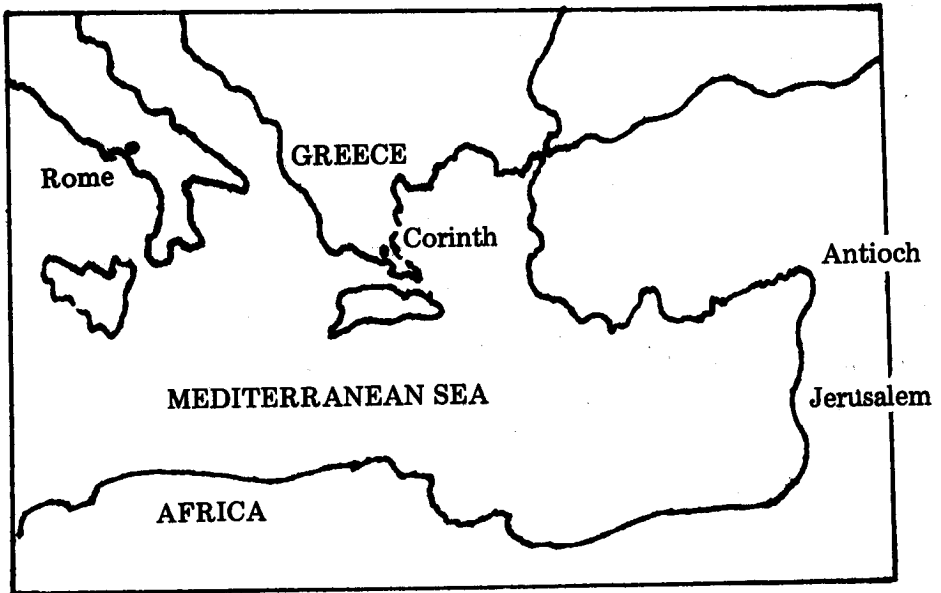
---

Who wrote the first letter to help the Christians in Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

---

4. I do not think it is easy to live for God in the city. It was hard for the Corinthians. So Paul wrote a letter to help them.

Look at this map. It shows many countries around the Mediterranean Sea. Try to find the city of Corinth. It is in the country called Greece.



When you have found the city of Corinth on the map, draw a line under the name, Corinth.

---

---

5. Many thousands of people lived in Corinth. God had promised Paul that many of these people would believe in Jesus. Paul was one of the leaders in the church after Jesus rose from the dead.

Before Paul became a Christian, he hated the Christians. He tried to kill them. But after he believed, he gave his life to preaching the gospel. Paul went to many places to preach. One of the cities where he went was Corinth. He stayed there and preached for a year and a half.

Acts 18:8:

And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

From this verse, what happened when Paul preached at Corinth?

---

---

---

6. Many people in Corinth believed and were baptized. These people decided to leave their sinful ways and follow Jesus.

Who preached and brought many people to receive Christ in Corinth?

---

7. Paul preached at Corinth. Many people believed the gospel. A church was started there. A church is a meeting together of those who have repented. The church at Corinth was a young church. They needed help to follow Christ. After Paul left Corinth, he wrote a letter to the people there. We still have this letter in the Bible.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 1:1 to 3. Read verse 2 again. From this verse, to what group of people did Paul write this letter?

---

8. He wrote this letter to the Corinthians. He says it is for "the church of God, which is at Corinth." This means that the letter was first written for the Christians there. Let us look at the words again.

1 Corinthians 1:2:

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Look carefully at this verse. Did Paul write this letter only for the Christians in Corinth?

---

9. He wrote this letter for "all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." We can say he wrote this letter for all Christians everywhere. This means us too.

Who wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians for all Christians everywhere?

---

10. Paul wrote the letter called 1 Corinthians. He wrote it for the Christians at Corinth.

For what other people did he also write this letter? \_\_\_\_\_

---

11. He wrote it for all Christians everywhere. We call this the first letter. This is because Paul wrote two letters to the Corinthians. In this book we will study only the first letter written to the Corinthians.

The Corinthians were new Christians. They did not have a Bible like ours to guide them. They did not know how to live for God. After Paul left Corinth, the Christians wrote a letter asking him many questions. Paul answered their questions in his letter.

1 Corinthians 7:1:

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote. . . .

Do Christians in your church sometimes have questions about living for God?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

12. Many new Christians have questions about how to live for God. They have questions about what to believe. The Corinthians asked many questions. In this letter we find the answers Paul gave to their questions.

