

1 CORINTHIANS

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE



RIVER CITY CHURCH

Introduction

The Bible is God's divinely inspired Word (2 Tim 3:16). It is a lamp for the feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). It is perfect, reviving the soul and making wise the simple (Psalm 19:7). Its words are more to be desired than gold (Ps 19:10, 119:72). It is a wealth of wisdom and revelation that has not been exhausted in thousands of years of study at the highest academic level. A person could study the scriptures daily for a lifetime and be continually affected by its truth, even unto old age. So "you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (Deut 6:7-9). Our lives ought to be saturated with the word of God.

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.***

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17

When Joshua took leadership over God's people, he was instructed to "meditate on [God's law] day and night" (Joshua 1:8). Kings were commanded to read God's word all the days of their lives (Deut 17:18-19). And when rebuking Satan, Jesus taught us "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4). The importance of knowing the Word of God cannot be overstated.

This Bible study guide through the book of 1 Corinthians is meant to be an aid for you in studying God's priceless word, that you may likewise grow, being complete and equipped for every good work.

Guide to this Study

The questions in this Bible Study Guide are meant to help guide you in thinking about the passage and to bring up ideas you may not have considered on your own. Some of the questions are meant to help you understand what the text is saying, while others are meant to help you apply what the text says to your own life. Additionally, there are some commentary notes and definitions of key words along the way to help you with some difficult sections. However, not every complicated issue will be resolved.

The Bible is a complicated book. We should not expect the Bible to be simple. We should not expect to have every word and phrase understood after a few minutes, or even a few weeks, of casual study. It is a book that will perpetually speak to us. So as you read through 1 Corinthians, do not be discouraged if there are verses or entire sections that confuse you.

You are in good company. Peter even says of Paul's letters that "There are some things in them that are hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:16). But press on! Dig in deep. This is what studying is for! I believe if you put the time into mining the Word of God like a prospector for gold, you will be filled with a treasure-find greater than any physical riches.

if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

- Proverbs 2:4-5

Therefore, the questions and commentary in this guide are by no means exhaustive. So, I encourage you not to be limited to what this guide will give to you. When you read each passage, take the time to think through the passage yourself using the *Observe, Interpret, and Apply* process:

Observe the Text
• Read and Reread the Passage • Summarize the Passage in your own words (The last question in each chapter of this guide) • Ask your own questions about the passage • Observe literary devices like: - Keywords (Important words that are key to understanding a passage) - Contrasts (Use of "but" "rather" or "instead". Can help our understanding by showing what something is <i>NOT</i>) - Comparisons (Use of "Like" or "as" to illustrate a point) - Cause and Effect Relationships (Does one thing cause another?) - Repetitions (Repeated words and phrases can highlight the main point of an author.) • It can also be very helpful to use cross references (found in many Bible footnotes) to look up related passages to the idea being studied.
Interpret the Text
• Based upon what was observed, what universal principle can we discern? A universal principle is something derived from the text that will be true for all people, at all times, in all places. The universal principle cannot be something that would only apply to one particular culture or people group. A universal principle may be indicative (a truth) or imperative (a command) - Example of an indicative - Jesus died for our sins. - Example of an imperative - Do all things in love.
Apply the Text

- Consider how the universal truth gained from the passage applies to you specifically.

Ask yourself:

- How does this passage change my beliefs?
- How may the universal principle contrast with my culture?
- How may I need to change my behavior based upon the universal principle of this passage?

As you study through 1 Corinthians, you will likely be confronted with some sections that are very difficult to comprehend and apply to our own lives today. There may be words and concepts that you don't understand. When you encounter such examples, I encourage you to NOT immediately go to the internet and read or listen to what others think about the text. Sadly, we cannot trust that every internet source is using sound biblical interpretation to make their conclusions. Also, doing this robs you of the blessing of discovering a passage's meaning on your own. Instead, take the time to wrestle through the text yourself! Use cross-references and Bible dictionaries to assist you (biblehub.com is a great free resource). Mysteries that we uncover ourselves are much more satisfying and helpful to us than cheap shortcuts.

