

WEEK 10:

DAY 1: WE MUST BE STEADFAST, NOT SHAKING, WORKING HARD
1 Corinthians 15:56-58

1. Last week we learned much about the resurrection of the dead. When Jesus comes back Christians will receive new bodies.

Write two ways in which these new bodies will be different:

(1) _____

(2) _____

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2. Our new bodies will not grow old or die. They will be spiritual bodies. God has done many things for us. And he is planning to do more wonderful things for us. If he does these things for us what should we do for him? Today we will talk about how we should live while we wait for Jesus to come.

We will memorise 1 Corinthians 15:58 to show that we must be

- (1) Steadfast
- (2) Not shaking
- (3) Working hard

Open your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 15:56-58. With your pencil draw lines under verse 58. What is the first thing this verse tells us to be?

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3. This verse tells us to be steadfast. To be steadfast means to be strong and faithful. It is important for Christians to be steadfast. God can depend on a person who is faithful. God can trust a person who is steadfast.

We should be steadfast in the days while we are waiting. What are we waiting for?

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4. We are waiting for Jesus to return. We are waiting for him to give us new bodies. These new bodies will never get sick. They will not grow old. They will always have good health. They will never die.

Because Jesus is going to give us new bodies, what should we be like now?

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5. We should be steadfast. Our lives are not easy. Sometimes we meet troubles. We are tempted to stop working for the Lord. Sometimes we are even tempted to stop following God's way. But God wants us to be steadfast at all times.

Romans 8:18-19, 24:

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing . . . and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for the adoption as sons, the redemption (or saving) of our bodies.

What will happen to our bodies some day if we are steadfast now? _____

6. They will be changed or saved. Paul said that we are waiting for the redemption of our bodies. Jesus has saved our spirits. He will also save our bodies.

Jesus is coming. Write the first thing we should be while we wait for him.

(1) _____

(2) Not shaking.

(3) Working hard.

7. The first thing is that we should be steadfast. But this is not all.

1 Corinthians 15:58:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable (or not shaking), always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

From this verse, what is the second thing that tells us how we should live?

8. This verse says we should not be shaking. This means we should not always be changing what we believe. It means we should not follow false teachers.

Near my home is a very big rock. It is much higher than a man. No one can move this rock. No one can shake it. This is the way God wants us to be in his things.

What will Jesus give us some day that makes us want to be unshaking now?

9. He will give us new bodies when he returns. This makes us want to be steadfast. It makes us want to be strong and faithful.

What should we not be as we wait for our new bodies? _____

10. We should not be shaking. We should not be changing what we believe. Some Christians go from place to place to worship God. First they want to hear this preacher. Then they want to hear that preacher. They are always moving around. They keep changing what they believe. They follow new teachers. Sometimes they follow false teachers. They are shaking in their faith.

Ephesians 4:14:

so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine (or every kind of teaching).

Look in your Bible at 1 Corinthians 15. What verse tells us we must be steadfast, not shaking and working hard? _____

11. It is 1 Corinthians 15:58. We should be steadfast. We should not be shaking. We should know what we believe. We should not let false teachers try to change what we believe. We should know the work God wants us to do. We should not be discouraged and run away from it. We should not let others take us away from what God wants us to do.

Until when must we be steadfast and not shaking? _____

12. We must be like this until Jesus comes back. We must also work hard until he comes. The Bible says we should be increasing in the work of the Lord. We must be doing much work for him.

Write the first two things that tell what we should be like as we wait for our new bodies.

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) Working hard

13. The first two things are to be steadfast and not shaking. We must be this way until the Lord comes back to earth.

Galatians 6:9:

And let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

We should be steadfast and not shaking. From this lesson, what else should we be doing?

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14. We should be working hard. God has given us work to do. He wants us to preach the gospel and bring many people to Jesus. He wants us to teach people in the church. He wants us to help people who are in trouble. God does not want us to be lazy. Jesus worked hard. We must work hard too.

John 17:4:

I (Jesus) glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do.

We must work hard as Jesus did. Whose work should we be doing? _____

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15. The verse says we should be doing the work of the Lord. This is God's work. It is the work of preaching and caring for others. It is the work of bringing people to Jesus. It is the work of helping them to follow him.

Paul was writing about Jesus' return. He was writing about the new bodies we will receive. This is the hope of all believers. God is preparing a new body for you.

