

WEEK 3 I CORINTHIANS
DAY 1 THE BIG SUBJECT

1. Today we begin another letter written by Paul. It is the letter called I Corinthians. But first let us remember something to do from Romans.

What does God want us to do as Paul wrote in Romans 12:1?

2. God wants us to give our bodies as a living sacrifice. In the letter of I Corinthians Paul also wrote many good things. When you have time to read this week, read from I Corinthians.

We have learned that Paul wrote this letter while on his preaching journeys. It was Paul who had started the church at Corinth. He started this church on his second journey. Let us read how the church was started.

Take your Bible now and read I Corinthians 18:1 to 11. Did Paul take time to teach the word of God to the Christians in Corinth?

3. He took time to teach them. He stayed there to teach a year and six months. He knew that the churches must be built on the word of God. He taught them faithfully. But after Paul left, sin came into the church. The people did not know what to do about this. They did nothing about it. They just let the sins go on. The church in Corinth needed someone to tell them to correct the sins. The writer of I Corinthians told them. This is what we will learn today.

The big subject of I Corinthians is:
stopping the sins in the church.

Who wrote I Corinthians to tell them to correct the sins in the church?

4. Paul wrote this letter. There were many sins in the church. Here are some of them:

Quarreling
Division
Pride
Adultery

Causing weak Christians to fall
Not respecting the Lord's table
Not using the gifts of the Spirit well
Not having love

Which book has this big subject: stopping the sins in the church?

5. It is the letter of 1 Corinthians. The church in Corinth started well, but they allowed sin to come into the church. They did nothing to stop the sin. Paul had to write about many sins among them.

1 Corinthians 1:11:

It has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren.

What sin did Paul talk about in this verse? _____

6. He first wrote about quarreling. The people of Corinth were quarreling about who was the best leader. Some liked Paul, some Apollos, and some Peter. Paul said that this was sin. He said that something must be done about this sin.

What did Paul say must be done about the sins in the church?

7. Paul said they must be stopped. The quarreling made big divisions in the church. People refused to agree together. They refused to work together. The church could not be strong. It could not grow. Other people would not want to become Christians. These things must be stopped.

This lesson speaks to us in the church today. We must not quarrel in the church. We must not be divided over the leaders. This will make the church weak.

What things must be stopped in the church? _____

8. Sins must be stopped. The people at Corinth could not go on acting as if everything was all right in the church.

What was the first sin Paul wanted to stop in the church at Corinth?

9. Paul first wrote about quarreling in the church. Then he wrote about another sin.

1 Corinthians 5:1:

It is reported that there is immorality (or adultery) among you, and of a kind that is not found even among pagans.

What kind of sin did Paul write about in this verse? _____

10. He wrote about immorality or adultery. One of the Christians at Corinth was living with his father's wife. Paul knew that even the sinners in Corinth did not do this. They would look at the Christians with shame. Paul said that this sin must be stopped. He told the Corinthians how to stop it. He also told them where to stop it.

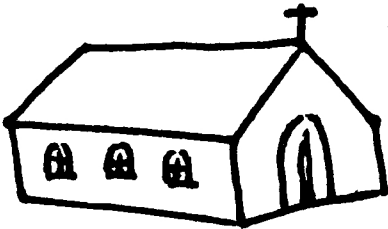
1 Corinthians 5:4:

... when you are assembled (in church) and my spirit is present, with the power of the Lord Jesus ...

Where did Paul say this sin of adultery should be stopped? _____

11. He said it should be done in church or while they were meeting. Paul knew that sins make a church weak. They must be stopped. And this must be done in the church itself. If sins are not stopped in the church, then the church will not speak to the people around it.

Write the big subject of 1 Corinthians beside this church building:



12. The big subject is: Stopping the sins in the church. If sins are stopped in a church, people know that that church obeys God. The church has power. It brings people to Jesus. But the church at Corinth had another problem. There was pride in the church.

I Corinthians 4:7:

What have you that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?

I Corinthians 4:18-19:

Some are arrogant (or proud), as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these arrogant people but their power.

Would Paul have been helping the church if he did not say anything about their pride?

13. He would not have been helping them. He had to point out their sins. He had to tell them what to do about them. He pointed out the sin of pride. Then he pointed out the sin of not respecting the Lord's table. Some people were not sharing with others at the Lord's table. They were not remembering Christ's death and suffering. Instead they were getting drunk!

What is the big subject of Paul's letter to the 1 Corinthians _____

14. The big subject is: Stopping the sins in the church. When you read this letter, you see how Paul wrote about all their sins. He wrote about quarreling, adultery, pride, not respecting, and many other things. The Corinthians were not living as God wanted them to. They were not showing the righteousness of God. Think back to the book of Romans.

What is the big subject of Paul's letter to the Romans? _____

15. The big subject of Romans is: The righteousness of God.

What is the big subject of 1 Corinthians? _____

WEEK 3 I CORINTHIANS
DAY 2 THE AIM - BE UNITED

1. We have seen that Paul wrote to the church he had started at Corinth.

What is the big subject of I Corinthians? _____

2. The big subject of I Corinthians is: Stopping the sins in the church. Paul had an aim in writing this letter. In Romans he wanted to make them stand firm in the gospel. He wanted them to send him to Spain. Today we will learn his aim in writing I Corinthians.

- (1) He wanted the Corinthians to be united as the body of Christ.
- (2) He wanted them to find answers to their questions.

I Corinthians 1:10-11:

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 quarrels) among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren.

From these verses, was the church in Corinth united or divided?

3. The church in Corinth was divided. They were quarreling about leaders. They were not getting along well together. This was in Paul's mind when he wrote to them. In the first six chapters of his letter he talked about divisions and quarreling in the church.

Paul did not want to be divided. As the body of Christ, how did he want them to be?