This letter was written for Christians at Corinth. For whom else was it written?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

13. Paul wrote to all Christians everywhere. Here are some of the things he wrote about:

Divisions in the church  
Adultery  
The Lord's supper  
The Holy Spirit  
The resurrection

Marriage  
Food offered to idols  
The place of women  
The church  
Love

Do you think this letter will help you find answers to questions in your church?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

14. Who wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians? \_\_\_\_\_

This letter was written to Christians at Corinth. For whom else was it written?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**WEEK 1:**

**DAY 2: PAUL GAVE THANKS FOR THE CORINTHIANS**

**1 Corinthians 1:4-9**

1. Yesterday we studied the first three verses of this letter.

Who wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians? \_\_\_\_\_

This letter was written to Christians at Corinth. For whom else was it written?  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

2. Paul wrote this letter. He wrote it to the Christians at Corinth and to all Christians everywhere.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 1:4 to 9. As Paul thought of the Corinthians, what did he give to God?  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

3. As Paul thought of the Corinthians, he gave thanks to God. Today we will see three reasons why he gave thanks. At the end of the lesson you will write two of them. Paul gave thanks for the Corinthians because:

- (1) God had given them grace through Christ.
- (2) They did not lack any spiritual gift.
- (3) God would keep them to the end.

1 Corinthians 1:4:

I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus.

From this verse, in whom was the grace of God given to the Corinthians?  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

4. God's grace was given through Christ. If Christ had not come, people would not understand the love and grace of God. We would see him as a righteous God but we would not see his mercy. We would not know how he loves us. But Jesus came. The Christians in Corinth had received him, and through Christ they received the grace of God.

Again and again in this letter, Paul gave praise to Christ. If you count, you will find that Paul spoke of Christ 17 times in the first chapter.

To whom did Paul say that God had given them grace through Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Paul said this to the Corinthians. He gave thanks because of Christ. Later we will see that he preached nothing but Christ to them. The Old Testament showed that God is righteous. But Paul thanked God because he gave something else to the Corinthians through Christ.

What did God give them? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

6. God gave them grace or mercy. Paul said that this made them rich and he thanked God for it.

1 Corinthians 1:5:

that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge . . .

Paul thanked God for three reasons. Through whom did he say the Corinthians were given God's grace?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

7. They were given this through Christ. They had believed him and received him. Then they were given many things through him.

What is the first reason why Paul gave thanks for the Corinthians?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

8. These are the reasons why Paul gave thanks:

(1) God had given them grace through Christ.

(2) They did not lack any spiritual gift.

(3) God would keep them to the end.

Think now of the second reason why Paul gave thanks.

1 Corinthians 1:7:

you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Write one spiritual gift God has given you for which you can give thanks.

\_\_\_\_\_

---

---

9. We can talk about your answer in class. There are many spiritual gifts for which to give thanks. Salvation is one of them. And there are many others. God gives us gifts to help us work for him.

Paul was a preacher. He brought the gospel to people. His people received many blessings from God. Later we will see these gifts in chapter 12. Paul was happy when his people were blessed. He thanked God for what God gave them. He was not jealous when other people received spiritual gifts.

How do you feel when people in your church receive spiritual gifts from God?

---

Which people did Paul say did not lack any spiritual gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

---

10. This was the Corinthians. He thanked God for them. As leaders we too should be thankful. We should praise God for what he is doing for our people.

When Paul gave thanks, what did he say the people of Corinth did not lack?

---

11. They did not lack any spiritual gifts. We will see that they had the gifts of wisdom and of knowledge. They had the gifts of faith, healing, and working of miracles. They also had the gifts of prophecy, knowing the spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpreting tongues.

Paul first gave thanks because God gave grace through Christ. What is the second reason why he gave thanks?

---

12. Paul gave thanks for the Corinthians because they did not lack any spiritual gifts. Paul had some hard things to say to the Corinthians. But he did not begin by writing hard things. He began by giving thanks. He began by saying that they had all the spiritual gifts.

What was the first reason why Paul gave thanks? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. The reasons why Paul gave thanks are:
- (1) God had given them grace through Christ.
  - (2) They did not lack any spiritual gift.
  - (3) God would keep them to the end.

Sometimes Christians are weak. They meet temptations. Sometimes their faith is not strong enough to make them stand for God. Sometimes Christians stop following God when they meet temptations or trouble. Paul said that God was faithful. He would keep them to the end.

Are some people near you weak and tempted to stop following God?