A Note on Bible Translations

The text used for this study comes from the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You do not need to use the ESV Bible to study with this guide. Different translations can have strengths and weaknesses. In general, Bible translations can be categorized by how closely the translators have tried to stay true to the original *words* of the text (Word-for-word translations), and how much the translators have made interpretive decisions for us (thought-for-thought translations). A “*word-for-word*” translation will be closer to the original Greek and Hebrew text in its vocabulary, but it may be more difficult and clunky to read. “Thought-for-thought” translations are less accurate in their wording, but tend to be easier to read and understand. The ESV is generally considered more of a *Word-for-word* translation. Others would include the NASB and the KJV. Examples of more *Thought-for-thought* translations include the NLT and the NIV. Finally, some translations are more *paraphrases* than actual translations. The most popular of these would be *The Message* Bible.

Introduction to 1 Corinthians

Author: The Apostle Paul

Audience: The Church in Corinth

Approximate Date: A.D. 53-55

Context: Corinth is located on an important trade isthmus and thus became a prosperous city. However, with great worldly prosperity there was also great worldly immorality, specifically pagan idolatry and sexual immorality.

Background: Paul first visited Corinth on his second missionary journey. As was his usual practice, when Paul came to Corinth he preached to Jews in the synagogue where his message was primarily rejected. There were, however, some, including Crispus the ruler of the synagogue, who believed. Paul then turned his focus to preaching to the gentiles and many of them believed. Paul remained in Corinth for 18 months under the Lord's protection (Acts 18:1-17).

Paul likely wrote this letter during his 3rd missionary journey while in Ephesus. It seems from 1 Corinthians 5:9 that there was a previous letter from Paul to the Corinthians which has been lost. The Corinthians had also written Paul asking for his input on a number of theological and practical matters in the church. Much of this letter is addressing particular issues that the church in Corinth faced.

Overview of the letter: Unlike some of his more general letters, in 1 Corinthians Paul is addressing specific problems that the Corinthian church was facing. These problems included divisions, church discipline, sex, food, spiritual gifts, and the resurrection. For these issues, Paul shows how the church has not been responding appropriately in light of the gospel, then gives instruction to change their beliefs and behavior.

Because there was correspondence between Paul and the Corinthians before this letter, reading 1 Corinthians can feel like listening in on just one side of a phone conversation. It is challenging to piece together what exactly is happening on the other side to understand the full situation. Thankfully, a full understanding is often unnecessary to glean many of the principles and doctrines that Paul gives us in this letter. So when you read through 1 Corinthians, if there are sections where you feel like you are missing context, it may be helpful to simply step back and consider what major principles can be known from what *is* clear instead of what is *not* clear.

Chapter 1 - Divisions and The Source of True Wisdom

From Paul's opening greeting and thanksgiving, what do we know about the Corinthian church?

There was division in the Corinthian church. What was the source of this division?

Why would having various spiritual leaders cause division in the church? (See also 3:3, 21)

Looking at verse 13, what do these rhetorical questions teach about what should be the source of unity in the church?

Looking at verses 18-31, what do these verses teach us about the relationship between faith and human wisdom? Does worldly intellect give someone an advantage in coming to Christ?

Why does God choose to reveal himself to the foolish in the world, the low, and the despised?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 2 - God Revealed by the Spirit, Not Man.

If Paul had come to the Corinthians with wise worldly arguments and impressive rhetorical flair, what may have been the result? What would have been a danger of that?

Looking at verse 5, where does true faith come from?

In verses 6-16 what is the role of the Spirit? What does he reveal to us?

Looking back on everything from 1:17-2:16, how would you summarize its teaching on how people come to believe the message of the gospel (Christ crucified)?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 3 - Putting Mere Men in their Place

In chapter 3, Paul now connects everything he has been saying from 1:18-2:16 with the original problem of division described in 1:10-17. If salvation is a work of the Spirit and not the flesh (2:14), and if it is founded in the power of God, not the wisdom of men (2:5), and if it is by God's calling, not by our natural abilities (1:27-29), then who should the church be "following" (vv. 4-7)?

How do these truths make jealousy and strife illogical?

The Corinthian factions were boasting of their spiritual leaders as a point of worldly pride for themselves. Instead of elevated celebrities, how ought the Corinthians to view their favorite spiritual leaders?