4. Paul wanted them to be united. As Paul wrote he kept the needs of the people in mind. He did not just say things that sounded good. He said things which the people needed.

When you plan a sermon, you too should think of the needs of your people. You should keep their problems in mind. You can help people as Paul did the Corinthians.

If your church is divided, what can you tell them from I Corinthians?

5. You can tell them to be united. Paul had a good way to show the people how they should be united.

I Corinthians 12:27:

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

From your Bible read more verses about this. Read I Corinthians 12:12 to 18. Paul wanted the people to be united as what?

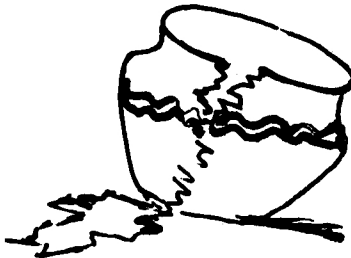
6. They should be united as the body of Christ. A woman had two pots. One was a good pot with no cracks. She used the pot to carry water. She poured from it to satisfy her family.



This good pot was like a united church. When a church has no cracks or divisions, it is strong. It can pour out the water of life to needy people.

What church did Paul want to be united as the body of Christ?

7. He wanted the church at Corinth to be this way. The woman we talked about also had another pot. The second pot was cracked. It leaked. It lay against the wall because the woman could not use it. It could not carry water. Even so, a divided church cannot give the water of life to sinners.



What was the first part of Paul's aim in writing to the Corinthians?

8. His aim was that they be united as the body of Christ. But this was only part of Paul's aim. He also wanted them to find answers for their questions. There were many things the Corinthians still did not understand. They asked questions like this: If my husband dies, whom should I marry? Should I eat meat that has been offered to idols? What is the best way for women to worship in church? How should I use the spiritual gifts God has given me? Paul wrote about these questions.

1 Corinthians 7:1:

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote.

Did Paul want the Corinthians to have questions which were not answered?

9. He wanted them to find answers for all their questions. He wanted them to understand. He wanted them to know how to follow Christ well. The Corinthians knew that they had a wise leader. They asked him many hard questions. He gave them the answers in his letter.

Who helped the Corinthians find God's answers to their questions?

10. Paul did this. He had good aims in writing his letter. First he wanted them to be united as the body of Christ.

What did Paul want the Corinthians to find for their questions?

11. He wanted them to find answers. He used half of his long letter answering their questions. The Corinthians wrote to him about many matters. He answered all their questions in chapters 7 through 16.

What was Paul's first aim in writing 1 Corinthians? _____

12. He wanted them to be united as the body of Christ. The Corinthians asked Paul many questions. They asked about:

- Marriage
- Eating meat sacrificed to idols
- The Lord's table
- Women in the church
- Spiritual gifts

What was Paul's second aim in writing to the Corinthians? _____

13. He wanted them to find answers to their questions. One question they asked was: Is it right to eat meat sacrificed to idols? This is like eating meat that is sacrificed for the ancestors (or spirits of the fathers).

A new Christian asked an older Christian what the Bible said about eating meat offered to ancestors.

Do you think Paul's answer to the Corinthians could help the older Christian give an answer?

14. It will be interesting to talk about this in class. The problem of meat offered to idols is much like the problem of meat offered to ancestors. The older Christian could tell the new Christian what Paul said about this.

What was Paul's second aim in writing to the Corinthians?

15. He wanted them to find answers to their questions. God helped Paul to write the book of 1 Corinthians. God had us in mind too. He knew that all of us would have many questions about how to serve him. 1 Corinthians is God's word. As we study it, we can be helped in the same way the Corinthians were helped.

Do not confuse the book of 1 Corinthians with the book of Romans. Remember what you have learned.

What is the aim of Romans?

(1) _____

(2) _____

16. Paul's aim in Romans was to make them stand firm in the gospel. He also wanted them to send him to Spain to preach.

What are the two aims of I Corinthians?

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 3 I CORINTHIANS

DAY 3 BELIEVERS ARE ALL IMPORTANT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

1. What are the aims of I Corinthians?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Paul wanted them to be united as the body of Christ. And he wanted them to find answers for their questions. We have seen that the Christians at Corinth were divided. Paul told them that they must be united. He showed them that they were the body of Christ. He said that each of them was needed. This is what we will learn from I Corinthians today:

(1) All true believers are the body of Christ.

(2) Each one in the body of Christ is important.

What is the big subject of I Corinthians? _____

3. The big subject of this book is: Stopping the sins in the church. As Paul wrote about the sins, he showed how the Christians should live. He showed them that Christians are the body of Christ. Christ does not live on earth in his own body now. He lives in the bodies of all true believers.

I Corinthians 12:27:

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members (or each one a part) of it.

From this verse, were all the true believers at Corinth in the body of Christ?

4. All the believers at Corinth were in the body of Christ. Paul was writing to Corinth. But he was also writing for all true believers everywhere. He said that all true believers are the body of Christ.

I Corinthians 12:13:

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

If you are a believer in Christ, are you part of the body of Christ?

5. You are part of his body if you truly believe. To believe in Christ means to receive him and follow him. Not all church members have received Christ. They do not truly believe him. So not all church members are part of his body. People join the church for different reasons. Some just want to be with other people. Some join to please their friends. Some think they are believers but have never given their lives to Christ. True believers are those who have been born again and have new life.

Of whose body are all true believers a part? _____

6. They are part of the body of Christ. Christ does not live on earth in his own body now. He lives in the bodies of certain people. They are his body.

Who are the body of Christ? _____

7. All true believers are the body of Christ. If you just wrote "believers" that is not enough. It is the true believers. And it is all of them. All true believers in the body of Christ are important. Some people think only of the leaders. They think of the ones whose work is seen. But Paul showed that the church is like a body. In the body, each member has work to do. Each kind of work is important to the whole body. The eye cannot do the work of the hand. The hand cannot do the work of the stomach. The body suffers if any part does not do its work.