---

14. People are sometimes tempted to stop following Jesus. God does not want us to fall from his way. God has promised to help us. We can depend on God's help. This is what Paul said when he thanked God for the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:9:  
God is faithful.

Until when has God promised to keep us? \_\_\_\_\_

---

15. God has promised to do this until the end. Jesus is coming back to earth again. We can depend on God for the rest of our lives. God has not promised to be with us just for a few days or weeks. God does not change. He will work until Jesus comes back or until we die.

What has God promised to do for us to the end? \_\_\_\_\_

---

16. He has promised to keep us. He will help us to stand.

Osogo was a new Christian. After he received Christ, he faced temptations and suffering. His friends laughed at him. They laughed because he always went to church and would not go to the bar with them. This was a hard time for Osogo. But Osogo remembered what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

Who has promised to keep us to the end? \_\_\_\_\_

---

17. God has promised to do this. We can trust God's promises.

What is the third reason why Paul was thankful for the Corinthians?

---

18. God would keep them to the end.

Write another reason we have learned why Paul gave thanks for the Corinthians.

---

19. God had given them grace through Christ. And they did not lack any spiritual gift.

When people in your church meet hard trials, what can you tell them to help them go on following God?

---

---

20. We will talk about your answer in class.

Write two reasons why Paul gave thanks in 1 Corinthians 1.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**WEEK 1:**

**DAY 3: THERE WAS DIVISION IN THE CHURCH AT CORINTH**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-17**

1. Yesterday we learned why Paul gave thanks to God for the Corinthians.

Write two reasons from 1 Corinthians 1 why Paul gave thanks.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

2. Paul gave thanks because God had given them grace through Christ. They did not lack any spiritual gifts. And God would keep them to the end. But there were problems in the church at Corinth too. Today we will learn the first big problem which Paul wrote about.

Problem 1
There was division over leaders in the church at Corinth.

Have you ever seen division causing a problem in the church? \_\_\_\_\_

3. It is very sad when Christians fight and cause division in the church. Sometimes this happens today. It is what happened in Corinth. The church people began to quarrel about the leaders of the church.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 1:10 to 13. Do these verses sound as if they were written to people with spiritual gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

4. The verses sound as if they were written to sinful people. These people were doing wrong, but they were the Christians in the church. In verse 2, Paul had said that they were "called to be saints." He was writing to people "not lacking in any spiritual gift." Paul called these people "brethren."

Why do you think brethren in the church sometimes quarrel and fight?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. There are many reasons. We will talk about them in class. One reason is that we forget what God has done for us. We also forget what he wants us to do. God has set us apart for his glory. He wants us to lift up Christ, not ourselves or some other man.

1 Corinthians 1:11-12:

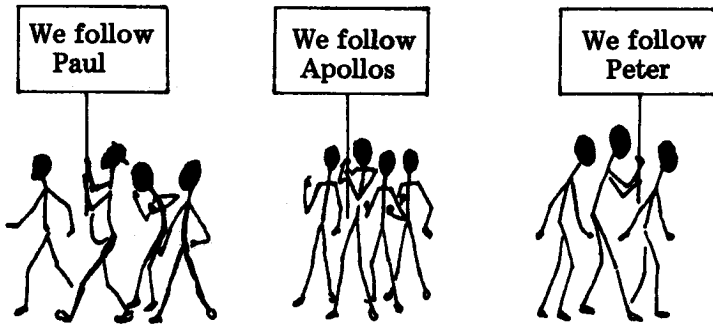
it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

What were the Christians in Corinth quarreling about? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

6. They were fighting about leaders in the church. It does not say that the leaders were fighting. But the people were fighting about who was the best leader. Some wanted Paul to be the only leader. Some wanted Apollos for the leader. Some wanted Cephas (or Peter). Others said they wanted no leader but Christ.



Do people today ever quarrel about leaders in the church? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

7. It is sad when people do this. It is not pleasing to God. It is sin. The people of Corinth forgot that they should lift up Jesus. They were following men like Paul, Apollos and Peter. Some said they wanted no leader but Christ, but they too were quarreling. They were using Christ as though he were just a man. They forgot that Christ brings people together instead of causing division.

What was the first big problem in the church at Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

8. There was division over leaders in the church at Corinth. The people divided themselves into groups. Each group said that they followed a different man. These people were all believers. They were all in the church. But they were divided. Paul wanted them to see that Christ brings people together. He asked them some questions.

1 Corinthians 1:13:

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

The answer to all these questions is No. Paul was never crucified for us, and the Lord Jesus is not divided. So the church should not be divided.

