

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ❖ The 4 Canonical Books = Gospel (4 sessions)
 - ❖ Acts & Pauline Epistles (5 sessions)
- ❖ Catholic Epistles, letters & Revelation (1 session)

1st Session covered

- ❖ Introduction to the 4 Canonical Books = Gospel
- ❖ Proof of their Canonicity (Internal & External evidence)
- ❖ Wisdom behind the existence of 4 Canonical Books = Gospel
- ❖ Meaning of the word Gospel and proper titles
- ❖ Purposes of each Gospel

2nd Session covered

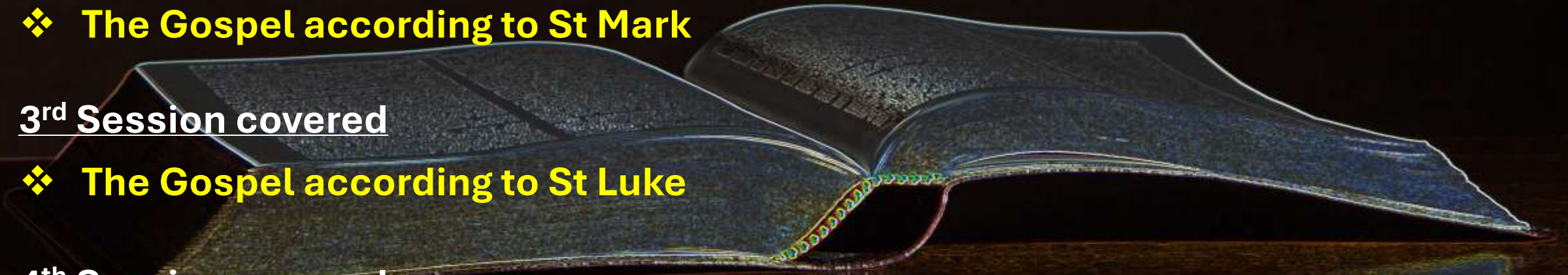
- ❖ The Gospel according to St Matthew
- ❖ The Gospel according to St Mark

3rd Session covered

- ❖ The Gospel according to St Luke

4th Session covered

- ❖ The Gospel according to St John

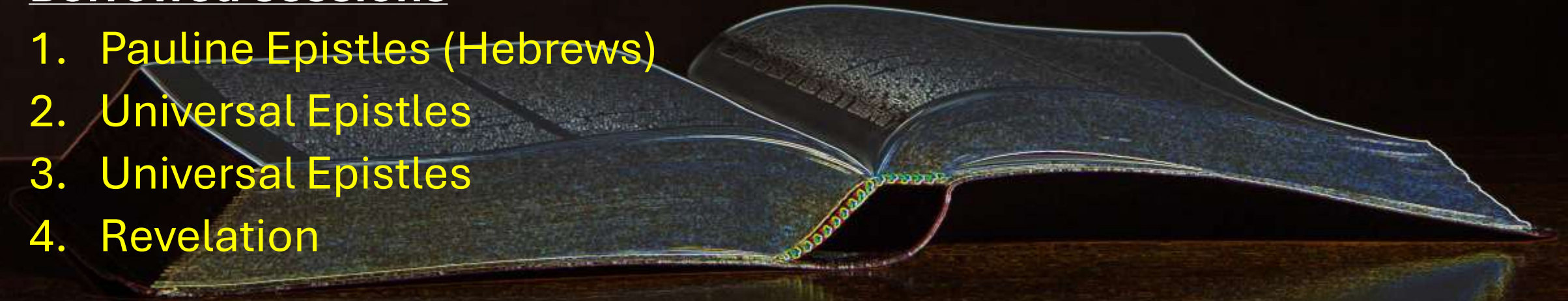


The next 5 Sessions to cover Acts & St Paul's epistles

1. Acts
2. Pauline Epistles (Romans & 1 Corinthians)
3. Pauline Epistles (2 Corinthians, Galatians & Ephesians)
4. Pauline Epistles (Philippians, Colossians & Thessalonians 1 & 2)
5. Pauline Epistles (Timothy 1 & 2, Titus & Philemon)

Borrowed sessions

1. Pauline Epistles (Hebrews)
2. Universal Epistles
3. Universal Epistles
4. Revelation



St Paul's Epistles

1. Romans
2. I Corinthians
3. II Corinthians



St Paul - Who is he?