Take your Bible now and read I Corinthians 12:17 to 23. Are the parts of your body which are not seen important?

8. They are very important. You could not live without the parts that are inside your body. In the same way, all parts of the body of Christ are important. Each believer has his place and his work.

In your body, if one part hurts, the whole body suffers. This is also true in the body of Christ. If one believer has sorrow, the other believers have sorrow with him. If one is happy, others too rejoice. We are a body together. We are members of one another and of Christ.

What does I Corinthians say all true believers are like? _____

9. We are like a body. We are the body of Christ. Each of us is important. It does not matter whether we are young or old. It does not matter whether we are men or women. It does not matter whether we are leaders or followers. Look at this verse again.

1 Corinthians 12:13:

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and were made to drink of one Spirit.

Are all true believers in one body even if they are of different races?

10. We are all in one body. Our tribe or race does not matter. And we are all important. I cannot do your work and you cannot do my work.

Who are the body of Christ? _____

11. All true believers are the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:28:

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kind of tongues.

Who chooses what each member of the body will do? _____

Can the church do well if all of its members are prophets? _____

12. God tells each member of the body what to do. He gives many different kinds of work in the body. The church will not do well if it has only prophets. Teachers, healers, and helpers are also needed. Each worker in the church is chosen by God even if his work seems small.

1 Corinthians 12:22-23:

On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable (or we cannot live without them), and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with (or give) the greater honor.

From these verses do you think that each believer is important in the body of Christ?

13. We will talk about this in class. One old man in our church could not read. But he was a true believer. He loved the Lord Jesus and always came to church. One Sunday he saw that the people stumbled over the stones in the church yard. He collected the stones and took them away. This man was not a leader. The work he did may seem small. But he is important to God. God gave him the thought of helping. God gave him that work to do.

In the body of Christ, who is important? _____

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14. Each one in the body of Christ is important. Those who preach are important. Those who lead are important. Those who help are important. Those who cook for special meetings are important.

1 Corinthians 12:24-26:

But God has so adjusted the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior (or smaller) part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one members suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Since each one is important, what should they do for one another?

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15. They should care for one another or help one another. Let us say that you come early and sweep the church. Or perhaps you meet people as they come into the church. You greet them and help them find a seat. But you are not the preacher.

As a true believer are you important in the body of Christ? _____

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16. You are important. One pastor knew that he should visit the people in his church. But he visited only those who gave much money to the church. He forgot that all are important. Jesus died for all – rich and poor, old and young, men and women.

Who are the body of Christ? _____

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17. All true believers are the body of Christ. It is important to visit all of them. But it is especially good to visit old members of the church. Some of them cannot come to church any longer. But they can work for the church through prayer.

In the body of Christ, who is important? _____

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18. Each one is important in the body of Christ. Now here is something for you to do. Think of the people in your church. Think of someone who does not seem important. Perhaps other people do not care for that person.

Think of a way to help that person know he is important in the body of Christ. Write what you thought of doing.

19. We will talk about this together.

Who are the body of Christ? _____

In the body of Christ, who is important? _____

WEEK 3 | CORINTHIANS
DAY 4 | WE MUST LOVE OTHERS

1. We have learned that Paul wanted the Corinthians to be united. He wanted them to be as the body of Christ.

Who are the body of Christ? _____

In the body of Christ, who is important? _____

2. All true believers are the body of Christ. In the body of Christ, each one is important. The only way they can be united is through love. Paul wrote many things for the Corinthians to know. He also wrote some things they must do. Today we will learn about love.

- (1) The most important thing for a Christian to have is love.
- (2) I Corinthians 13 is the love chapter.

Take your Bible now and read I Corinthians 13:1 to 7. Read verse 1 again. If I speak in many tongues but have no love does it help the church?

3. Tongues without love do not help the church. But love can unite the church. Love can unite different races and tribes. It can unite people of different ages. It can unite people who earn different amounts of money.

Paul was not writing to all the people in the city of Corinth. He was writing to a certain group. Who did he say should have love?

4. It was the believers or the Christians. It was the people in the church. The church at Corinth needed to correct the sins in the church. They were quarreling about leaders. They were not using the gifts of the Spirit rightly. Some were looking down on others who did not have certain gifts. There was something which they needed in order to overcome these sins.

In I Corinthians 13, what did Paul say Christians must have?

5. Christians must have love. Paul said that loving others is the most important thing Christians must do. In order to stop sin, we must overcome it. Paul knew that the love of Christ would help the Corinthians overcome sin. The love of Christ would also help him speak to the Corinthians in the right way. If a father corrects his children without love he harms them. Paul wrote with love. He taught his spiritual children how important love is.

I Corinthians 13:2:

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

From this verse, if I have faith but no love, what am I? _____

6. I am nothing. The gifts of tongues, prophecy, and faith are not the most important things.

I Corinthians 13:3:

If I give away all I have and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

What does Paul say is the most important thing for Christians to have?

7. The most important thing is love. Paul explained the love of Christ in I Corinthians, chapter 13. This chapter is called the love chapter. Paul explained how important it is to love. Then he explained what love does. He explained what love does not do.

I Corinthians 13:4-5:

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.

From these verses, what is the first thing which love is? _____

8. Love is patient. If we have love, we are patient in daily life. If the Corinthians had had love, they would have been patient with one another. They would not have quarreled. They would not have divided.

Even though we are Christians, we make mistakes. We need love to make us patient with one another.