Paul metaphorically calls us, the church, God's building (v.9). What does it mean for Christ to be the foundation of that building (v. 11)?

Although spiritual growth is completely a work of God, human workers have a role as well (v. 6). According to verses 10-15, what do we know about our role as workers?

If Christ is the foundation of the building, then the construction of the building must be in alignment with that foundation.

- What sort of work, represented by gold, silver, and precious stones, will survive and receive reward?
- What sort of work, represented by wood, hay and straw, will be burned up?

Commentary: The word “you” in verses 16 and 17 is plural, meaning that Paul is saying the church body is God’s temple.

What does it mean to be wise in this age and how can a person become a fool to become wise (v. 18)?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul’s main points from this chapter?

Chapter 4 - Humble Yourself

A lot of people struggle with what others think about themselves. Paul didn't care if he was judged. What was the source of this confidence?

What is the solution Paul gives for becoming "puffed up in favor of one against another" (6-7)?

Commentary: This is one of the sections of 1 Corinthians which is difficult to understand because we are only hearing one side of a conversation without much context. Adding to the difficulty is the fact that Paul begins using sarcasm, not saying what he actually believes. Apparently the Corinthians were thinking very highly of themselves and not very highly of Paul.

What is the contrast between how the Corinthians saw themselves (vv. 8, 10) and the reality of the apostles (vv. 9-13)?

Paul wrote these verses to admonish the Corinthians (v. 14). What was he trying to teach them?

In verses 16 and 17, Paul says the Corinthians should be more like him. How are we supposed to be like Paul?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 5 - A Case Study in Church Discipline

How had the Corinthians perverted the meaning of grace in their response to the man described in verse 1? What were they supposed to do instead?

Look at verse 5, then read 1 Tim 1:20. Based upon the context of this chapter and the cross-reference to 1 Timothy, what does Paul mean by delivering this man over to Satan?

What is Paul's justification for this drastic measure?

What was the hope for the man in doing this?

How does the way we as Christians relate with each other differ from how we relate with the world according to verses 11-12?

To judge, or not to judge, that is the question.

In Matthew 7:1, Jesus tells us not to judge, lest we be judged. In 1 Corinthians 4:5, just a page earlier, Paul says, "do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes." Yet, in 5:3, Paul says he has already pronounced judgment and in 5:12 he says we are to judge those inside the church. Obviously there are different usages of the same word. What is the difference between the judging that Jesus forbids in Matthew 7 and the judging that Paul commands in 1 Corinthians 5?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 6 - Handling Conflict and Sexual Immorality

When the Corinthian church had grievances against one another, how were they getting resolved?

According to this chapter, when Christians have disputes with one another, who should they turn to to help resolve the issue?

Look at verse 7. What is Paul saying should be the priority of believers in conflict?

Look at verses 9-11. How do we understand these truths in relationship with Romans 3:21-24, Ephesians 2:8-9?

Commentary: Verses 12-13 are generally understood to be Paul quoting things the Corinthians had said. This happens a number of times in this letter. In these circumstances, Paul is clarifying how previously mentioned truths should be correctly understood and applied.

“All things are lawful for me.” How is this statement true, and how does Paul clarify how it is to be applied with Christian character?

How would you explain Paul’s case against sexual immorality?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul’s main points from this chapter?

Chapter 7 - Be Single or Be Married to the Glory of God

What is Paul trying to guard against with his instructions on sex and marriage in verses 1-5? What is he most concerned about?

Commentary: Notice in verses 1-2 and 8-9 that Paul's prescription against sexual immorality is to get married. The clear implication of this is that sexual relations are meant only within a marriage covenant.

Look at verses 10-11. What is Paul's teaching on divorce? What do we see about God's ultimate desire for marriage?

Commentary: What does it mean in 7:14 that a marriage between a believer and an unbeliever makes the unbelieving spouse and children "holy"? This is a challenging question which theologians differ in how to answer. First, verse 16 clearly shows that this *holiness* does not refer to salvation. Instead, the verse seems to imply that rather than believers becoming defiled and unclean by being in a mixed marriage (a natural implication of the Old Testament law), the opposite effect takes place. Believers are rather the "contagious" ones in a mixed marriage.