What are some things today which can cause people to fight in the church?

---

9. We will talk about this in class. Seth was the pastor of a church in a large town. People from many tribes lived in the town. Christians from three tribes came to Seth's church. But Seth always asked a person from his own tribe to lead the singing. He always asked some one from his tribe to lead in prayer. He did not ask people from other tribes to do anything in the church. This made people from other tribes angry. They began to speak evil of the pastor. They said they wanted another man to lead.

What caused the fighting in this church? \_\_\_\_\_

---

10. Loving one's own tribe too much can be the cause of fighting. We must remember that in Christ we are all one. It does not matter what tribe we are in.

Ephesians 2:14:

For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility (or fighting).

Do you think a church can grow when there is fighting in it?

---

11. A church cannot grow when there is fighting. The people outside the church hear about the fighting. They do not want to go to that kind of church. When Pastor Seth used only the people from his own tribe, he did wrong. He forgot about the other people in his church.

Were the people from other tribes right in starting to fight about this? \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. The pastor was wrong. But when the people began to fight, they too did wrong. It is wrong to cause division in the church. We should be united. When things are not right in the church, we should sit down and talk about them in Christian love. Even when people do wrong to us, we must not use this as a reason to cause division.

1 Peter 2:20:

For what credit (or good) is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently, you have God's approval (or blessing).

What was the first big problem in the church at Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

13. The first big problem was division over leaders in the church. There are many things which can cause division over leaders today. One is loving your own tribe too much. There are other things too. Some people want only a leader who has gone to high school. Others do not want a young man but rather an older man for pastor. Sometimes people argue about what the pastor teaches. They divide themselves over what the church should believe.

What do you think we should do when we see things done in a wrong way in the church?

---

---

14. We will talk about this together. When we see wrong we are tempted to argue and fight about it. It is easy to speak evil of the leaders. It is easy to say other people are wrong. We should be careful that we do not cause division in the church.

Matthew 18:15-16:

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence (or words) of two or three witnesses.

From this verse, to whom should we go first if someone does wrong to us in the church?

---

---

15. We should first go alone to the person who has done wrong. We should not cause division in the church even if we are wronged. When we cause division we are acting like people of the world. We are not acting like spiritual people.

1 Corinthians 3:3:

... for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving like ordinary men?

What was the first big problem in the church at Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. It was division over leaders. I know a church where one man had a vision when he received Christ. Later he began to preach. He said that in order to be saved, one must have a vision. Many people prayed for visions, but they did not get visions from the Lord.

Some people began to tell lies. They said that they had visions. Others argued that visions were not needed. They said that if they were needed, God would give visions. They used their Bibles to show that visions were not needed. In the end, the people divided into two groups.

What did this church have which is like the church at Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

17. They had division. They fought among themselves.

1 Corinthians 1:10:

I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions (or divisions) among you but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

What did Paul want the Christians to do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. He wanted them to agree or be united.

What was the first big problem in the church at Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 1:**

**DAY 4: GOD'S WISDOM IS SHOWN IN THE DEATH OF JESUS**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

1. Yesterday we learned about the first big problem in the church at Corinth.

What was it? \_\_\_\_\_

2. The first big problem in the church was division over church leaders. Paul wrote about this. Then he went on to show that there are two kinds of wisdom. We will learn about these two kinds of wisdom today.

(1) The wisdom of the world.

(2) The wisdom of God.

We will learn that the wisdom of God is shown in the death of Jesus.

Now open your Bible and read 1 Corinthians 1:20 to 25. What kind of wisdom is Paul talking about in verse 20?

3. He is talking about the wisdom of the world. When we say, "the wisdom of the world" we mean the wisdom of men. It is the things which men learn about the world. It is the things which people learn in school or through living. It is things like how to do numbers or how to farm well.

1 Corinthians 1:20:

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe (or great writer)? Where is the debater (or great speaker)? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

Otieno is a farmer. He knows how to plant his crops well. He always has food to give to his family. He has many cattle. He also has many friends.

What kind of wisdom does Otieno have? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Otieno has wisdom of the world. He knows much about things in the world. There are many wise people in this world. They know how to do things in the best way. It is not bad to have wisdom of the world. But this wisdom does not reach far enough.

1 Corinthians 1:21:

For since, in the wisdom of God the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly (or simpleness) of what we preach to save those who believe.

Can Otieno be saved by the wisdom of the world which he has? \_\_\_\_\_

5. These verses tell us that the wisdom of the world cannot save a man. The Greek people were very wise. They liked to learn new things. Many people respected their wisdom. But look what Paul wrote about them.