What chapter in I Corinthians is called the love chapter? _____

9. Chapter 13 is called the love chapter. It says that love is patient and kind. It says that love is not proud. Christians are sometimes tempted to be proud. They think that because they do certain things, they are better than other Christians. But if they have the love of Christ, they will not be proud.

1 Corinthians 13:6-7:

it (love) does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Let us do something loving right now. Think of a person in your church who is hard to love. Think of times when you have not been kind to this person. Then pray this prayer: "Lord fill me with love for this person."

10. God has given the body of Christ many gifts. There are gifts of speaking, preaching, healing and ruling.

But what does Paul say is the most important thing for Christians to have?

11. The most important thing is love. The other things are also needed. But sometimes preachers and leaders want everything done their way.

1 Corinthians 13:5:

Love does not insist on its own way.

What chapter is called the love chapter? _____

12. This is 1 Corinthians 13. The Corinthians were not united. Some wanted one way. Some wanted another way. Each wanted his own way. When people want their own way, they are not showing the love of Christ. They are not united as his body.

1 Corinthians 13:8:

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

What is 1 Corinthians 13 called? _____

13. It is called the love chapter. It tells us that the most important thing for Christians to have is love. It tells what love does. It tells what love does not do. It tells how Christians can be united as the body of Christ. It tells how we can keep from wanting our own way.

What chapter is called the love chapter? _____

14. This is I Corinthians 13. Sometimes children in a family quarrel. Each one want his own way. They think of themselves instead of loving the others. This can happen in the church too. People begin to think about themselves. They want their own way.

This chapter tells us how to stop wanting our own way. We do it through love. When we truly love we want others to have their way too. We do not cause division. Instead we bring unity.

Think about yourself. Are you willing to give up your own way in order to have love and unity in the church?

15. Let us talk about this in class.

What does Paul say is the most important thing for a Christian to have?

What chapter is called the love chapter? _____

WEEK 3 | CORINTHIANS

DAY 5 WE WILL RISE AGAIN WHEN CHRIST COMES

1. What does Paul say is the most important thing for a Christians to have?

What chapter is called the love chapter? _____

2. The most important thing for a Christian to have is love. The love chapter of the Bible is 1 Corinthians 13.

1 Corinthians 15 is also a very important chapter. This chapter teaches about the resurrection of Christ and of believers. This is the way we will learn it.

- (1) 1 Corinthians 15 is the chapter to use in teaching about resurrection.
- (2) We will get new, wonderful bodies when Christ returns.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 15:20 to 23. Read verse 23 again. At whose coming will the Christians be raised?

3. This will be at Christ's coming. Jesus is coming back to earth. At that time, there will be a great resurrection. Christ was raised from the dead and he will raise many others. The whole chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 tells about this.

Christ is not the only one to be raised from the dead. Who else will be raised?

4. It is the Christians or those who belong to Christ. It is the true believers. It is those who are the body of Christ. Paul was careful to teach that Christ rose from the dead. It is important to know that Christ died for our sins. It is also important to know that he rose again.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

What chapter in 1 Corinthians should we use to teach about resurrection?

5. We should use 1 Corinthians 15. Some of the Corinthians were confused about what happens after we die. Paul wanted to answer their questions. He wanted them to know that God has given us a great hope. If we believe in him, he will raise our bodies from the earth. To show that he has power to do this, he raised Christ from the dead.

What is the whole chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 about? _____

6. It is about resurrection. It tells about the resurrection of Christ. And it tells how we too will be raised. When Jesus rose from the dead, he was given a new body. He was not just a spirit. He showed the disciples that he had flesh and bones. But his body had power which our bodies do not have. We remember that Jesus came into a room while the doors remained shut.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44:

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.

What chapter can we use to teach about resurrection? _____

7. We can use 1 Corinthians 15. Many people believe that the spirit of man lives on after death. But this chapter teaches more than that. It teaches that we will receive new bodies when we rise.

1 Corinthians 15:35-37:

But some one will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come? You foolish man! What you saw does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body which is to be.

What new thing will Christians receive when Christ returns and they are raised?

8. They will receive new bodies. Christ received a new body when he rose. He will give us new bodies when he comes again.

1 Corinthians 15:20, 49:

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.... Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust; we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

One man think that the resurrection is that the ancestors (or spirits of our fathers) return and visit us. Remember what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15. Do you think that the resurrection is the same as returning ancestors?

9. People say that returning ancestors are only spirits. They do not have bodies. We do not see how the resurrection can be the same as returning ancestors. Paul says that our old bodies are planted in the ground like seed. They will be different when they are raised to life again. Believers will receive new glorified bodies like Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:43:

It (the body) is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory.

When will believers be raised and receive new bodies? _____

10. This will happen when Christ returns. When a maize seed is placed in the ground, it first dies. Then it comes up from the ground with a new body. The new body of the maize plant is more wonderful than the seed that died in the ground. Paul uses this picture of a seed to show us a truth. Our bodies are placed in the ground as seed. They will be raised as glorified bodies. They will be better than the bodies that were buried in death.

What will believers receive when Christ comes and they are raised from the dead?

11. They will receive new bodies. Dlamini was a man who loved God. He was caretaker of a Bible school for many years. Later he became ill. He had to sit in a special chair with wheels because he could not walk. He was often in pain. Then Dlamini died and was buried.

What will happen to Dlamini when Christ returns? _____

12. Dlamini will be raised. He will receive a new body. His new body will not have any pain. He will not need his wheel chair. The new body will be better in every way.

Christ took on an earthly body so he could suffer for us. He felt hunger and pain. He died and was buried. But he overcame these things. We bury our bodies in the earth. But some day we will receive new bodies. Our new bodies will feel no pain. Christ was like us. Now we will be like him.

