

PAUL WRITES TO THE CORINTHIANS

New Testament Lesson #NT158

Corinth is a city in Greece. It existed even in New Testament times, and in those days, the Apostle Paul visited that city and started a church there. Some years later, after he had moved on, he wrote to the members of that church to help them live better as Christians.

Near the beginning of his first letter to the Corinthian Christians, Paul said he was thankful to God because as the people in Corinth came to know more about Jesus Christ, and to trust Jesus, they lived better lives. In fact, Paul told the people that the spiritual improvement in them was evidence that what Paul had told them about Jesus was true.

Paul also told the people that among them, they possessed all the talents (which he called "spiritual gifts") they needed to be a faithful church while they waited for Jesus Christ to come again.

In the meantime, Paul told them, Jesus would help them remain strong in their Christian lives and help them not to do wrong.

Paul summed up by saying that the invitation to trust Jesus came from God, who is always faithful.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Paul visited Corinth on his second missionary tour, about 51 A.D. He stayed there about a year and a half, living in the home of Priscilla and Aquilla. Paul made his living there by working as a tentmaker. At first he preached in the synagogue, but after much opposition from some of the Jews, he turned to preaching to the Gentiles. His time in Corinth is recorded in Acts 18.
- Although these verses read as a friendly and warm opening for this letter, some of what Paul had to say in subsequent chapters reveal that there was a lot of controversy and quarreling in the church at Corinth. So even in this friendly opening, Paul introduces some issues he will address later in the letter. For example, in verse 5, he praises their speaking and knowledge, but later, in chapter 13, he reminds them that even if he spoke "in the tongues of men and angels" and had "all knowledge," without love, it all meant nothing. Likewise in verse 7, Paul points out that they have among them all the "spiritual gifts," but in chapter 12, he chides the people for squabbling over which gift was the best.

Paul Writes to the Corinthian Christians

- I. Paul founded the church in Corinth, a city in Greece.
- II. Some years later, after Paul was working elsewhere, he wrote to the people of the Corinthian church. At the beginning of his letter, he said:
 - A. he was thankful to God because Jesus helped them live better lives.
 - B. their spiritual improvement was evidence that what Paul had told them about Jesus was true.
 - C. they possessed the talents ("gifts") to keep them faithful until Jesus came again.
 - D. Jesus would help them remain spiritually strong and not to do wrong.
- III. Paul summed up by saying that the invitation to trust Jesus came from God, who is always faithful.

ANSWER KEY:

faithful, blameless, strong, Son, wait, gift, enriched, confirmed, Christ, grace

Paul encouraged the people of Corinth to remain strong in their spiritual lives as they waited for Jesus Christ to come.

Our Christian life is like climbing a series of steps – each one built upon the one before. Starting on the bottom step, fill in the blanks, using the scrambled words from 1 Corinthians 1. The first letter is already filled in for you.

TUFFAILH We will realize that God is always F _____ (verse 9).

SAMESEBLL Christ will present us B _____ before God's judgement throne (verse 8).

NORTSG God will keep us S _____ to the end (verse 8).

OSN We enjoy fellowship with God's S _____ (verse 9).

TIWA We eagerly W _____ for Jesus' return (verse 7).

FITG God gives us every spiritual G _____ we need (verse 7).

HCENRIDE In Jesus Christ you have been E _____ in every way (verse 5).

MIRNOCDFE The gospel must be C _____ in our hearts (verse 6).

HITSCR We learn about C _____ through the testimony of others (verse 6).

