

1 Corinthians

1 Greetings from Paul. I was called (*chosen*) to be an apostle* of Christ Jesus. I was called because that is what God wanted.

Greetings also from Sosthenes, our brother in Christ.

²To the church of God in Corinth, to those people that have been made holy* in Christ Jesus. You were called to be God's holy people. You were called with all the people everywhere that trust in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³Grace (*kindness*) and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul Gives Thanks to God

⁴I always thank my God for you because of the grace (*kindness*) that God has given you through Christ Jesus. ⁵In Jesus you have been blessed in every way. You have been blessed in all your speaking and all your knowledge. ⁶The truth about Christ has been proved in you. ⁷So you have every gift from God while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to come again. ⁸Jesus will keep you strong always until the end. He will keep you strong, so that there will be no wrong in you on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. ⁹God is faithful. He is the One who has called you to share life with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Problems in the Church at Corinth

¹⁰I beg you brothers and sisters in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I beg that all of you agree with each other, so that there will be no divisions among you. I beg that you be

apostle(s) The men Jesus chose to represent him in a special way.
holy A holy person is pure and belongs only to God.

completely joined together by having the same kind of thinking and the same purpose. ¹¹My brothers and sisters, some people from Chloe's family told me about you. I heard that there are arguments among you. ¹²This is what I mean: One of you says, "I follow Paul," and another person says, "I follow Apollos." Another person says, "I follow Cephas (*Peter*)," and another person says, "I follow Christ." ¹³Christ cannot be divided into different groups! Did Paul die on the cross for you? No! Were you baptized* in the name of Paul? No! ¹⁴I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius. ¹⁵I am thankful, because now no one can say that you people were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I also baptized the family of Stephanas. But I don't remember that I myself baptized any others.) ¹⁷Christ did not give me the work of baptizing people. Christ gave me the work of telling the Good News.* But Christ sent me to tell the Good News without using words of worldly wisdom. If I used worldly wisdom to tell the Good News, then the cross* of Christ would lose its power.

God's Power and Wisdom in Christ

¹⁸The teaching about the cross seems foolish to those people that are lost. But to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹Like the Scriptures* say,

baptized A Greek word meaning to be immersed, dipped, or buried briefly under water.

Good News, message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

cross Paul uses the cross as a picture of the gospel, the story of Christ's death to pay for people's sins. The cross (Christ's death) was God's way to save people.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise people.
I will confuse the understanding of
the intelligent people.”

Isaiah 29:14

²⁰Where is the wise person? Where is the educated person? Where is the philosopher* of this time? God has made the wisdom of the world foolish. ²¹This is what God with his wisdom wanted: The world did not know God through the world’s own wisdom. So God used the message* that sounds foolish to save the people that believe it. ²²The Jews ask for miracles* as proofs. The Greeks want wisdom. ²³But this is the message we tell everyone: Christ was killed on a cross. This message is a big problem to the Jews. And the non-Jews think it is foolish. ²⁴But Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God to those people that God has called (*chosen*)—Jews and Greeks (*non-Jews*). ²⁵Even the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom. Even the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Brothers and sisters, God called (*chose*) you. Think about that! And not many of you were wise in the way the world judges wisdom. Not many of you had great influence. Not many of you came from important families. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to give shame to the wise people. God chose the weak things of the world to give shame to the strong people. ²⁸And God chose what the world thinks is not important. He chose what the world hates and thinks is nothing. God chose these to destroy what the world thinks is important. ²⁹God did this so that no man can boast before him. ³⁰It is God that has made you part of Christ Jesus. Christ has become wisdom for us from God. Christ is the reason we are right with God and have freedom from sin; Christ is the reason we are holy.* ³¹So, like the Scriptures* say, “If a

person boasts, that person should boast only in the Lord.”*

The Message About Christ on the Cross

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when I came to you, I told you the truth of God. But I did not use fancy words or great wisdom. ²I decided that while I was with you I would forget about everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. ³When I came to you, I was weak and shook with fear. ⁴My teaching and my speaking were not with wise words that persuade people. But the proof of my teaching was the power that the Spirit* gives. ⁵I did this so that your faith would be in God’s power, not in the wisdom of a man.

