

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How do gifts differ from one person to another?
2. Why do you think gifts differ rather than everyone have the same gifts?
3. How can the Spirit unify?
4. Where can Christians really find true fellowship?
5. What does Paul mean by “But covet earnestly the best gifts?”
6. How can Christians be ambitious and zealous?

SUMMARY:

God has given many wonderful gifts to man and has seen to it that no one person has all the gifts. Instead, He has given some gifts to each person, although differing in each individual. God has seen the need of each gift in His church and has so meted them out that all persons are used of Him in different ways. Through pride, man is so prone to think that his particular gift is better and of more importance than another’s gift. Paul reminds us that, “what we have, we have received, and if we have received it, why do we glory?” (1 Corinthians 4:7)

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

August 29, 2004

Third Quarter

COOPERATION

LESSON TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

LESSON SETTING: Written by Paul from Ephesus to the Christians in the churches at Corinth.

TIME: Approximately 59 A.D.

- I. UNIFIED MINISTRY.** 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 - A. Spirit Witness. Romans 8:16; 1 John 5:6
 - B. Spirit Teacher. John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13
- II. UNIFIED DIVERSITY.** 1 Corinthians 12:12-18
 - A. Unity in Christ. Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 10:17; Galatians 3:28
 - B. Fellowship in Christ. Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:7
- III. DIVERSIFIED UNITY.** 1 Corinthians 12:19-31
 - A. One Mind in Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27; 1 Peter 3:8
 - B. God Uses the Weak. 1 Corinthians 1:27-29
 - C. God’s Gifts Differ. Matthew 25:15; 1 Corinthians 4:7; Philippians 3:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:15
 - D. True Ambition. 1 Corinthians 9:24; 1 Corinthians 14:12

GOLDEN TEXT: *AS THE BODY IS ONE, AND HATH MANY MEMBERS, AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THAT ONE BODY, BEING MANY, ARE ONE BODY: SO ALSO IS CHRIST.*

1 Corinthians 12:12

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 2 Timothy 2:1-26

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 2 Corinthians 11:22-33; 12:1-10
Ephesians 6:10-24

QUARTERLY THEME: Marks of a Christian

TOPIC: FAITHFULNESS

INTRODUCTION:

“The Lord knoweth them that are His.” We are His through our faith in His shed blood. We are His by experiencing His power over sin. In other words, we are His by being faithful to Him; we obey His commandments; we live surrendered, sanctified lives. Our hearts are filled with love to Him and others. Paul says to Timothy “Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” How do we do this? How can we be faithful and do all that faithfulness requires?

In verse 7, Paul says “and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.” Paul is telling Timothy what he must do to be faithful and the only way he can do it is by the grace of God. He receives this grace, this understanding, only by believing that God will grant it to him. We must have the faith in God that He will do as He has promised. “He knoweth them that are His.”

CENTRAL TRUTH: God puts a high premium on faithfulness to His cause.

GOLDEN TEXT: WHEREOF TAKE UNTO YOU THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD, THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND.

Ephesians 6:13

In all of God's dealings with man, perhaps that which He desired most in those to whom He revealed His will, was faithfulness. We know how Adam failed and lost his fellowship with God. Then, after God established a nation (of the seed of the faithful Abraham) to Himself, only two of the original group that left Egypt were faithful enough to cross into the Promised Land. Later, all Israel failed and were scattered so that only a few were faithfully waiting and believing when the Messiah appeared.

Many of Christ's lessons and parables exhorted His followers to remain faithful. Also, the letters of the Apostles, especially those by Paul to Timothy warned against carelessness in our “battle of faith.” God, through Christ, provides armour for us, but we must accept and use it to His glory and our salvation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 30 – Sept. 5

- M. Faithfulness in Labor. 2 Corinthians 11:22-33
- T. Faithfulness in Suffering. 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- W. Faithfulness in Battle. Ephesians 6:10-18
- T. Faithfulness in Persecution. Ephesians 6:19-24
- F. *Faithfulness in Endurance. 2 Timothy 2:1-11
- S. *Faithfulness in Doctrine. 2 Timothy 2:12-19
- S. *Faithfulness in Service. 2 Timothy 2:20-26