What three things should we be as we wait for our new bodies?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

=====

16. We should be steadfast, not shaking, and working hard. These things must be done by all Christians. But they are especially important for church leaders.

The last part of this verse encourages us. It says that our work for the Lord is not wasted. When we work for God, we are not throwing away our time. Our work is not useless. God has a plan. Our work for him will fulfil his plan.

1 Corinthians 15:58:

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Memorise this verse now. Work on it until you can say it without looking. Then write it to show three things we should do as we wait for our new bodies.

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17. Jesus is coming back. When he returns, we will be changed. We will have new bodies that will not grow old or die. They will be spiritual. While we wait we must be living in the right way.

Think carefully about the things we have learned today. Think about your own life. Ask God to show you if you have these things in your life. Ask him to help you have them.

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18. Write 1 Corinthians 15:58 to show three things we should do as we wait for our new bodies.

WEEK 10:

DAY 2: WE MUST BRING OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

1. We are learning about the kind of people we should be. We are learning what we should do as we wait for our new bodies.

Write 1 Corinthians 15:58 to show the three things we should do as we wait.

2. Find 1 Corinthians 15:58 in your Bible. See if you wrote it right. Jesus has done so much for us. And he will do still more for us. We should want to show our love for him. One way we can do this is to bring gifts to the church. Today we will learn:

We should give offerings to the church
on the first day of every week.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 16:1 to 4. Read verse 2 again. Who did Paul say should put something aside?

3. Paul said that each one should do this. He was not talking just to the rich or the poor. He was talking to each one in the church. He said they should put something aside. This meant they should keep something for the church. They should give offerings. We can give offerings to the church in many ways. One way is to bring money. In some places people bring eggs or chickens or grain to the church. Some people sell the gifts they have and bring the money to the church



On which day of the week should we put aside an offering for the Lord?

4. We should do this on the first day of the week. The first day of the week is Sunday. This is the day when Christians meet to worship God. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. When we meet, we remember that Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the dead. Christians meet on the first day of the week, or Sunday.

What should Christians bring to church on the first day of the week?

5. They should bring offerings. This should be done on the first day of every week. Many people ask, "How much should I give to God?" The verse tells us how much we should give.

1 Corinthians 16:2:

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that contributions need not be made when I come.

From this verse, which words tell us how much to give in church?

6. The words "as he may prosper" tell us this. We should put something aside according to what we gain. When we get more, we should give more. Rich people should give more than poor people. But all people should give something.

In the Old Testament, the law said that people should give a tenth of all they received. If they had ten bags of grain, they should give one to the Lord. If they earned 100 pieces of money, they should give 10 pieces to the Lord.

Do you think we should still give a tenth of what we earn to the Lord? _____

7. Many people give in this way. And God blesses them greatly for it. Some people give more than one tenth. But many people believe we should give a tenth of what we earn. In the Old Testament it was law that people must give a tenth. But we should give because we love God.

What should each Christian do on the first day of the week? _____

8. He should bring offerings to the church. Let us see what the prophet Malachi wrote about giving in the Old Testament.

Malachi 3:8-10:

Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How are we robbing thee?' In your tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me; the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

From these verses, what are people doing to God if they do not bring offerings?



9. We rob God when we do not bring our tithes and offerings. Malachi taught that the people should bring their offerings to the "storehouse." This meant they should bring them to the place of worship or the house of God. It is important that we bring our offerings to the church. If we do this, God has promised us great blessing.

On what day of the week should we bring offerings to the church? _____

10. This should be done on the first day of every week. We should bring our offerings to God first. As soon as we receive money from our work, we should bring some to church. When the harvest is finished, we should bring some to God. When we sell something, we should first set some aside. We should not wait until we have spent money for ourselves. We should not bring what is left to God.

Where should Christians bring offerings on the first day of the week?

11. They should bring them to church. There is much work to be done in the church. The church must care for the needs of the shepherd. The church must care for the building where we worship. Sometimes the church must buy papers or books for teaching. Sometimes there are needs in other churches. It is good for one church to help other churches when there are needs. The church in Corinth gave money to the needy church in Jerusalem.

From 1 Corinthians 16:2, what should each Christian bring to the church on the first day of every week?

12. Each Christian should bring offerings to the church. Paul wrote about this again in the second letter to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8:

The point is this: he who sows sparingly (or only a little) will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully (or much) will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion (or because he is forced to), for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that you may always have enough for everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.

