

Through the Bible Course

**April 1948**

**1 Corinthians**

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Key Word: Christian Conduct

Key Verse: 6:20

Date: AD 57 – about 3 years after Paul had left Corinth and while he was at Ephesus. Corinth was a commercial metropolis of Greece. It was one of the richest and most important cities of the Roman Empire; located on isthmus between the Adriatic and Aegean seas, and was therefore on one of the principal trade routes of the empire. In and out of its harbor flowed the commerce of the world. It was a city of 400,000 people. It was one of the most wicked cities the world has ever known.

Occasion: While on his second missionary journey, Paul had established a church there (read Acts 18:1-17). After he left, the church began to face serious problems and questions of conduct. Word of this came to Paul while he was at Ephesus and he wrote to the church to instruct them. We must remember this was a church consisting of young Christians surrounded by a vast population of people who practiced heathen customs.

Introduction: 1:1-9

- I. Chapter 1:10 – 4:21 – Concerning Divisions and Their Prevention
  - 1. 1:10-31 – by making Christ center of Christianity
    - a. 1:10-17 – instead of following various individuals
    - b. 1:18-31 – by relying upon wisdom of God instead of men
  - 2. 2:1-16 – by basing their faith on revelation of God rather than wisdom of men
  - 3. 3:1-22 – by understanding you must stand before God and be judged for His service
  - 4. 4:1-21 – by understanding you will be judged by God not man
    - a. Verses 6-13 – contrast between their self glorification and Paul's humility
- II. Chapters 5 and 6 – Correction of Moral Disorders
  - 1. Chapter 5 – Immorality rebuked and discipline ordered
  - 2. 6:1-11 – Saints forbidden to go to Law with each other (for solution turn to teachings of Christ in Matthew 18:15-17)
  - 3. 6:12-20 – Sanctity of the body
- III. Chapter 7:1 – 16:24 – Answers to Their Questions
  - 1. Chapter 7 – concerning marriage
  - 2. Chapter 8 – concerning things offered to idols – the Christian law of love
  - 3. Chapter 9 – Paul vindicates his apostleship
  - 4. Chapter 10:1-14 – Israel as example

5. Chapter 10:16 – 11:34 – Lord's Table and law of love in fasting and drinking
6. Chapters 12 and 13 – spiritual gifts come from Holy Spirit and must be used in love.  
(The Corinthians were jealous or proud because of their gifts. Paul says that is foolish because all came from God for a purpose.)
7. Chapter 14 – the matter of speaking with tongues
8. Chapter 15 – concerning the resurrection
9. Chapter 16:1-24 – various instructions and greetings