1 Corinthians 15:49:

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

When will those who belong to Christ receive new bodies? _____

13. This will be when Christ returns. The wonderful promise of a new body will be fulfilled when Jesus comes. Paul explained that Christ will come with a shout and with the sound of a trumpet.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52:

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

What chapter should we use to teach about resurrection? _____

14. We should use 1 Corinthians 15. We should teach that all who have died in Christ will be raised from the dead. All the believers will receive new bodies. These new bodies will never grow old or die.

When will those who belong to Christ receive new bodies? _____

15. This will be when Christ returns. It will be a joyful time. Paul got excited when he thought about it. He wrote wonderful words. Let us take time to think about them now. There is something here which will touch your heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you.

Take your Bible and read 1 Corinthians 15:53-58. Read these verses until you find something which touches your heart. Draw a line under it. Write what God is saying to you about these words.

16. What chapter should we use to teach about resurrection? _____

When will those who belong to Christ receive new bodies? _____

WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS
DAY 1: THE BIG SUBJECT

1. This week we go on to another letter written by Paul. It is the second letter to the Corinthians. We will find out how the Corinthians received Paul's first letter. But first let us remember our last lesson.

What is the big chapter to use in teaching about resurrection? _____

When will those who belong to Christ receive new bodies? _____

2. The big chapter on the resurrection is 1 Corinthians 15. Those who belong to Christ will receive new bodies when Christ comes again.

Paul had many things to say to the Corinthians. The big subject of his first letter was: Stopping the sins in the church. Later he wrote to them again. This letter is called 2 Corinthians. Paul not only wanted the Corinthians to stop the sins in the church. He wanted the Corinthians to go on in their Christian lives. He wanted them to share the gospel and give money for God's work. This is what we will learn today:

**The big subject of 2 Corinthians is:
We are messengers for Christ.**

Take your Bible now and read 2 Corinthians 2:14 to 17. These verses show that we are messengers for Christ. Does a messenger speak his own message?

3. A messenger does not give his own words. He gives the words of the one who sent him. Paul wanted the Corinthians to give Christ's message. First he wrote and told them to stop the sins in the church. The Corinthians listened to what Paul said. Paul had told them to put the adulterer out of the church. They did this. The man repented and was sorry. Now Paul said they should receive him back.

2 Corinthians 2:6-7:

For such a one this punishment by the majority (or the others in the church) is enough; so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.

Did the Corinthians stop this sin in the church? _____

4. They did stop this sin. We believe they stopped others too. Now they could be messengers as God planned. They could share the good news with other people. They could show by their lives that Christ gives new life.

Whose messengers did Paul want the Corinthians to be? _____

5. He wanted them to be Christ's messengers. If you wrote "God's" that is right too, because God wants us to give the message of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5:

For what we preach is not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

Paul was God's messenger. But there were some people at Corinth who doubted that Paul was sent by God. Some of the Jews hated Paul. They told the Corinthians that Paul was not an apostle. So they began to doubt that Paul was a messenger of Christ.

In what book did Paul write that we are messengers of Christ? _____

6. This is the book of 2 Corinthians. Paul wrote many things in this book to show that he was an apostle of Jesus Christ. But he did not expect to do all the preaching himself. He expected the Corinthians to speak for Christ too.

We are not apostles as Paul was, but what does Christ send us to be for him?

7. We are messengers of Christ. This is the big subject of 2 Corinthians. The writer of this letter used his own work to explain this. As messengers of Christ, we do not work for much money or many possessions.

2 Corinthians 2:17:

For we are not, like so many, peddlers (or sellers) of God's word; but as men of sincerity, as commissioned (or sent) by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Who wrote 2 Corinthians saying that we are messengers of Christ? _____

8. Paul wrote this letter. He showed that as Christians we should share the good news of Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:14:

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

What is the big subject of 2 Corinthians? _____

9. The big subject is: We are messengers of Christ. When we live for him, we are like a sweet smell. We are a sweet smell to God. And we are a sweet smell to the people around us. The sweet smell tells people to live for Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:15:

For we are the aroma (or sweet smell) of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

When we give a sweet smell, of whom are we messengers? _____

10. It is of Christ. To those who do not receive Christ we seem to smell of death. For we remind them that they are dead in their sins. To those who receive Christ we smell of life. For we remind them of eternal life.

2 Corinthians 2:16:

to one a fragrance (or smell) from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

We cannot do all this by ourselves. It is only Christ in us that makes us able to fulfil the big subject of 2 Corinthians.

What is the big subject of 2 Corinthians? _____

11. The big subject is: We are messengers of Christ. Paul wanted the Corinthians to see this. Their work was more than to correct the sins in the church. They had a great work to do for God. They should work as Paul worked. Paul did not work for money as some preachers did. He worked so that many others might have eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:20:

So we are ambassadors (or messengers) for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech (or beg) you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Paul wanted the Corinthians to be messengers. Who are the messengers of Christ today?

=====

12. We are the ones for today. The letter of 2 Corinthians is meant for us as well. We can learn much from it. We should read it often with the rest of the Bible.

What is the big subject of 2 Corinthians? _____

=====

13. The big subject is: We are messengers of Christ. Perhaps you have not thought much about this. Perhaps you did not see how important it is for you to share the gospel. Christ is not here in his own body today. He leaves the work of speaking for him to us. If Paul had not gone to preach to the Corinthians perhaps they would never have heard of Christ.

What may happen to the people around you if you do not give them the message of Christ?

=====

14. We will talk about this in class.

What is the big subject of 2 Corinthians? _____

=====

WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS
DAY 2: HANDLE THE GOSPEL AS PRECIOUS

1. What is the big subject of 2 Corinthians? _____

2. The big subject of 2 Corinthians is: We are messengers of Christ. Each letter which Paul wrote has a big subject. Each letter has an aim. The aims are the things which the writer wanted the people to do. Paul had two aims when he wrote to the Corinthians the second time. When he wrote 2 Corinthians, Paul wanted the people to:

- (1) Handle the gospel as precious.
- (2) Receive him as a true apostle.