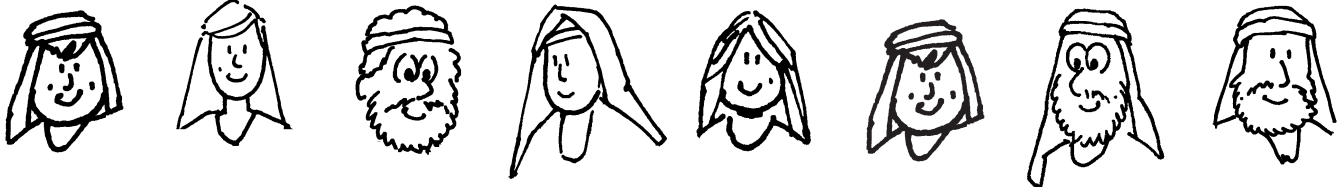
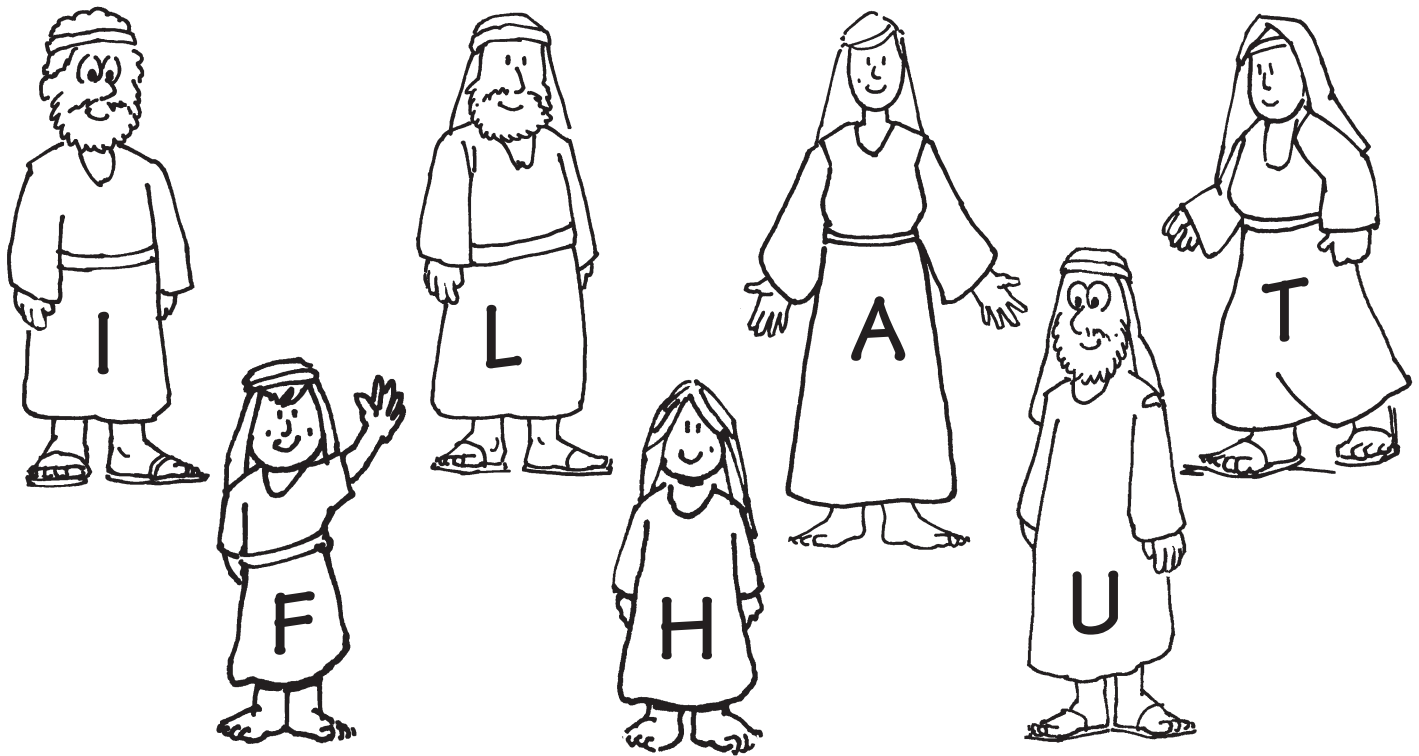
RECGA God shows us his G _____ through Christ Jesus (verse 4).

Name _____

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Paul encouraged the people of Corinth to remain strong in their spiritual lives as they waited for Jesus Christ to come. What did Paul call the people of Corinth?

Match the faces and write the letters on the lines below.



Name _____