From these verses, what kind of person does God love? _____

13. God loves a cheerful giver. He loves the person who is happy when he gives his offerings. If we plant a small amount of seed, we get only a small harvest. In the same way, some people give only a little to God. And they get only a small blessing from God. But if we give much to God he will give us much blessing.

1 Corinthians 16:2:

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper.

From this verse, how many Christians should bring offerings to church on Sunday?

14. All Christians should do this. It is our way of showing God that we are thankful. The poor cannot say that only the rich should give. The poor too must give something. We will not all give the same offerings. Some will give much and some will not give so much. As the Lord prospers us, we should give more to him. And we should give our offerings with joy.

From 1 Corinthians 16:2, what should each Christian do on the first day of every week?

15. He should bring offerings to the church. The church is the storehouse. There are many good places where we can spend our money. The first place we should give our money is to the church. Our own church is our first place to give.

What has God promised us if we bring our offerings to the church? _____

16. God has promised us great blessings.

From 1 Corinthians 16:2, what should each Christian do on the first day of every week?

WEEK 10:

DAY 3: PAUL HAD AN OPEN DOOR AND ENEMIES

1 Corinthians 16:5-9

1. What must we do on the first day of every week? _____

2. We must bring offerings to church on the first day of the week. Today we want to learn more about Paul and how he worked for God. The book of 1 Corinthians is a letter Paul wrote to people. In this letter he gave many greetings. We find these in chapter 16. Paul also told the Corinthians about his plans. This is what we will learn.

- (1) Paul wanted to stay at Ephesus because there was an open door for good work.
- (2) He knew there were many enemies there.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 16:5 to 9. Read verse 8 again. At what city would Paul stay until the day of Pentecost?

3. Paul wanted to stay at Ephesus until Pentecost. He said he would come to Corinth after that. Then Paul told the Corinthians why he wanted to stay at Ephesus.

1 Corinthians 16:9:

For a wide (or open) door for effective (or good) work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries (or enemies).

From this verse, why did Paul want to stay at Ephesus? _____

4. There was a wide door (or open door) for good work. This means that there was a good opportunity to bring many people to Jesus. Paul wanted to stay there to work.

Where did Paul say there was an open door for good work? _____

5. This was at Ephesus. There Paul could do much good work for God. Murumbi was the pastor of a small church. His church was near a school. The teachers in the school asked Murumbi to come each week and speak to the students. Murumbi was able to do good work for God at that place.

Murumbi was given an opportunity to do good work. What kind of door can we say was given to him?

6. We say he was given an open door. When we want to enter a house, we go through the door. The door is the opening by which we go in. Paul said that there was an open door at Ephesus. This meant there was much opportunity to work. This is what he said about the city of Troas.

2 Corinthians 2:12:

When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord.

Paul also had an open door at Ephesus. What kind of work did he say he could do there?

7. Paul said he could do good work at Ephesus. This was work for God. God called Paul to preach. God also calls us to preach. God wants us to work hard. Good work is not easy. We must put much strength into working for God.

We must do good work. Some shepherds do a little work. But they do not work hard. Paul said he could do good work in Ephesus.

What did God give Paul so he could work at Ephesus?

8. God gave him an open door. Paul followed the leading of God. When he saw there was a good place to work, Paul stayed there for a while. Paul stayed longer at Ephesus than at any other place.

Paul did not say that he himself opened the door. No, he said that the door was opened for him. God opened the door. People should follow the leading of God.

There was an open door at Ephesus. What did Paul say he could do there?

9. Paul was able to do good work at Ephesus. He was able to preach many times. He was able to bring many people to Jesus.

Let us say that you have two fields. In one field you plant maize. In the other field you plant sweet potatoes or yams. If you plant everything at the same time, the maize will be ready before the sweet potatoes.

When the maize is ready to harvest, in which of your two fields will you work first?

10. I think you will work in the maize field first. You will go where the harvest is ready. You will wait to harvest the sweet potatoes until they are ready. The same is true with the church. Jesus said that the world is like a big field. He said that doing the work of God is like harvesting. People who work for God must gather the harvest when it is ready.

In some places, the harvest is ready now. In these places, the church is growing very fast. In other places, the church is growing slowly. We should plant the gospel seed everywhere. But we **must** work very hard where the harvest is ready.

Why did Paul want to stay at Ephesus?