- Not one of the 12 or the 70 Apostles.
- Was called an Apostle by the Lord Himself who appeared to him after His ascension circa 36AD.
- A Pharisee from Tarsus - In Syria who is well educated in Greek Philosophy & speaks Greek language.
- His father, a wealthy man, acquired Roman citizenship and Paul was born Roman. This gave him certain rights such as being able to travel freely, cannot be arrested, has the right to stand before Ceaser...etc.
- At 16yr his family sent him to Jerusalem to learn at the hands of Gamaliel. He grew to be Pharisee well advanced in knowledge than other students. This knowledge of scriptures made him a perfect Apostle as he could recall all the prophecies about our Lord.
- Saul persecuted Christians (Followers of the way) (St Steven). He chased them everywhere and brought them in bondage to the Chief priests. *I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women Acts 22*
- After being baptized at the hand of Ananias (Bishop of Damascus) Acts 9 - circa 36AD. he was resented & feared by the disciples, until Barnabas vouched for him. He was also persecuted by Jews who were seeking to kill him.

St Paul - Who is he?

- Paul stayed 3 years in Arabia (36-38AD). He spent them studying the OT lead by the Spirit to accept many facts. Then he travelled to Jerusalem to meet Peter and he saw James. Paul mentioned this in [Galatians 1:15](#)
- He ultimately became (as the Lord said) a chosen vessel, through whom the word-of-God spread worldwide to jews & gentiles.
- St Paul wrote 14 of the 27 books of the NT (more than half).
- His epistle to Thessalonians 1 & 2 were the first ever written text in the NT (52/53AD).
- St Paul was a persistent man: As Jew he was fervent in his persecuting Christians thinking he was serving God, and when he finally believed he was even more fervent in spreading the word of God
- St. Paul learned a craft, according to the Jewish tradition to avoid being in need; so, he was a tentmaker.
- In his epistle to the Romans he sends greetings to his **in-laws** known to the apostles
“Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are **outstanding among the apostles**, and they were in Christ before I was” [Rom 16:7](#).
- After long service, 3 long missionary trips, lots of persecutions, imprisonment, stoning, shipwrecks & hardships as he wrote to his disciple Timothy in his 2nd epistle to him: **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day**
St Paul was martyred at the hand of Nero circa 67/68AD.

St Paul's Epistles

- Of St Paul's 14 epistles; some of the churches he founded (Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossi, and Thessalonica), the rest to people (Timothy, Titus, and Philemon).
He wrote these epistles during his missionary trips (from the 2nd trip) or during his captivity (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and to Philemon).
- St Paul wrote his epistles over a period of 12 to 14 years (between AD 52-67).
- The Church accepted these epistles as books inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- Remark: Paul commonly used the same greeting to begin all his epistles **"Peace and Grace"** It is believed that he used the help of someone to write for him [Rom 16:22](#) due to his weak eyesight. He signed the epistles in his handwriting (in large letters); he spoke of this greeting saying it is a **"distinguishing mark"** [2 Thess 3:17](#).



St Paul's Epistles

Where?
When?

#	Epistle	Place of Writing	Time of Writing	Remarks
1	1 Thessalonians	Corinth	A.D. 52-53	Second Missionary Trip (Paul)
2	2 Thessalonians	Corinth	A.D. 52-53	Second Missionary Trip (Paul)
3	1 Corinthians	Ephesus	A.D. 57	Third Missionary Trip (Paul)
4	2 Corinthians	Macedonia	A.D. 57	Third Missionary Trip (Paul)
5	Galatians	Corinth	A.D. 58	Third Missionary Trip (Paul)
6	Romans	Corinth	A.D. 58	Third Missionary Trip (Paul)
7	Ephesians	Rome	A.D. 61-63	First Captivity in Rome (Paul)
8	Philippians	Rome	A.D. 61-63	First Captivity in Rome (Paul)
9	Colossians	Rome	A.D. 61-63	First Captivity in Rome (Paul)
10	Philemon	Rome	A.D. 61-63	First Captivity in Rome (Paul)
11	Hebrews	Italy	A.D. 63/64	
12	1 Timothy	Macedonia	A.D. 63/64	
13	Titus	Ephesus	A.D. 63/64	
14	2 Timothy	Rome	A.D. 67/68	