1 Corinthians 1:22-23:

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified a stumbling block to Jews and folly (or foolishness) to Gentiles.

Could the Greek people have their sins forgiven through their wisdom?

---

6. This kind of wisdom could not save men. The Greeks heard Paul preach. They could not understand how believing in Jesus could save them. They were wise in the things of the world. But this did not help them to receive Christ and be saved. The Greeks laughed when Paul preached the gospel to them.

We find people like this today. Sometimes people who seem very wise cannot understand the gospel. They do not understand how believing in Jesus can make their sins to be forgiven.

1 Corinthians 1:21:

... the world did not know God through wisdom.

What is the first kind of wisdom Paul wrote about? \_\_\_\_\_

---

7. Paul first wrote about the wisdom of the world. Then he wrote about the wisdom of God. He said that a certain person is the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:24-25:

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

From this verse, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God?

---

8. It is in Christ that we see the wisdom of God. But to some people the death of Jesus is foolishness. They are wise in the things of the world, but they do not have the wisdom of God. The wisdom of the world does not help people to believe in Jesus. Paul said that not many people with the wisdom of the world become Christians.

1 Corinthians 1:26-27:

For consider your call brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

Paul said that not many "wise" people become Christians. But there are some. Write the name of a wise person who became a Christian.

---

9. I know some people with the wisdom of the world who have become Christians. Perhaps you do too. But there are not many of these people. We need another kind of wisdom. We need the wisdom which is shown in the death of Christ. The people of the world do not see that Jesus died on the cross because of wisdom. The wise people of the world cannot see how someone who died with two thieves can be the Saviour. The cross of Christ seems foolish to the world.

Whose wisdom planned that Jesus should die on the cross to save us?

---

10. It was God who planned this. His wisdom is shown in the death of Jesus. When Christ died on the cross he showed how bad sin is. Even God turned away from Jesus there. People do not like to see their sin. They want to see how good they are. And so the cross is foolish to them.

1 Corinthians 1:28:

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

The wisdom of the world is not enough. What wisdom do we need to save us?

---

11. We need the wisdom of God. God's wisdom is shown in Jesus. His wisdom planned that through Jesus our sins would be forgiven.

1 Corinthians 1:18:

For the word of the cross is folly (or foolishness) to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

What did Jesus have to do on the cross to show the wisdom of God?

---

12. Christ had to die. It is the death of Christ which shows the wisdom of God.

Write the two kinds of wisdom which Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians 1.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

13. Paul wrote about the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God.

How is the wisdom of God shown most clearly? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. God's wisdom is shown through the death of Jesus. Let us read what Christ became for us. It is in verse 30. Perhaps you want to draw a line under this verse in your Bible.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31:

... Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord."

We are not saved by our wisdom. We are saved because of the wisdom of God. How should this make us feel?

---

15. You can answer in different words. You can say this should make us feel humble or thankful. There is nothing about being Christians that should make us proud of ourselves.

Write two kinds of wisdom which Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians 1.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

How is the wisdom of God shown most clearly? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WEEK 1:**

**DAY 5: PAUL PREACHED ABOUT THE DEATH OF JESUS**

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

1. What are the two kinds of wisdom Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians 1?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

How is the wisdom of God shown most clearly? \_\_\_\_\_

---

2. Paul talked about the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God. He said that the wisdom of God is shown in the death of Jesus. Paul was not finished talking about this. In the next chapter he went on talking about Christ. Today we will learn two things Paul said which are important for church leaders.



(1) We must preach about Jesus dying on the cross.

(2) We must preach in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 2:1 to 5. From verse 2, how did Paul feel when he was preaching at Corinth?

---

3. Paul felt weak and afraid in Corinth. He was not proud. He did not try to look wise. He knew that he was a messenger from God. He had to give God's words. He had a big job to do. It was a heavy load.

This is how we should feel when we work in the church. We should remember that we are doing the work of God. This is heavy work. People may be lost or saved because of what we do. It is not easy to work well for God.

1 Corinthians 2:2:

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Whose death did Paul decide to preach about in Corinth? \_\_\_\_\_

---

4. The one big thing Paul preached about in Corinth was Jesus dying on the cross. This is important for us to remember. This is the big subject we should preach about in our churches.

Jesus came into the world to do many things. He gave us a good example to follow. He did many miracles and healed many people. He gave good teachings. But the big thing Jesus did for us was to die on the cross. Jesus died for us. When he died on the cross, he took the punishment for our sins. He was judged for our sins. He took our place.