11. At Ephesus there was an open door for good work. There was a harvest to gather at Ephesus. Paul wanted to gather this harvest. We should be like Paul. We should look for places where people are ready to receive Christ. This does not mean we should leave a place because it is hard. It does not mean we should look for an easy place to work. It was hard for Paul at Ephesus. This is what he said.

1 Corinthians 16:9:

For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries (or enemies).

God gave Paul an open door at Ephesus to do good work. But what else was in Ephesus?

12. Paul also had enemies there. There were many people who tried to stop Paul from preaching. They saw many miracles in Ephesus. They saw many people come to Jesus.

Acts 19:19:

And a number of those who practised magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all; and they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

But not all repented. Some were enemies to Paul. He knew it was hard at Ephesus, but did he try to run away from Ephesus?

13. Paul did not run away from Ephesus. He knew it would be hard to stay there. He knew there were enemies. But he still wanted to stay. He was there for a big reason.

Why did Paul want to stay at Ephesus? _____

14. He wanted to stay because there was an open door for good work. Paul did what God wanted him to do. He did not just do what he wanted for himself. Paul did not choose where he would go. He went where the Lord opened the door. He let God prepare the way. When God prepared the way, Paul said there was an open door for him.

Paul had an open door to work in Ephesus. What else did he know he would find there?

15. There were enemies at Ephesus. There were people who tried to stop Paul. This often happened to Paul. People put him into prison. They beat him with ropes. Sometimes they tried to kill him with stones.

Why did Paul want to stay at Ephesus? _____

16. In Ephesus there was an open door for good work. It was time to gather the harvest in Ephesus. God had work for Paul there. God also has work for us to do. There is a harvest for us to gather. We must look for this harvest.

There was an open door at Ephesus. What else did Paul know he would find there?

17. There were also enemies. There are enemies near us. Sometimes people make it hard for us. But we must keep on working. We must not stop when it is hard. This is what Jesus said about the harvest.

Luke 10:2:

And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

What does this verse tell us to do? _____

18. We should pray for the Lord to send out workers into the harvest. Besides working in the harvest we should also pray. We should ask God to send more workers. We should pray this at home. We should pray this in our churches. We should ask God to call people from our churches to preach the gospel.

Have you ever prayed this? _____

Stop now and ask God to call people from your church. Pray that he will send them to preach and work in the harvest field.

19. Why did Paul want to stay at Ephesus? _____

Besides this, what did Paul know he would find at Ephesus? _____

WEEK 10:

DAY 4: WE MUST RESPECT FAITHFUL LEADERS

1 Corinthians 16:10-24

1. Yesterday we learned what Paul told the Corinthians about Ephesus.

Why did Paul want to stay at Ephesus? _____

Besides this, what did Paul know he would find at Ephesus? _____

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2. There was an open door for good work at Ephesus. But there were also many enemies.

This is the last day we will study new verses from 1 Corinthians. Tomorrow we will revise what we have learned. You have seen how one of the first churches was started. You have learned how they should handle their problems. We pray that you are learning to use these teachings in your church. Today we will learn:

We must respect faithful leaders.

Who wrote the letter to the Corinthians? _____

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3. Paul wrote this letter. Paul was a missionary. He went to many cities. He started many new churches. He also worked with many other men. At the end of many of Paul's letters, we find the names of his friends. He often sent them greetings.

Open your Bible and read 1 Corinthians 16:10 to 19. Write the names of four people whom Paul worked with.

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4. Here are some of the names in 1 Corinthians 16: Timothy, Apollos, Stephanas, Fortunatus, Achaicus, Aquila, and Prisca. Paul worked with these people. He did not try to do the work of God alone. He worked in the churches with many others. This is important for us too. Here is what Paul wrote about Timothy.

1 Corinthians 16:11:

So let no one despise him

What should the Christians at Corinth not do to Timothy? _____

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5. They should not despise him. They should show respect to him. He was a young shepherd. There were many people in Corinth who were older. But Paul told the Corinthians to respect him. They should not look down on this young shepherd.

To whom did Paul tell the Corinthians to show respect? _____

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6. They should show respect to Timothy. Timothy was young. He had to work with people who were older than he. Sometimes older people look down on young people. Paul wrote two letters to Timothy to encourage him. We can learn much when we read these letters.

1 Timothy 4:12:

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

But it was in another letter that Paul said people should respect Timothy. What letter was it?