St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

How was the Church in Rome originally founded?

None of the apostles had gone to Rome to preach the Gospel.

It is likely Rome church was founded by returning believers who listened to Peter's sermon on the Pentecost in Jerusalem [Acts 2:10](#). Also others who listened to Paul during his missionary trips in Antioch, Ephesus, and Corinth. It is known that during that time, there was freedom of movement with ease within the Roman Empire, to ease trading. Taking into consideration Ch16 of Romans where Paul is sending his greetings to many believers, even though he hadn't visited Rome yet.



How did Paul know about the Church of Rome?

Likely through Aquila & Priscilla whom he met in Corinth (They were from Rome but settled in Corinth after Claudius Caesar decreed all Jews to leave Rome 52AD).

As tent-makers St Paul stayed with them. That's why when he wrote to Romans he said "*Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them*". [Rom 16:3](#)

The Church of Rome can be associated to those two saints.

St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

When was it written? It is the sixth book in the NT written by St. Paul in 58 AD

How we know 58AD? Because he sent it at the end of his 3rd trip - returning to Jerusalem with donations to help

“Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there.

For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem”. [Rom 15:25](#)

Where was it written? sent from Corinth (The epistle ended with)

“Wrote to the people of Rome from Corinth by the hands of Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea”).

By whose hands was it delivered?

The epistle was sent with Phoebe, a deaconess of the church in Cenchrea from Corinth

“commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me”

[Rom 16:1](#)



St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Who were the Christians in Rome?

The Church of Rome was formed of two groups:

- a. Christians who were Jews, and
- b. Christians who were of the Gentiles

St. Paul was sometimes talking to the Jews mentioning Abraham & the inherited sin through Adam [Rom 5:12](#), and other times talking to the Gentiles about the disobedience of Israel and acceptance of Gentiles [Rom 11:30](#). The majority were of the Gentiles as the Jews were always opposing the new faith while Gentiles embraced it.



St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

What was the Purpose of writing the Epistle?

Paul sent this epistle to prepare for his visit. But more importantly, he decided to answer their questions. It is considered one of the most educational Epistles of St. Paul,

- It lays down all vital facts of Christianity showing the valuable character of St. Paul.
- St Paul presented the important doctrine that man is justified not through the works of the Law but through his faith and the Grace of God. Doctrine
- The Epistle also has a practical purpose as St Paul meant to support believers to be steadfast in faith.

Paul presented this epistle, as in most of his epistles, in two main parts

First Part: Theoretical or Doctrinal [Ch 1 to 11](#).

Second Part: Practical [Ch 12 to 16](#).

The epistle could be entitled “path of salvation”.

The 1st Epistle in the Gospel to explain the concept of Salvation.

All other epistles address this issue,

but Romans is the deepest & most detailed



St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

First Part: Theoretical or Doctrinal Romans 1 to 11

Many Christians in Rome (who were originally Jews) were saying that salvation could be attained through Moses Law. Also, to become Christian you must first become a Jew through Circumcision.

So the 1st part of the Epistle St Paul address this by clarifying that **there is NO Salvation except through: Faith in Christ, His Redemption and through the work that is the fruition of this faith in Him.**

Ch1 Gentiles: Addressing the gentiles; Paul says all gentiles could have known God through logic, conscience, & common sense - except they chose to follow their desires and stray away from knowing God.

Ch2 Jews: Jews don't think you are better than the gentiles, on the contrary - you had the law and the commandments, yet you did not abide by them and still followed your desires and lost your way.