God’s Wisdom

⁶We teach wisdom to people that are mature. But this wisdom we teach is not from this world. It is not the wisdom of the rulers of this world. Those rulers are losing their power. ⁷But we speak God’s secret wisdom. This wisdom has been hidden [from people]. God planned this wisdom for our glory. He planned it before the world began. ⁸None of the rulers of this world understood this wisdom. If they had understood it, then they would not have killed our glorious Lord on a cross. ⁹But like the Scriptures* say,

“No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no person has imagined
what God has prepared for those
people that love him.” *Isaiah 64:4*

¹⁰But God has shown us these things through the Spirit.*

The Spirit knows all things. The Spirit even knows the deep secrets of God. ¹¹It is like this: No person knows the thoughts that another person has. Only that person’s spirit that lives inside him knows those thoughts. It is the same with God. No one knows the thoughts of God. Only the Spirit of God knows those thoughts. ¹²We did not receive the spirit of the

philosopher A person who studies and talks about his own ideas and the ideas of other people.

Good News, message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

miracles Amazing works done by God’s power.

holy A holy person is pure and belongs only to God.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

“If a person ... Lord” Quote from Jer. 9:24.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

world. But we received the Spirit that is from God. We received this Spirit so that we can know the things that God has given us. ¹³When we speak these things, we don't use words taught to us by the wisdom that men have. We use words taught to us by the Spirit. We use spiritual words to explain spiritual things. ¹⁴A person that is not spiritual does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. That person thinks that those things are foolish. That person cannot understand the things of the Spirit, because those things can only be judged spiritually. ¹⁵But the spiritual person is able to make judgments about all things. Other people cannot judge that person. [The Scriptures* say,]

¹⁶ “Who knows the mind of the Lord?
Who can tell the Lord what to do?”

Isaiah 40:13

But we have the mind of Christ.

Following Men Is Wrong

3 Brothers and sisters, in the past I could not talk to you like I talk to spiritual people. I had to talk to you like worldly people—like babies in Christ. ²The teaching I gave you was like milk, not solid food. I did this because you were not ready for solid food. And even now you are not ready for solid food. ³You are still not spiritual people. You have jealousy and arguing among you. This shows that you are not spiritual. You are acting the same as people of the world. ⁴One of you says, “I follow Paul,” and another person says, “I follow Apollos.” When you say things like that, you are acting like [worldly] people.

⁵Is Apollos important? No! Is Paul important? No! We are only servants of God who helped you believe. Each one of us did the work God gave us to do. ⁶I planted the seed (*teaching*) and Apollos watered it. But God is the One who made the seed grow. ⁷So the person that plants is not important, and the person that waters is not important. Only God is important, because he is the One who makes things grow. ⁸The person that plants and the person that waters have the same purpose. And

each person will be rewarded for his own work. ⁹We are workers together for God. And you are like a farm that belongs to God.

And you are a house that belongs to God. ¹⁰Like an expert builder I built the foundation* of that house. I used the gift that God gave me to do this. Other people are building on that foundation. But each person should be careful how he builds. ¹¹The foundation has already been built. No person can build any other foundation. The foundation that has already been built is Jesus Christ. ¹²A person can build on that foundation, using gold, silver, jewels, wood, grass, or straw. ¹³But the work that each person does will be clearly seen, because the Day* will make it plain. That Day will appear with fire, and the fire will test every man's work. ¹⁴If the building that a person puts on the foundation still stands, then that person will get his reward. ¹⁵But if that person's building is burned up, then he will suffer loss. The person will be saved, but it will be like he escaped from a fire.

¹⁶You should know that you yourselves are God's temple (*house*). God's Spirit* lives in you. ¹⁷If any person destroys God's temple, then God will destroy that person. Why? Because God's temple is holy.* You yourselves are God's temple.

¹⁸Don't fool yourselves. If any person among you thinks that he is wise in this world, then he should become a fool. Then that person can become truly wise. ¹⁹Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. It is like the Scriptures* say, “He (*God*) catches the wise (*smart*) people when they use their sneaky ways.”* ²⁰The Scriptures also say, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise people. He knows that their thoughts are worth nothing.”* ²¹So you

foundation The bottom part or first part of a house that the rest of the house is built on.

Day The day Christ will come to judge all people.

God's Spirit The Holy Spirit. Also called the Spirit of Christ and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God's work among people in the world.

holy Something holy belongs only to God and should be used only for the things God wants.

“He ... ways” Quote from Job 5:13.