Something which is precious costs very much and is very good.

Take your Bible now and read 2 Corinthians 5:17 to 20. Read verse 19 again. From this verse, what precious thing have we been given?

3. This verse says we have been given the word of reconciliation. Reconciliation means being brought back to God. Through Christ we can be forgiven of our sins. We can be brought back into fellowship with God. This is the good news about Christ. So the word of reconciliation is the gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:18:

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us (or brought us back into fellowship) to himself and gave us the ministry (or work) of reconciliation.

Read this verse carefully again. From this verse, who gave us the precious gospel?

4. God did this. Paul said that God has given us the words of the gospel. He also says that God has given us the work of the gospel. This means that we understand the message from God. And we have the work of helping others to understand it.

Do you think we should handle the gospel as a heavy burden, or as something very precious?

5. We will talk about this in class. We have been given the gospel. This is the good news that Christ died to bring us back to God. It can make us friends with God again. Paul wanted the Corinthians to share the gospel. His aim was that they should handle it as something precious.

And what about us? How should we handle the gospel? _____

6. We too should handle it as something precious. Paul said that the gospel is very important.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.

In what letter did Paul write that we should handle the gospel as precious?

7. It is the letter called 2 Corinthians. When something is precious, we handle it very carefully. When I was a little boy, my father sent me to buy tickets for a big ball game. He gave me money and I bought the tickets. But on the way home, I lost them. I forgot that I had them. They fell to the ground and were lost. My father was sorry that he had allowed me to get them. I forgot that they were precious.

Who had the aim in 2 Corinthians that people handle the gospel as precious?

8. Paul had this aim. He did not want the Corinthians to forget the wonderful thing which had been given to them. We too have been given this precious gospel. We should not forget that we have it.

What was Paul's first aim in writing 2 Corinthians? _____

9. Paul's first aim was that they handle the gospel as precious. He also had another aim. He wanted the Corinthians to receive him as a true apostle. Paul was not proud of himself. But some people were doubting that he was a true apostle. Paul wanted his people to know that God had sent him.

If people did not believe that Paul was true, would they share what he had brought to them?

10. They would not share it. So the writer used part of his letter to show that he was a true apostle. He wrote about this in 2 Corinthians, chapters 10, 11, and 12. But he had also written about it in his first letter.

1 Corinthians 9:1-2:

Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal (or sign) of my apostleship in the Lord.

Who had the aim that the people should receive him as a true apostle?

11. Paul had this aim. He knew that if the people doubted him, they could not believe the gospel. It was Paul who had taken the gospel to them. They were saved through the message Paul preached. Paul also showed that he was an apostle by the work which he did.

2 Corinthians 12:12:

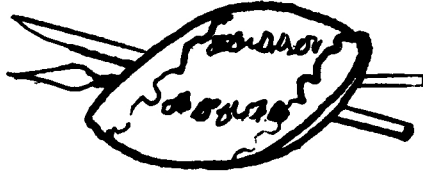
The signs of a true apostle were performed (or done) among you in all patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

From this verse, what did Paul do which showed he was a true apostle?

12. He did signs or miracles. In every way Paul was a true apostle. He saw Christ after he rose from the dead. He was sent by Christ to preach the gospel. He did miracles which the apostles did. The Corinthians knew all these things. But some false teachers had come among them. They hated Paul. They told the people that Paul was not a true apostle.

Take your Bible now and read 2 Corinthians 11:1 to 5. How did Paul want the Corinthians to receive him?

13. It was important that the people receive him as a true apostle. Paul had to answer the false teachers. He had to fight them. But he did not fight as people of the world fight.



2 Corinthians 10:4:

For the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

What book did Paul write to get people to receive him as a true apostle?

14. He wrote 2 Corinthians. Paul had two aims in this letter.

2 Corinthians 7:2

Open your hearts to us; we have wronged no one, we have corrupted (or spoiled) no one, we have taken advantage of no one.

What did Paul want the Corinthians to do to him?

15. He wanted them to receive him. He wanted to be received as a true apostle. The Corinthians owed their spiritual lives to Paul. But now they did not seem to love him. So Paul told them of his suffering for them

2 Corinthians 12:15:

I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?

Paul's first aim in writing 2 Corinthians was that they handle the gospel as precious. What was his second aim?

16. Paul wanted them to receive him as a true apostle. He wanted them to listen to him. People should always listen to God's servants. They should treat them with respect. You have leaders in your church. You may have pastors or elders or deacons. The people should respect and listen to these men.

Paul's second aim was that the people receive him as a true apostle. What was his first aim in writing 2 Corinthians?

17. Paul's first aim was that they handle the gospel as precious. Paul did not want the Corinthians to be afraid of him. He did not want them to fear his power. He showed that his power was given by God so that he could help them.

2 Corinthians 10:8:

For even if I boast a little too much of our authority (or power), which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I shall not be put to shame.

What was Paul's second aim in writing 2 Corinthians? _____

18. He wanted them to receive him as a true apostle. Paul treated the Corinthians with power. He did not overlook their sin. He did not overlook the false teachers. Paul's power as a leader helped them. They were built up in the faith. We remember that when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians the people were divided and had many questions.

What were the aims of 1 Corinthians?

(1) _____

(2) _____

19. Paul wanted them to be united as the body of Christ. He wanted them to find answers for their questions.

What were Paul's aims in writing 2 Corinthians?