Ch3 Savior: St Paul confirms that neither Jews nor Gentiles proven they can live in righteousness. He wrote his known verse: **"They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."** Rom 3:12 - and he ended saying

"Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. ...since there is One God who will justify **the circumcised by faith and the **uncircumcised through faith.**"** Rom 3:28..30

St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Ch.4 Abraham: Addressing the Jews he tells them: Do not think that Abraham is your father because of his circumcision, no he is called father to everyone who believes (Jew or gentile) because he was called righteous before he was circumcised - because of his faith not his circumcision.

Ch.5 Adam: Again, addressing Jews - telling them we inherited death through original sin by Adam - we are called sons of Adam, so we die as he did. The 2nd Adam = Christ, came so we can have eternal life.

Ch.6 Baptism: St Paul stress that salvation is only through faith so that we become children of Abraham, and therefore of Christ, then he elaborates that salvation is through both Faith And Baptism. Through Baptism we die -and then- live with Christ.

Ch.7 Spiritual strife: After Baptism we must live a life of righteousness through spiritual struggle.



St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Ch.8 The release of Spirit:

The Crown of the 100 chapters by St Paul:

Through Faith, Baptism & life of righteousness we are released by the spirit without a care for a single thing in this world

You will know most of the verses:

- And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God Rom 8:28
- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword - Rom 8:35
- Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Rom 8:37

Reminds us of what St Paul's said in his epistle to Philippians

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ" Phil 3:8



St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Ch.9 God's choice: St Paul warns Jews not to believe God chose only them, God accepts everyone who believes in Him and want to live in righteousness **Jews & Gentiles alike**.

Ch.10 Prophecies: To the Jews who argue Paul is making false claims by saying God chose the gentiles and anyone who believes IS son of Abraham – he proved to them through many OT prophecies that it was **God's plan** all along.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” Rom 10: 17



But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed:

“Their sound has gone out **to all the earth**, And their words to the **ends of the world.**” Vs 18 - **Ref Ps 19:4**

But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says:

“I will provoke you to jealousy by **those who are not a nation**, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.”

Vs 19 - **Ref Deut 32:21**

But Isaiah is very bold and says:

“I was found **by those who did not seek Me**; I was made manifest to **those who did not ask for Me.**” V20 - **Isaiah 65:1**

But to Israel he says:

“All day long I have stretched out My hands **to a disobedient and contrary people.**” Vs 21 - **Ref Isaiah 65:2**

St Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Ch11 **Revision of Ch1-10** and stating God's Plan:

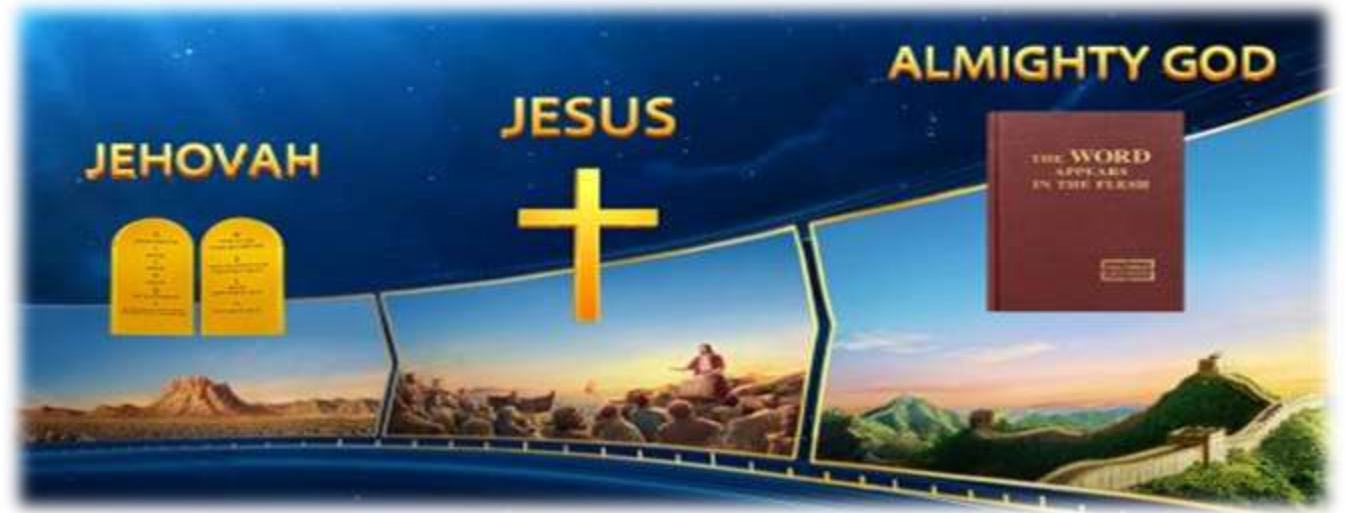
St Paul review all he said and displays God's plan to save the whole world Jews & Gentiles and ends with