“The Lord ... nothing” Quote from Ps. 94:11.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

should not boast about men. All things are yours: ²²Paul, Apollos, and Cephas (*Peter*); the world, life, death, the present, and the future—all these things are yours. ²³And you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Apostles of Christ

4 This is what people should think about us: We are servants of Christ. We are the people that God has trusted with his secret truths. ²A person that is trusted with something must show that he is worthy of that trust. ³I don't care if I am judged by you. And I don't care if I am judged by any human court. I don't even judge myself. ⁴I don't know of any wrong that I have done. But that does not make me innocent (*without guilt*). The Lord is the One who judges me. ⁵So don't judge before the right time; wait until the Lord comes. He will shine light on the things that are hidden in darkness. He will make known the secret purposes of people's hearts. Then God will give every person the praise he should get.

⁶Brothers and sisters, I have used Apollos and myself as examples for you in these things. I did this so that you could learn from us the meaning of the words, "Follow only what the Scriptures* say." Then you will not be proud of one man and hate another. ⁷Who says that you are better than other people? Everything you have was given to you. So, if everything you have was given to you, then why do you boast like you got those things by your own power?

⁸_lYou think_j you have everything you need. _lYou think_j you are rich. _lYou think_j you have become kings without us. I wish you really were kings! Then we could be kings together with you. ⁹But it seems to me that God has given me and the other apostles* the last place. We are like men condemned to die _lwith all the people watching_j. We are like a show for the whole world to see—angels and people. ¹⁰We are fools for Christ. But _lyou think_j you are very wise in Christ. We are weak, but _lyou think_j you are strong. People give you honor, but they don't honor us. ¹¹Even now we still don't have _lenough_j to eat or drink, and we don't have

_lenough_j clothes. We often get beatings. We have no homes. ¹²We work hard with our own hands _lto feed ourselves_j. People curse us, but we speak a blessing for them. People persecute* us, and we accept it. ¹³People say bad things about us, but we say good things to them. At this time people still treat us like we are the world's garbage—the trash of the earth.

¹⁴I am not trying to make you feel ashamed. But I am writing these things to give you a warning like you were my own dear children. ¹⁵You may have 10,000 teachers in Christ, but you don't have many fathers. Through the Good News* I became your father in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶So I beg you to please be like me. ¹⁷That is why I am sending Timothy to you. He is my son in the Lord. I love Timothy, and he is faithful. He will help you remember the way I live in Christ Jesus. That way of life is what I teach in all the churches everywhere.

¹⁸Some of you have become boasters. You boast, thinking that I will not come to you again. ¹⁹But I will come to you very soon. I will come, if the Lord wants me to. Then I will see what these boasters can do, not what they can say. ²⁰I will want to see this because the kingdom of God is not talk but power. ²¹Which do you want:

that I come to you with punishment, or
that I come with love and gentleness?

A Moral Problem in the Church

5 People are really saying that there is sexual sin among you. And it is such a bad kind of sexual sin that it does not happen even among those people that don't know God. People say that a man there has his father's wife. ²And still you are proud of yourselves! You should have been filled with sadness. And the man that did that sin should be put out of your group. ³My body is not there with you, but I am with you in spirit. And I have already judged the man who did that sin. I judged him the same as I would if I were really there. ⁴Come together in the name of our Lord Jesus. I will be with you in spirit, and you will have the power of our Lord Jesus with you. ⁵Then

persecute(d) To hurt, bother, or do bad things to.

Good News, message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

apostle(s) The men Jesus chose to represent him in a special way.

give this man to Satan (*the Devil*), so that his sinful self* will be destroyed. Then his spirit can be saved on the day of the Lord.

⁶Your proud boasting is not good. You know the saying, “Just a little yeast* makes the whole batch of dough rise.” ⁷Take out all the old yeast (*sin*), so that you will be a new batch of dough. You really are Passover bread* without yeast. Yes, Christ, our Passover lamb,* has already been killed. ⁸So let us eat our Passover meal, but not with the bread that has the old yeast. That old yeast is the yeast of sin and wrongdoing. But let us eat the bread that has no yeast. This is the bread of goodness and truth.

⁹I wrote to you in my letter that you should not associate with people that sin sexually. ¹⁰But I did not mean that you should not associate with the sinful people of this world. Those people of the world sin sexually, or they are greedy and cheat each other, or they worship idols (*false gods*). To get away from those people you would have to leave this world. ¹¹I am writing to tell you that the person you must not associate with is this: any person that calls himself a brother in Christ but sins sexually, or is greedy, or worships idols, or talks bad to people, or gets drunk, or cheats people. Don’t even eat with a person like that.