Did Paul use big words and the wisdom of the world in preaching in Corinth?

---

5. Paul did not try to preach to the Corinthians in this way.

1 Corinthians 2:1:

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty (or high) words or wisdom.

Paul was a wise man. He had much learning. He could have used big words and clever thoughts. He did not do this.

What did Paul preach about in Corinth?

---

6. Paul preached about Jesus dying on the cross. This was the big subject which Paul talked about. Whenever he preached at Corinth, he told how Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He told the people how Jesus could become their Saviour.

Paul could have talked about politics or money or the journeys he had made. But he did not. When we preach or witness to others, we must remember the example of Paul. The big subject we must preach about is Jesus dying on the cross. It is only when we preach about this that people will believe and churches grow.

Think about the last time you preached or witnessed to someone. What was the big subject which you talked about?

---

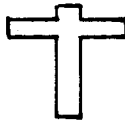
7. I hope that when you preach you often talk about Paul's big subject at Corinth. When Paul preached, he did not trust in his own wisdom. He did not try to use big words or clever thoughts. He depended on the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5:

And my speech and my message were not in plausible (or beautiful) words of wisdom, but in demonstration of (or showing) the Spirit and power, that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

As we learn from Paul, what is the most important subject which we must preach about?

---



8. We must preach about Jesus dying on the cross. Every time we preach we must say something about Jesus dying for our sins.

We must also remember something else which Paul taught us. When we preach, we must ask God, the Holy Spirit, to help us. We must ask for spiritual power to preach in the right way. We must preach in the power of the Holy Spirit.

If we preach in the power of the Holy Spirit, does this mean we do not have to prepare to preach?

---

9. It does not mean that. If you said Yes, then you do not understand. God expects us to do our best. We must prepare well. We should pray and study the Bible well to see what God is saying. We should plan what we will talk about. We should write down some things we want to tell our people when we preach.

But like Paul, what power should we depend on when we preach? \_\_\_\_\_

---

10. We should preach in the power of the Holy Spirit. We should trust God to help us know the right words to say. We should trust God to help the hearers understand what we are saying. We should trust God to make the people want to believe.

Sithole is the preacher at a church in Rhodesia. He is an old man. He did not have a chance to go to school. But each Sunday he must preach. Before he goes to church, he prays. He says, "Dear God, you know that I have not learned in school. I cannot use big words. Please help me to preach. Fill me with the Holy Spirit so that I may have power to preach and lead people to Jesus."

Who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit to the Corinthians? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

11. Paul did this. He showed us the way to preach. We must be humble. We must not depend on our own knowledge or power. We must ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, so that he can work in the hearts of people. Paul did not depend on his own power.

1 Corinthians 2:4:

and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

What power did Paul depend on when he preached? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

12. He depended on the power of the Holy Spirit. He depended on the Holy Spirit to show himself in power. Paul did this because he knew that worldly wisdom cannot save a man. He did not want people to trust in his own words.

1 Corinthians 2:5:

That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Omange was the leader of a church. When he preached, he talked about all the things the people should not do. He told them they should not smoke. He said they should not drink beer. He said they should not have two wives. But he did not preach about the most important thing.

What is the most important subject we should preach about? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

13. Omenge did not preach about Jesus dying on the cross. This is the most important thing for us to preach about.

Not far from Omenge is another church. Thoni is the pastor. Thoni always preaches about Jesus. Every week he is careful to say something about this. Sometimes he talks about giving offerings and living for God. But he is still careful to say that Jesus died for our sins on the cross. He tells people that God can save them. When the people hear this, they are happy. They say, "If Jesus did this for us, then we should live for him." Many people in Thoni's church give money and live for God.

What power did Paul depend on when he preached? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

14. Paul depended on the power of the Holy Spirit. We must be careful to do this too. We must ask God for this power. He will give us the power of the Holy Spirit. Some men trust in their own words. Even when they preach from the Bible they try to use clever words. They try to force people to accept Jesus. Sometimes they get people to believe, but these people do not go on living for God. Paul said that people's faith must not be in the wisdom of men. When their faith is in God, he gives them power to live for him.

It is easy for us to become careless. We may begin to trust our own power. Stop now and ask God to help you. Ask him to help you preach the right things and depend on him.

---

---

15. What did Paul say is the most important subject for us to preach about?

What power did Paul depend on when he preached? \_\_\_\_\_