“For who has known the mind of the LORD?

Or who has become His counselor?”

“Or who has first given to Him

And it shall be repaid to him?” Rom 11: 34-35



Ch12-15 **Christians' behaviour:**

Practical advice as how we should live as Christians.

Ch 16: The farewell chapter.

St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians

Circumstances?

Paul had no plans to go; but saw a man in a vision..Troas

Corinth (Capital of Achaia):

Big Greek city with 2 Sea ports "Kenchreai" 9 miles to the East and "Lechaion" 2 miles to the West.

As big Port it was frequented by people from all over the world.

Naturally very rich due to trade, had many parlours & entertainment venues, and unfortunately was famous for its life of sin, adultery, idols worship...etc.

St Paul was about to give up & leave the city , but Jesus Himself visited him and told him to remain in Corinth

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. Acts 18: 9-11

The 2nd longest period St Paul spent in one city, after Ephesus where he spent 3 years – many other cities he stayed only 2/3 months. St Paul visited Corinth later on more than once, some say 4 times + 2 Epistles.

St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians

Why did St Paul write 1 Corinthians?

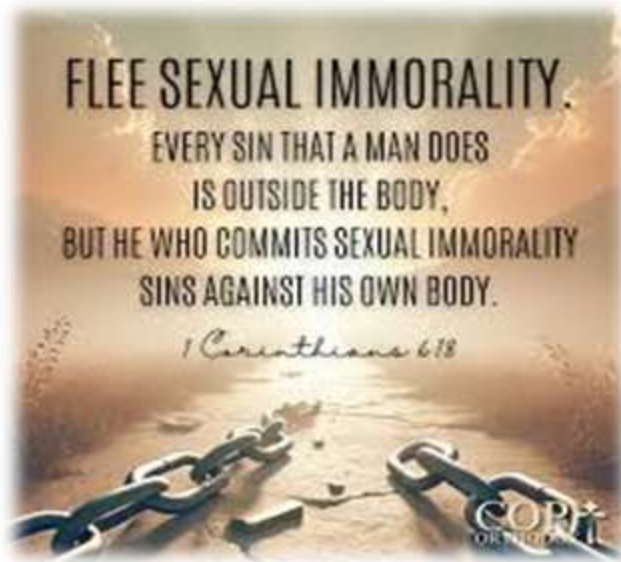
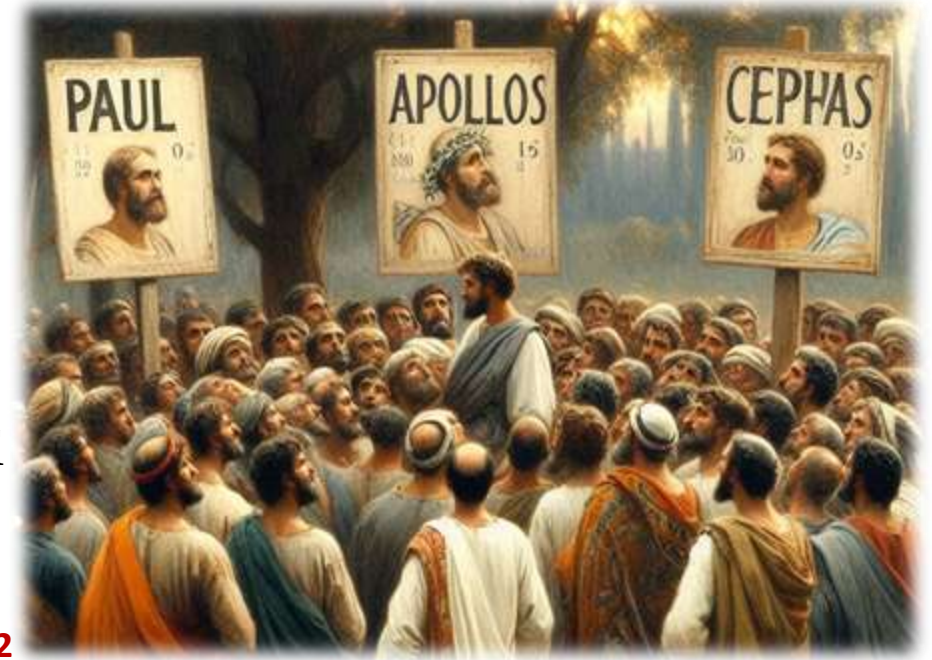
After his departure, many problems started in Corinth