Key Word - Circumcision

Circumcision was the sign of the Old Covenant between God and his people (See Genesis 17). It was a mark that distinguished Israel from the gentiles. Circumcision was a very common point of contention in the early church which was made up largely of Jews. In the New Covenant, circumcision is done away with. What God desires is a circumcision of the heart (Romans 2:28–29).

According to verses 17-24, what should Christians think about their life circumstances which they have inherited from their life before Christ?

Key Word - Betrothed/virgins

The Greek word *parthenos*, translated as *Betrothed* in the English Standard Version, means virgin or an unmarried person.

Looking at verses 25-40, what is Paul's greatest concern that guides all of his decision making?

What is the advantage of being single according to Paul?

What is Paul's instruction and encouragement for widows in verses 39-40?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 8 - Knowledge Must Be Accompanied With Love

In verse 1, What is the danger of possessing "knowledge"?

According to Paul, what is more important than knowledge?

Commentary: Food sacrificed to idols was common in the ancient city of Corinth, and still is in many parts of the world today. In these situations, before being sold in the marketplace, the meat had previously been offered to an idol in part of a pagan worship ritual.

What kind of "knowledge" did the Corinthians have concerning idols and how was that "knowledge" leading to unloving behavior towards others?

What does Paul mean when he talks about a "weak" person in verses 9 - 12?

Today in America, food sacrificed to idols is not much of a temptation, but there are still brothers whose “consciences are weak” concerning certain other things. What might be some examples of this? (i.e. drinking alcohol)

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul’s main points from this chapter?

Chapter 9 - Doing Whatever It Takes That Some May Be Saved

Key Word: Apostle

The Greek word Apostolos means messenger or one who is sent, so it is a general term. However, in the Bible it is most often used in a more specific sense referring to those who were specifically sent by Jesus to represent him.

According to this chapter, what rights does Paul claim to have as an apostle?

What arguments does Paul give in verses 7, 9, 10, 11, 13 that gospel workers should be physically compensated for their work?

What was Paul more concerned about than his rights?

Paul “became all things to all people” that some may be saved (v. 22). How did Paul do that and what may that look like in a modern context?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul’s main points from this chapter?

Chapter 10 - Eat or Drink to the Glory of God

Commentary: In verses 1-4, Paul is referencing events from the Exodus, when God led his people out from slavery in Egypt and towards the Promised Land of Canaan.

Paul reminds his readers in verses 1-4 that the Israelites experienced many great redeeming works of God during the Exodus. What were these?

What New Testament activities correlate to these things?

Four times Paul instructs us not to behave as “some of [the Israelites] did”. What are these four and what were the consequences (when given)?

1 Corinthians 10:13 is a commonly used passage about resisting temptation. What does this verse tell us about God’s sovereignty and our spiritual struggle against sin?

Commentary: In verses 16-18 Paul brings up the Lord's Supper and the Jewish practice of sacrificing at the temple. In both of these illustrations, the participant eats as part of his worship, and this eating is a means of fellowship¹ with one another and with God. These verses set up Paul's main point in verses 19-22 that participating in pagan worship is likewise fellowshiping with demons. So, even though idols are nothing and the food is not technically tainted, being part of pagan rituals is still an act of idolatry from which a Christian must flee.

Sometimes we as Christians today still justify sinful participation with the world. Paul became "all things to all people," but that was not a license to sin. In what ways are Christians in our context tempted to *participate* in the sin of the world and justify it by our "freedom in Christ"? (Example: watching inappropriate shows and movies)

Look at verse 31. This is a popular verse. In the context of verses 23-33, what does it mean to eat and drink to the glory of God?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

¹ The Greek word translated as "participation" in the ESV is *koinónia* which is often translated as fellowship or communion.

Chapter 11 - Head Coverings and The Lord's Supper

Commentary: Chapter 11:1-16 is a notoriously difficult section to understand. Like many scriptures, there are varying interpretations. However, sometimes the most difficult passages can often become the most enlightening, the most memorable, and the most satisfying. Take the time to read, reread, observe, and question the passage and see what insights you can glean from the text!

What theological idea does Paul use to begin this section in verse 3?

How does Christ's submission to God the Father show us that a role of submission does not diminish dignity or value? (See also 1 Cor 15:28)

What does verse 10 tell us about the meaning of a head covering?