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS
DAY 3: WE SEE GOD IN CHRIST

1. We have learned the big subject of 2 Corinthians. It is: We are messengers of Christ. We have also learned the aims.

Write the aims of 2 Corinthians.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____

2. Paul's aims were that they would handle the gospel as precious. And that they would receive him as a true apostle. To Paul, the good news of Christ was important. Perhaps you remember that in 1 Corinthians he said he had preached nothing but Christ to them. Now in 2 Corinthians he teaches something very important about Christ. He wants us to understand that we see God in Christ. This is the way we will learn it:

The best way to see God
is by looking at Christ.

Do you think your people need a better understanding of God? _____

3. Christians need to understand more and more about God. Sinners do not understand him.

2 Corinthians 4:4-5:

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord.

Paul wanted people to receive him as an apostle. But he did not want to preach about himself. About whom did he want to preach?

4. He preached about Christ. He wanted to know that Christ was more than a man.

2 Corinthians 4:6:

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

In whose face has the glory of God been given? _____

=====

5. It has been given in the face of Christ. In the Old Testament God showed himself through the law and the prophets. In the New Testament he wanted to show himself in a better way. He did it by sending Christ.

Some people's understanding of God is still very small. They think that he is very far away. Or that he is only an angry God. Or they think that we can never please him. Or they think that we can never talk to him directly.

Think of the way our fathers understood God. Did they believe that it was easy to speak to him and know what he is like?

=====

6. Most of our fathers thought it was hard to speak to God. They believed it was hard to know what he is like. They believed he is far, far away.

Perhaps the Corinthians believed this at first too. In his letter Paul taught how God first showed himself through the law. God showed that he is righteous and holy. The people saw God through the law. But then God wanted to show his love and his mercy.

Whom did God send to show us his love and mercy? _____

=====

7. He sent Christ. Through the law God showed his righteousness. He showed that man is sinful and should die for his sins. But through Christ he showed his mercy. He showed that he will forgive sins through faith in Christ. Through the law and through Christ we also see great glory.

In 2 Corinthians Paul explained that the law of Moses was written on stones. When Moses received this law, his face shone from being with God. His face was so bright, the people could not look at him. But the coming of Christ was even more wonderful.

Take your Bible now and read 2 Corinthians 3:7 and 8. Whose glory is shown through the law and through Christ?

=====

8. God's glory is shown in these ways. When God's glory was shown through the law, the people became afraid. But when God's glory is shown through Christ it does not make us afraid. Think of Christ and how he lived. Think of his love. Think of the way he healed people. Think of the ways in which he stopped sin. Think of the way he forgave sin. This too is what God is like, for Christ is God. When we study Christ, we learn about God.

In what letter did Paul write that God is seen in Christ? _____

=====

9. He wrote this in 2 Corinthians. Jesus himself said that people could see the Father in Christ.

John 14:9:

He who has seen me has seen the Father.

From 2 Corinthians 4, how can we best see what God is like?

=====

10. We can best see God by looking at Christ. Christ said that he and the Father are one. They are two persons of the trinity. The Holy Spirit is the third person. We cannot really understand three people in one person. But God is a person. Christ is a person. With the Holy Spirit they make one God. When we look at Christ we see God. We see his love and his patience. We see his desire to save men.

Are you not happy that we can see God in Christ? Take time now to thank God for showing himself in this way.

=====

11. It is wonderful to know that we see God in Christ. But there is more to learn about this. When we look at Christ we see God's love. We see his glory. Then God's love and glory are also shown through us!

2 Corinthians 3:18:

And we all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Study this verse carefully. As we look at Christ, into what are we changed?

=====

12. We are changed into his likeness. We become like Christ. We show God's glory. People can see God's glory in us.

But how can we best see what God is like? _____

13. We can see this by looking at Christ. When we keep looking at him we become like him. We show more and more of God's glory. This is hard for us to believe. We see our weakness. We see our mistakes. We know we still need to grow more like Christ. But God uses his faithful children to show others his glory. If we are not faithful we cannot show this. Sometimes we let sin remain in our lives. We stop obeying God. We stop following Christ. Then we bring shame on Christ's name.

Think about these questions but do not write answers: How is it with you? Are you looking at Christ every moment? Do you show his glory? When people look at you, do they praise God? Or do people turn away from God because of your life?

Your people need to think about these questions too. Prepare a sermon to preach from today's lesson. On another paper write the important things you will say. Bring the paper to class.

14. From 2 Corinthians 4, how can we best see what God is like?

WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS

DAY 4: MUCH GIVING BRINGS MUCH BLESSING

1. We have learned that the big subject of 2 Corinthians is: We are messengers of Christ. We have learned that the aims are: That they would handle the gospel as precious. And that they would receive Paul as a true apostle. Yesterday we learned a great teaching.

From 2 Corinthians 4, how can we best see what God is like? _____

2. The best way to see God is by looking at Christ. Today we have another great teaching of God in 2 Corinthians. In this book he teaches us about giving. We need this teaching today. If we follow this rule of giving in our daily lives, we will never be in need. God's great truth about giving is:

Much giving brings much blessing.



Take your Bible now and read 2 Corinthians 9:6-10. When someone plants only a little grain, how much does he reap?

3. He reaps only a little. But if he plants much grain, he may reap a great harvest. Paul wanted the Corinthian Christians to give. There were some poor Christians in Jerusalem. There was famine there. Paul wanted the Corinthians to help those in Jerusalem. He knew that if they gave, they would be blessed by God.

What kind of giving brings much blessing? _____

4. Much giving or giving freely brings much blessing. Paul told the Corinthians about the church in Macedonia. The Macedonian church was a giving church. They gave freely. This is what Paul said about them.

2 Corinthians 8:3:

For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will.

From this verse, would you say that the Macedonian Christians gave much?

5. They gave freely and we believe they gave much. In the Old Testament, God helped Abraham to begin a certain way of giving. Abraham gave one-tenth of what he received. All the men of God who followed him were asked to give in the same way. The tenth really belongs to God. But now we are asked to give more than this. As we follow Christ, everything we have belongs to God. If we want to give much, we must give more than a tenth.