We call 1st & 2nd Corinthians - The Problem-solving Epistles

1st - Sectarianism (1 Cor 1-4):

People in Corinth started taking sides, some with Paul some Apollos, some Safa (Peter's) and even some we are Christ's! This upset Paul and he wrote addressing them saying **Now I say this, that each of you says,**

"I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 1 Cor 12

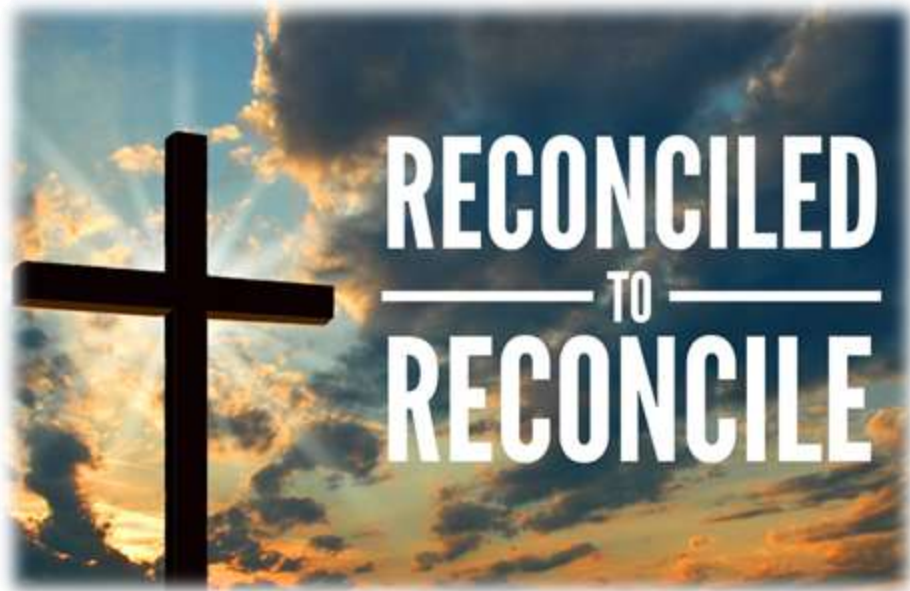


2nd - Immorality (1 Cor 5 & 6):

"A man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you..... But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater" -

St Paul's reacted so strongly **because** adultery was part of idols worship in Corinth - so he was concerned such sin would be looked at lightly by the Church in Corinth and so he **excommunicated the sinner** - this issue was later resolved in II Corinthians.

St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians



3rd - Suing the Brethren (1 Cor 6):

When St Paul learned Christians are suing each others before pagan judges, he was upset they were unable to reconcile to one another

Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints?... Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?