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7. Paul wrote this in his letter to the Corinthians. But it is something all Christians should do. Sometimes there are leaders in the church who are young. But God calls them to do his work. He tells them to preach. He calls them to be evangelists. He wants them to lead the church.

When God calls a man to be a church leader, what should all believers give to that man?

8. We should give respect to such a person. Sometimes this is hard. We know that old people have lived a long time. They have seen many things happen. They know more than young people about some things. But we must show respect to those who are young and those who are old.

Hebrews 13:17:

Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account.

To what people did Paul tell the Corinthians to give respect? _____

9. They should show respect to church leaders. We must respect all people who work for God. Paul did this. Do you remember the first big problem in the church at Corinth? The people were fighting about the leaders in the church. Some wanted to follow Peter. Some wanted to follow Paul. Others wanted to follow Apollos. Now see what Paul said about Apollos.

1 Corinthians 16:12:

As for our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brethren.

In this verse, what did Paul call Apollos? _____

10. He called him a brother. Paul did not stop loving Apollos. Even though some wanted Apollos to be the leader, Paul continued to work with him. He still loved him.

Paul also wrote about the family of Stephanas. This family were the first people in Achaia who received Christ. Achaia was the country where Corinth was.

1 Corinthians 16:15:

Now brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts (or Christians) in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints.

What did the family of Stephanas do after they became Christians? _____

11. Paul said they gave themselves to helping the saints. This means that they cared for other believers. They worked in the church. They did God's work. They were faithful people. They were steadfast.

1 Corinthians 16:16, 18:

I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. . . . Give recognition (or respect) to such men.

What should the Corinthians give to the family of Stephanas? _____

12. The Corinthians should give respect to the family of Stephanas. They should do this because they were faithful people. The family of Stephanas had given themselves to doing the work of God. It is people like this to whom we should give respect.

In 1 Corinthians 4 we saw that the people who do the work of God are stewards. A shepherd is a steward of the truth of God's word.

What does God expect from stewards? _____

13. God expects stewards to be faithful. He expects shepherds to be faithful. Stephanas was faithful. Timothy was faithful.

What should Christians give to faithful leaders in the church? _____

14. We should give respect to this kind of man. Shepherds are examples which other people should follow. Paul told Timothy to be an example to believers.

1 Timothy 4:12:

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith and purity.

What kind of church leaders should people respect? _____

15. We should respect faithful leaders. A faithful shepherd does his work well. He is not lazy but works hard.

Let us see the last words of Paul in this letter. Paul had answered many questions in his letter. He judged some people for their sin. He corrected some for false teaching. But he did all this with a heart of love. This is what all shepherds must do. When we teach and correct people in the church, we must do it with love.

1 Corinthians 16:24:

My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The writers of this book feel as Paul did. We send our love to you. We have prayed for all students who will use this book. We have prayed for you. Now we want you to share these lessons with others.

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16. What should Christians give to faithful leaders in the church? _____

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**WEEK 10:
DAY 5: REVISION**

This is the last day of the book. You have done well to finish these lessons. Now we want to go over what you have learned in Week 9 and Week 10. We also want to go over the rest of the questions in the book. You can do it in one day. But it will be better if you take three or four days to go over all the questions.

Questions from Week 9

1. From 1 Corinthians 15, what two important things did Jesus do according to the scriptures?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. What does Paul say the resurrection of Jesus is like? _____

3. When Christ comes, what will happen to the dead in Christ? _____

4. When Jesus has defeated all his enemies, what will he do with his kingdom?

5. When Jesus returns, believers will have new bodies. Write two ways in which these new bodies will be different.

(1) _____

(2) _____

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Questions from Week 10.

6. Write 1 Corinthians 15:58 to show the three things we should do as we wait for our new bodies.

7. From 1 Corinthians 16:2, what should each Christian do on the first day of every week?

8. Why did Paul want to stay at Ephesus? _____

Besides this, what did Paul know he would find at Ephesus? _____

9. What should Christians give to faithful leaders in the church? _____

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When you know all of these answers, go back to pages 82, 156, and 207 .
Cover the things you have written. Try to answer all the questions. If you
know all the answers, you have learned very well.

FIRST CORINTHIANS is a programmed text prepared for Theological Education by Extension [TEE] in Africa. It speaks of problems in the church in Africa today.

This series is being prepared through the cooperation of evangelical churches with the direction of the TEXT-Africa coordinator under the Association of Evangelicals of Africa and Madascar [AEAM].



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EVANGEL