How does that fit with what has previously been said in this chapter about male and female roles?

What is the underlying principle Paul seems to be getting at in his instructions on head coverings?

In verse 20 Paul states that the Corinthians *are not actually eating* the Lord's Supper. What reasons does he give for this claim?

What does this teach us about what it does mean to take the Lord's Supper?

What else does this passage tell us about why we take the Lord's Supper?

From this passage, write down all the instructions that Paul gives for how the Lord's Supper is to be practiced.

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 12 - Spiritual Gifts and The Anatomy of a Church Body

What is one test to understand whether a teaching is from the Spirit according to verse 3?

Commentary: Verse 3 does not mean that anyone who says, "Jesus is Lord" with their lips must therefore have the Holy Spirit. Rather, Paul most likely means that no one can genuinely believe in their heart and say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit (See Matthew 7:21-23 and Romans 10:9-10).

Look at verse 7. What is the purpose of the Spiritual Gifts?

Make a list of the Spiritual Gifts mentioned by Paul in this chapter.

How is the church like a body?

How should this teaching on varying spiritual gifts affect how we view and treat others in the church, especially those who are different from you?

How may it affect the way you view yourself?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 13 - Love, The Highest of Virtues

How does chapter 13 relate to chapter 12?

Paul describes in verses 4-8 what love does. How would you consolidate these into a single sentence stating what love *is*?

Why is love the greatest of the virtues?

Looking at verse 4-8, how would you assess your love for your spouse, your children, your siblings, your parents, your friends, your enemies, your church?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 14 - On Prophecy and Tongues and Order in the Church

Key Word: Prophecy

The word and how it is used in the New Testament has been understood differently by various scholars. Matthew Henry says prophesying means merely explaining scripture. Some, like John Piper, say it is "something that God spontaneously brings to mind in the moment."² In contrast, John MacArthur says, "In Scripture, prophecy is always presented as the infallible, authoritative declaration of God's inerrant revelation."³ And there are other interpretations as well.

What do you think? What is the gift of prophecy? What scriptures back up your understanding of New Testament prophecy?

² <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-prophecy-today>

³ <https://www.gty.org/blogs/B140310/biblical-prophecy-and-modern-confusion>

Key Word: Speaking in Tongues

Like prophecy, there is much disagreement among genuine Christians over the nature of speaking in tongues. Some believe that it refers to speaking in a heavenly language, unintelligible to humans except by divine intervention. Others believe that it means speaking in other discernable human languages in the same manner as Acts chapter 2. See commentary below for more on whether tongues continue today.

Commentary: In addition to the definitions of the words above, there is also great disagreement among theologians over whether the gifts of prophecy and tongues still function today or whether they have ceased. The primary view in church history, and even among the early Church Fathers such as Chrysostom⁴ and Augustine⁵, is that these gifts were meant to be signs to establish the church in its infancy, but have since passed away. Obviously the way in which a person defines these gifts and understands their continuation (or lack of continuation) drastically changes the way this chapter is interpreted.

It is important to note that this is a secondary tier doctrine. This means that one's understanding of the spiritual gifts, albeit important, is not a matter of salvation. Genuine Christians can disagree on these matters and yet be partners together in the gospel.

What does Paul tell us about speaking in tongues? What does it do? What is it good for, and what it is not good for?

What does Paul tell us about prophecy?

⁴ "This whole place [1 Cor 12] is very obscure: but the obscurity is produced by our ignorance of the facts referred to and by their cessation, being such as then used to occur but now no longer take place." - John Chrysostom.

⁵ "In the earliest times, the Holy Ghost fell upon them that believed: and they spoke with tongues, which they had not learned... These were signs adapted to the time. For there behooved to be that betokening of the Holy Spirit in all tongues, to shew that the Gospel of God was to run through all tongues over the whole earth. That thing was done for a betokening, and it passed away." - Augustine of Hippo

In all of Paul’s instructions on tongues and prophecy, what is he primarily concerned about (see such verses as 3-5, 12, 19, and 26)?

Commentary: Verses 20-25 are yet another section of this chapter which is notoriously difficult to understand because it seems as if Paul contradicts his own teaching in verse 22 with his example in verses 23-25. There have been a variety of possible interpretations given by theologians which are more complicated than can easily be described in this study. No major doctrine is affected by the interpretation of these verses.