1 Cor 6

4th - Principles of Marriage (1 Cor 7):

Seems marriage **was not pure** for some due to the spread of Adultery in Corinth, Paul reminded them of the **sanctity of Marriage in the Church.**

- Monogamy NOT polygamy and that marriage is a holy Sacrament.
- Celibacy is good but not for everyone, and marriage is protection against sin.
- Addressed the situation where a believer is married to a non-believer to remain **in the hope** they bring them into faith for salvation.





St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians

5th - Meat of idols offering (1 Cor 8)

Therefore, concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.....However... **...if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble**

We have freedom but not if this will cause our brothers/sisters to stumble

In Ch 10

St Paul revisited this matter reminding them not to eat all things, but IF they are informed that it was made a sacrifice to idols - NOT to eat - For the sake of him who told you and others.

St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians

Why did St Paul write 1 Corinthians?

6th - Paul's Credibility (1 Cor 9):

After St Paul left, some attention seekers & false teachers started to cast doubt on his honesty, saying his not an Apostle, not honest person to receive donations for Jerusalem. This was an attack on the faith, because if his children believed these sayings, they would not believe his teachings. So Paul had to defend his Apostleship!

Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord..... Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat *of the things* of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of *the offerings* of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.....But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it *would be* better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void.

7th - Disrespecting Holy Communion (1 Cor 11):

Corinthians started to treat Holy communion with contempt! They would bring food & alcohol to the church, drink & eat then participate in communion, influenced by previous pagan practices. St Paul reprimanded them **whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.**

1 Cor11:27

St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians

Why did St Paul write 1 Corinthians?

8th - Women position in Church (1 Cor 11):

Pagan women were priestesses for the idols, some women who were baptized thought they can also participate in the Church service.

St Paul wrote harshly about the issue; many misconstrued his writing as being against women. However, St Paul had many women as disciples and entrusted like Deaconess Phoebe - he is the one who wrote **There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Gal 3:28

Women were prophetess & judges but were never priests.

St Mary - the greatest of all humans - was never a priest.
The Apostles (Fathers of fathers) would kiss her hand
and bow before her,
but they would still give her the absolution.



St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians

Why did St Paul write 1 Corinthians?

9th - Tongues (1 Cor 12-14):

After every country had faithful people who took upon themselves to preach the Gospel; speaking in tongues became of less use. But as it had a boasting side (Corinthians liked to show-off), some started speaking in inexplicable way proclaiming they speak in tongues. Paul, to control this Non-Christian attitude, told them:

- If no one can translate what they say – do not speak.
“**Therefore, let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret**” 1Cor 14:13
- Fewer words with understanding better than thousands without:
“**in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue**” 1 Cor 14:19
- Love is more important than tongues of men and angels:
“**Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal**” 1 Cor 13:13

Chapter 13 is the most beautiful chapter in the NT talking about Love - A Jewel in St Paul's epistles



St Paul's 1st Epistle to the Corinthians



Why did St Paul write 1 Corinthians?

10th - Denial of the Resurrection - (1 Cor 15):

Some of the Greek philosophers who joined the faith, also from the Jews started to proclaim that there is no such thing as Resurrection!! Some of them were from the Sadducees sect who always denied the resurrection.

Ch15 is the **longest** chapter of all Pauline epistles to address this deviation from the faith, confirming the true faith in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 1 Cor 15: 13-1

Ch 16: Charity & farewell

St Paul in this chapter also instruct them to make collection to those in need in Jerusalem

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

Why did St Paul write 2nd Corinthians?

After the strong reprimand by St Paul to the Corinthians in the 1st epistle for all the problems they had. He was probably concerned about the reaction. However, all issues were mostly resolved after his epistle.

Even the sinner of Corinth repented, so they sent him a message asking for his permission to accept him back in the Church. St Paul responded with his 2nd Epistle, expressing his joy & giving his blessing for his return.

Although all problems were mostly resolved, one remained, which was the main cause of all problems.

St Paul himself!

