

1 CORINTHIANS (continued)

INTRODUCTION: As we look forward to Chapters 12-14, Lk.10:41-42 has a message for us: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed"we are called to serve God and that is a must....however, it seems strange that we are called to also sit and listen....the reason is that nowhere in the Bible are we called to **serve Him at the expense of knowing Him**...Chris Tiegreen tells us that parents do not have children to help around the house and mow the lawn...we have children to know and enjoy them....the same is true of God....He first wants us at His feet....serving is necessary but first, He would enjoy a visit with us...

(11) WOMEN IN THE CHURCH; THE LORD'S SUPPER: The difference in Chapter 11 is that his remarks concern the behavior in the church...rather than personal behavior in Chapter 10...**This is not the problem of our society when we consider the feminist movement today**... this centers in the way that women are using their veils and the covering upon their heads....

First of all, Paul was prudent in telling them that they had remembered what he had told them (v.2)....this is a good way to begin...before you begin to list mistakes, it is wise to praise what remains....the order is that: **God is the head of the man, the man is the head of the woman and she should not usurp his place, but be in submission**....he further gives the woman the right to speak and pray in the church (v.5)...however, the veil was (2) things: it was a sign of **inferiority and protection**....**underlying the teaching is the remembrance for all of us that Corinth was a vile city in that world...and at times, we should err on the side of being too strict as being too lax**...

In our study we must remember that this was a local situation and not demanding on us today.....man does not cover his head but the woman does (her long hair is a covering)...the woman was created for the man (v.9 - a helpmate)....and the presence of angels in our assemblies (v.10) goes back to the incident in Gen.1-2 where angels were said to sin by being charmed by women...there is a rebuke for contentious people (v.16)...

1 CORINTHIANS (continued)

(11) continued: THE LORD'S SUPPER: (vs.17-34); We have been studying this letter with the knowledge that Paul is answering questions and we can only judge what the questions were by the answers given...he has moved with teaching about divisions, sexual sin, law courts, meat offered to idols and the head covering of women during worship...

THE REBUKE (v.17 a) This passage makes it clear that the Corinthians celebrated the Lord's Supper, in which the apostle had shared on many occasions...at that time, unlike today the Communion service was held at the close of a special fellowship meal called the Agape or Love Feast...according to that custom each person brought with them provisions according to their ability....obviously the rich could bring much, and the poor. little or nothing...but the emphasis was on **unity and provision for all**...then after that meal, it was their custom to observe in the simplest manner the **memorial which the Lord had instituted**...so there were really (2) meals....**BUT SOMETHING HAD GONE WRONG!**....Paul rebukes them harshly and has no praise for them...in fact, they had gone from better to worse...instead of fellowship and unity, there were divisions and further involvements of selfish indulgence and scandalous behavior....

THE DISORDER: (vs.17b to22): The word for "giving instruction" is a word used in the military to be passed along the line by his subordinates...the Corinthians, because of their spirit of faction, had introduced their divisions into this feast....instead of sharing their provisions, there were some guilty of gluttony and drunkenness...and no provision made for the poor...however, one word of encouragement was that those loyal to Jesus Christ were definitely recognized (v.19)...the word used was a picture of metals tried in a fire and proved to be true...

DISCUSSION: Are Christians today easily identified by their actions ?
Comment on the number of ways?

1 CORINTHIANS (continued)

(11) continued: THE DISORDER: In fact, the early church was the one place in all the ancient world where the barriers which divided the world are down...rich, poor, slaves, free-men, Greeks, Jews, Romans, etc. There should be no social or class distinctions in the Church...because we all are united in Christ....although we call it the Lord's Supper, the Greek word is "deipnon" which means the main meal of the day, more like dinner, where people can linger a longer time together....if the real purpose is to satisfy their hunger, they should have stayed at home (v.22)...he rebukes them for their lack of consideration for the poor and for their disgraceful behavior....they were desecrating the institution of the Lord's Supper....

THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: (vs.23-26): This is a beautiful passage of Scripture....it describes the night in which the Lord was betrayed....although He was celebrating the Passover Meal (deliverance from Egypt when the death-angel passed over the doors marked with blood), it **started a new institution which now would supersede the old....**

He began by taking the bread, giving thanks, and breaking it, saying "This is my body which is for you; do in **remembrance of me**"...likewise, He took the cup and said "this is the new covenant in My blood..do this, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of me**"...**the bread and wine are symbols of the Lord's body and blood and are a memorial....Communion is not only a witness to the unbelieving world, but a glorious reminder to the believer that He is coming again....and helps us to keep looking for the day when we will be with Him....**

Communion is a time when believers remember the work of Christ upon the cross, confess their sins, reflect on His holiness and glory and anticipate His return....

THE WARNING (vs. 27-34): Paul now issues a solemn warning that we do not come **unworthily** and be found guilty of dishonoring the Lord....

1 CORINTHIANS (continued)

THE WARNING: continued: The penalty is judgment...not the judgment of eternal damnation, but the chastisement of the believer...the types of chastisement are as follows: **some are weak, some are sickly, and some "sleep" which means that they have died...**it should be noted that your unworthiness does not keep you from the table if you come with true repentance for a desire of a new holiness....

THE CONCLUSION: Paul concludes by admonishing the Corinthians to discard their prejudices and indulgent behavior and remember that when they take Communion, it is a spiritual exercise and not an opportunity to satisfy their hunger and desires....**Communion is a time for preparation, examination, confession, worship, anticipation, and glorification of the one who has given HIS ALL FOR US!**

There are other matters which Paul says that he will deal with when he comes to them in person.....

DISCUSSION: What does communion mean to you? Has this lesson taught you something new? If so, what?

NEXT WEEK: Chapter 12

QUESTIONS:

- .What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
- .Are spiritual gifts the same as talents?
- .What is the wonder of their distribution?
- .How many gifts to we receive?
- .Can we select our own gift?
- .List the partial list that is given?
- .How can you identify your gift?
- .Do you know your spiritual gift or gifts?

POINTS TO PONDER: Success is never final; failure is never fatal but it is the courage to continue that counts (Winston Churchill)