What does much giving bring to us? _____

6. Much giving brings much blessing. This means giving more than a tenth. This is how the Macedonian Christians gave. The Bible says that we will not become poor by giving in this way!

Luke 6:38:

For the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

This is like the great truth about giving in 2 Corinthians.

Much giving brings much blessing. Who promised this through Paul in 2 Corinthians?

7. God promised it. It is his great truth. It is surprising what happens when we give. We also begin to receive. People can see this in every day life. The Sotho's have a proverb about it. They say, "He who gives cooks for himself."

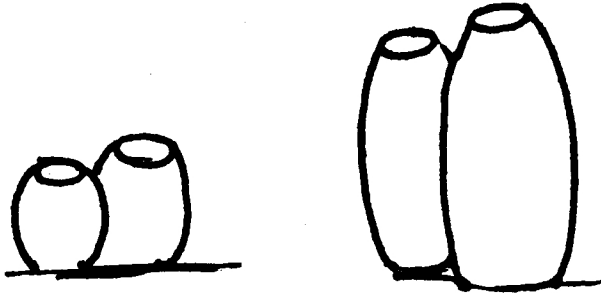
But receiving is not our reason for giving. We give because we love God. We are showing our love to God when we give.

From 2 Corinthians 9, what is God's great truth about giving?

8. The great truth is: Much giving brings much blessing. Read again the way Paul wrote it.

2 Corinthians 9:6:

The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully (or much) will also reap bountifully.



What will we receive if we give only a little? _____

9. We will receive little. Many Christians have not learned this truth. They give only a little to God and his work. God's work suffers and they also suffer. But look how it could be.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8:

Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion (or being 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 of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.

From these verses, what must we do if we want plenty of money to give for God's work?

10. We Christians should give much. We should give freely. And we should give with joy. If we do this, Paul says that we will have plenty to give. Think what would happen to our churches if we believed and obeyed this great truth!

From 2 Corinthians 9, what is God's great truth about giving?

11. The great truth is: Much giving brings much blessing. Mziza and Sethole were men in the same church. Mziza was a business man. He had a butchery and worked well. People bought from him and his business grew. Sometimes Mziza gave a tenth of what he received to the Lord, but sometimes he said he needed the money for himself.

Sethole was a farmer. He had a big family. He was able to grow only a little more than his family needed. But when he sold grain, Sethole carefully took out one tenth of the profit. He gave this to the Lord. He also gave other offerings. He always gave his children a bit of money to put in the basket at church. When he had no money, he brought vegetables, or eggs to help the pastor.

Which of these men gave much to the Lord? _____

12. It was Sethole who gave much. He gave freely of what he had. And God blessed Sethole. Whenever he gave, God gave him more so that he could keep on giving. God wants to send his blessings through us. He wants us to pass them on. If we will give, we will always have something to give. Then God's work can always go forward.

From 2 Corinthians 9, what is God's great truth about giving?

13. Much giving brings much blessing. Christians through the years have been surprised to find how this works. When they gave to God, God gave them more.

One of these Christians was a man named Le Tourneau. He made machines. When he received profit he carefully gave one-tenth to God. God blessed him. As he got more money he decided to give two-tenths to God. Again God blessed him with more money. Le Tourneau gave more and more to God until he kept only one-tenth for himself. Today there is a very big school in his name for Christians young people. Le Tourneau School could be built because one man gave freely to God.

What about you? Can you say that you are giving freely to God?

If you cannot say yes, pray now. Ask God to help you give much with joy.

14. From 2 Corinthians 9, what is God's great truth about giving?

WEEK 4: 2 CORINTHIANS
DAY 5: REVISION

We have learned many things about the New Testament letters. We want to remember them well so we can use them in our lives.

Let us take time today to go over what we have learned. Try to answer each question. When you have finished, go back to the end of each day's lesson. If you have answered wrong, cross out your answer. Write the right answer above yours.

Questions from Week 1.

1. To whom did the apostles write the New Testament letters?

(1) _____ (2) _____

2. What do the New Testament letters help us to do with out problems?

3. Who wrote most of the New Testament letters? _____

4. When Paul wrote to churches, what did he want to do besides helping them overcome problems?

5. Write two times in his life when Paul wrote letters to churches and pastors.

(1) _____

(2) _____

6. Which letters did Paul write on his preaching journeys. Write them in the right order.

(1) _____ (2) _____

(2) _____ (5) _____

(3) _____ (6) _____

7. What three letters to churches did Paul write from prison in Rome.

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

Questions from Week 2.

8. What is the big subject of Romans? _____

9. Write the two parts of Paul's aim in writing to the Romans.

(1) _____

(2) _____

10. What two kinds of sin does Romans explain?

(1) _____

(2) _____

11. What does sin bring? _____

12. How do we receive the righteousness of God? _____

13. From Romans 11, when will Israel believe and be saved?

14. What does God want us to do as Paul wrote in Romans 12:1?

=====

Questions from Week 3.

15. What is the big subject of I Corinthians? _____

16. What are the two aims of I Corinthians?

(1) _____

(2) _____

17. Who are the body of Christ? _____
18. In the body of Christ, who is important? _____
19. What does Paul say is the most important thing for a Christian to have?

20. What chapter is called the love chapter? _____
21. What is the chapter to use in teaching about resurrection?

22. When will those who belong to Christ receive new bodies?

Questions from Week 4

23. What is the big subject of 2 Corinthians? _____

24. What were Paul's aims in writing 2 Corinthians?
- (1) _____
- (2) _____
25. From 2 Corinthians 4, how can we best see what God is like?

26. From 2 Corinthians 9, what is God's great truth about giving?

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