

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (September 12, 2021)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

It's hard to imagine that 20 years ago, yesterday, I sat in stunned silence watching the terror attacks unfold in real time in New York City, in Washington D.C. and a third downed plane in Pennsylvania. I was at Ghormley with no TV in our home. I walked (ran) to Evergreen Hall and turned on the camp's only TV. If you are of a certain age you were likely viewing the same scenes, and tearfully wondering how evil and hatred had come so far and reached so close.

The fear of that morning has diminished but the memories and uncertainties linger. Ever since, when I wake up, I turn to some news source hoping that no catastrophic evil has crashed into our lives. And then I reflect on another event, 2000 years ago, that had a much more profound effect on my life, and on this world. It was 1 death, not 2,777. Although Sept 11, 2001 made me more apprehensive ... the death by crucifixion of Jesus Christ brought renewed meaning and confidence to each morning and day I live. Jesus Christ alone provides power and peace that is much greater than the hatred unleashed that one morning two decades ago. I'll go further ... Jesus Christ alone provides the strength we need in the face of all of the horrible acts of evil and injustice throughout history. Whatever today or tomorrow brings ... Jesus Christ and Him alone, will bring us through. As we enter a new Fall sermon series focused on lessons found in letters written to the first century Corinthian church, we'll find those lessons are for us too. Lesson 1: Christ Alone!

Lord, Teach Us to Pray (SERMON PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 11-17)

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What was the main concern Paul had for this church?
2. How many times does Paul refer to Jesus in these verses?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. Why did Paul begin by stating he was, "called by the will of God"? Do you believe you've been "called by the will of God"?
4. What does being "sanctified in Christ Jesus" mean?
5. What does it mean when some say they belong to Paul, others to Apollos, some to Cephas (Peter) and some to Jesus?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. Where does our faith in God come from? Read Hebrews 12:2.
7. Who makes us "guiltless in the day of our Lord"? And, how?
8. Have you ever observed divisions in a church? Have you ever taken sides in a church quarrel and felt divided from others?
9. What is the solution to "quarreling in the church"?
10. What can you do to bring people together rather than divide?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to supply your faith. Ask God to help you be a peacemaker not someone who quarrels. Pay for someone you know that you are currently divided from. God loves us, and He will help us.