Looking at verse 20, what does this say about intellect in matters of faith?

How would you briefly describe the main principle Paul is making from verses 26-40?

Commentary: Verses 34-35 are especially controversial in our time. Yet, it is imperative that we do not pick and choose the scriptures we choose to accept, making ourselves the arbiter of truth. Rather, we must humbly come to the text and seek to discern its meaning through careful study of the passage, context, cross-references, word meanings, culture, and more.

Verse 34 says that women should keep silent in the churches, not being permitted to speak. Look at the following passages and note what they each add to our understanding of gender roles in the church.

Passage	What does it teach or show about gender roles
Genesis 1:27	

Genesis 2:18-23	
Acts 2:17-18	
Romans 16:1-7	
1 Corinthians 11:4-5	
1 Corinthians 14:34-35	
1 Timothy 2:11-15	
1 Timothy 3:1-7	

After looking at each of these passages, how would you synthesize the Bible's teachings on gender roles?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 15 - The Resurrection of the Dead

In verse 2 Paul gives a qualification for the Corinthians' salvation (Using the word "*if*"). What is this qualification and what does it mean? (See also Hebrews 3:6 and 3:14)

What are the main points of the gospel message that Paul gives in this chapter?

Look at 1 Timothy 1:12-16 along with verses 9-11. What does Paul's conversion teach us about grace and God's purposes?

What is Paul's argument in verses 12-19 connecting our resurrection, Christ's resurrection, and our sin?

How does Paul contrast Adam with Jesus? (See Romans 5:12-21)

Key Word: Firstfruits

The concept of *firstfruits* was common in Jewish practice and vocabulary. It is described in Deuteronomy 26: “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you ... you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land ... and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose.” The people would offer this best portion of their harvest to the Lord before they ate any of the harvest themselves (Lev 23:14).

How is Jesus like the Jewish concept of firstfruits, as Paul says in verse 23?

Looking at verses 22-28, what events does Paul tell us will happen in the end?

Verses 22-23	
Verse 24	
Verse 25	
Vese 26	
Verse 28	

Commentary: “Baptism on behalf of the dead” is another odd and difficult phrase that Paul mentions in verse 29. Nowhere else in scripture is this ever mentioned, and even here it is not defined or described and thus its exact meaning remains a mystery. It may refer to a current practice of the Corinthians that Paul is saying wouldn’t make sense if the dead were not raised. Others think it may mean that people get baptized in the hope of being resurrected like others who have died. There is no consensus on what this passage means and for the scope of this study, let us simply take the larger meaning that Paul is trying to communicate, that the dead will one day rise.

If there were no resurrection from the dead, how would Paul live his life differently? (See verses 30-34)

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

Chapter 16 - Paul's Plans and Personal Notes

In verses 1-4 Paul talks about taking up a collection for the saints in Jerusalem (The Jerusalem church faced persecution and famine. See Acts 8:1, 11:27-30, Hebrews 10:32-34). What do we see here about the church's obligation to care for one another? How can you practice this in your own life?

Look at verses 8-9. What do we see about Paul's "wide door for effective work"? What does this show us about Christian ministry?

In verses 13-14 Paul gives five imperative commands to the Corinthians as part of his closing remarks. The first four in verse 13 are very similar (Sometimes Paul puts many nearly synonymous words and phrases together to emphasize a single point). What does it look like to live out these first four commands, and how does the final command in verse 14 add to it?

Commands	Application / meaning for us
Be watchful (Other translations say “be on your guard,” or “be alert” See Matthew 25:1-13) Stand firm in the faith Act like men (Other translations say “Be men of courage,” or “be courageous”). Be strong	
Let all that you do be done in love	

Paul ends his letter writing in his own hand a pretty stern statement in verse 22. Anyone without love for the Lord would be accursed! Look at Matthew 22:34-40. Why is love for God so foundational to Christianity?

What does it mean to love the Lord?

Do you love the Lord?

What questions do you have from this chapter?

How would you summarize Paul's main points from this chapter?

In Reflection

What stood out to you most from your study of 1 Corinthians?

What will you study next?