That group of false teachers, could not stand seeing Paul as the leader of the Church. They continued casting doubt about his Apostleship and credibility. Spreading lies such as Paul is a greedy man after fame & fortune, and that he is not a real Apostle.

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

Why did St Paul write 2nd Corinthians?

So, the 2nd Epistle to Corinthians was mainly one of defence.

We would say: But we know that the saints do not defend themselves!! Correct.

However, St Paul found himself in a difficult situation.

If he did not defend himself, those who believed because of his teaching would start doubting everything he taught them; and could lose their eternal life. Furthermore, not defending himself would give room to the false accusations to fester and spread and to those false teachers to lead the flock astray.

The Great thing is:

In defending himself St Paul had to give account of his service, suffering, missions & struggles –

So, this epistle is considered like a handbook for the servants.

God allowed for this to happen, so we can have in our hands a reference on how a servant ought to conduct him/herself.

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

2 Corinthians broken down according to its chapters

Ch 1 - Servant's pains:

St Pauls speaks of his pains but stresses that God send him His comfort - **Pain does not cancel Joy**

we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Cor 1:3

Ch 2 - Servant's - forgiveness & triumph:

Paul expressed his delight that the sinner of Corinth repented, gave his blessing for his return.

For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? 2 Cor 2:2

He then spoke of the triumph God grants His servants who tire in service

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. 2 Cor 2:14

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

2 Corinthians broken down according to its chapters

Ch 3 - Glory of the service of the NT servant:

St Pauls compares NT servant to OT - highlighting the glory of the New covenant Vs the OT were afraid yet of the NT has the heavens open

But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, which was passing away, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious??

If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness

2Cor 3:7-9

I refer you to St Luke

“For I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.” Luke 10:24

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

Ch 4 - The servant's treasure:

The servant's real treasure is in God's grace & His blessing of the service – Not his talent, charisma or attributes....

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Cor 4:7-9

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Cor 4:17

Ch 5 - The servant is an Ambassador of Christ:

As an ambassador receive his/her glory from whom they represent, we as ambassadors of Christ receive glory in serving Him – preaching

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 2 Cor 5:20

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

Ch 6 - Reference for the servants:

This chapter is a beautiful reference to those serving in church - All the principles a servant must follow in Ch 6

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things. 2 Cor 6:3-10

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God 2 Cor 6:14-16

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

Ch 7 - The sorrows of the servant = Godly sorrow:

St Paul in this chapter is telling the Corinthians this

I caused you sorrow by my 1st epistle, but your sorrow was a Godly sorrow

Meaning: My words hurt you but led you to spiritual zeal, which led to spiritual strife, which led to repentance.

So whilst at first, I regretted my message, now I do not regret but rejoice at how you received it

“For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while. Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death 2Cor 7:8-10

Reminds us of what the Lord said in beatitudes:

“Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted” Matt 5: 4

So the servant sorrow is not the same as that of the world, his/her sorrow is for repentance – sorrow about losing the children, sorrow about the evil in the world, he/she puts this sorrow in their prayers

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

Ch 8 & 9 - Charity & Mercy:

Service of mercy - St Paul calls it the service of the saints (he labelled the poor saints). Remember in the last chapter of 1 Cor he wrote about this saying:

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. 1 Cor 16



In 2 Cor Ch 8 & 9 St Paul expressed his joy that they felt burdened by this; and despite the challenges they gave generously.

St Paul put together the principles of serving those in need (Service of mercy) and spoke of the Cheerful giver:

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver 2 Cor 9:7

St Paul's 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians

Ch 10 & 11 - The Honesty of the servant:

The entire epistle is St Paul defending his Apostleship and credibility – whilst doing so, he revealed many of the attributes of the honest, faithful servant of the Lord. We learned so much about St Paul than we would have otherwise did.

In Ch10&11 in particular, St Paul was clear

in Ch 10: So even if I boast somewhat freely about the authority the Lord gave us for building you up rather than tearing you down, I will not be ashamed of it. I do not want to seem to be trying to frighten you with my letters. For some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.” Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present. We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you..... “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

In Ch11