^{12–13}It is not my business to judge those people that are not part of the church (*group of believers*). God will judge those people. But you must judge the people that are part of the church. The Scriptures* say, “Take the evil person out of your group.”*

Judging Problems Between Christians

6 When one of you has something against another person, why do you go to [the judges in the law courts]? Those people are not right with God. So why do you let those people decide who is right? You should be ashamed!

sinful self Or, “body.” Literally, “flesh.”

yeast Used here as a symbol of evil or bad influence.

Passover bread The special bread without yeast that the Jews ate at their Passover meal. Paul means that Christians are free from sin like the Passover bread was free from yeast.

Passover lamb Jesus was a sacrifice for his people, like a lamb killed for the Jewish Passover Feast.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

“Take ... group” Quote from Deut. 22:21, 24.

Why don’t you let God’s people decide who is right? ²Surely you know that God’s people will judge the world. So if you will judge the world, then surely you are able to judge small things [like this]. ³You know that in the future we will judge angels. So surely we can judge things in this life. ⁴So if you have those disagreements that must be judged, why do you take those things to people who are not part of the church? Those people mean nothing to the church. ⁵I say this to shame you. Surely there is some person in your group wise enough to judge a complaint between two brothers (*believers*)! ⁶But now one brother goes to court against another brother. You let men that are not believers judge their case!

⁷The lawsuits that you have against each other show that you are already defeated. It would be better for you to let someone do wrong against you! It would be better for you to let someone cheat you! ⁸But you yourselves do wrong and cheat! And you do this to other believers in Christ!

^{9–10}Surely you know that the people that do wrong will not get God’s kingdom. Don’t be fooled. These people will not get God’s kingdom: people that sin sexually, people that worship idols,* people that do the sin of adultery,* men that let other men use them for sex or that have sex with other men, people that steal, people that are greedy, people that get drunk, people that say bad things to other people, and people that cheat. ¹¹In the past, some of you were like that. But you were washed clean, you were made holy,* and you were made right with God in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Use Your Bodies for God’s Glory

¹²“All things are allowed for me.” But not all things are good. “All things are allowed for me.” But I will not let anything be my master. ¹³“Food is for the stomach, and the stomach for food.” Yes. And God will destroy them both. But the body is not for sexual sin. The body is

idol(s) False gods made from wood or stone and worshiped by the non-Jewish people.

adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

holy A holy person is pure and belongs only to God.

for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. ¹⁴And God will raise our bodies from death with the same power he used to raise the Lord Jesus. God will also raise us from death. ¹⁵Surely you know that your bodies are parts of Christ himself. So I must never take the parts of Christ and join those parts to a prostitute*! ¹⁶The Scriptures* say, “The two people will become one.”* So you should know that a person that [sexually] joins himself with a prostitute becomes one with her in body. ¹⁷But the person who joins himself with the Lord is one with the Lord in spirit.

¹⁸So run away from sexual sin. Every other sin that a person does is outside his body. But the person that sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹You should know that your body is a temple (*house*) for the Holy Spirit.* The Holy Spirit is in you. You have received the Holy Spirit from God. You don’t own yourselves. ²⁰You were bought [by God] at a price. So honor God with your bodies.

About Marriage

7 Now [I will discuss] the things you wrote to me about. It is good for a man not to marry. ²But sexual sin is a danger. So each man should have his own wife. And each woman should have her own husband. ³The husband should give his wife all that she should have as his wife. And the wife should give her husband all that he should have as her husband. ⁴The wife does not have power over her own body. Her husband has the power over her body. And the husband does not have power over his own body. His wife has the power over his body. ⁵Don’t refuse to give your bodies to each other. But you might both agree to stay away [from sex] for a time. You might do this so that you can give your time to prayer. Then come together again. This is so that Satan (*the Devil*) cannot tempt you in your weakness. ⁶I say this to give you permission [to be separated for a time]. It is not a command. ⁷I wish all people were like me. But each person has his own gift

from God. One person has one gift, another person has another gift.

⁸Now for the people who are not married and for the widows* I say this: It is good for them to stay single like me. ⁹But if they cannot control their bodies, then they should marry. It is better to marry than to burn [with sexual desire].

¹⁰Now I give this command for the married people. (The command is not from me; it is from the Lord.) A wife must not leave her husband. ¹¹But if a wife leaves her husband she must not marry again. Or she should go back together with her husband. Also the husband must not divorce his wife.

¹²For all the other people I say this (I am saying these things, not the Lord): A brother [in Christ] might have a wife who is not a believer. If she will live with him, then he must not divorce her. ¹³And a woman might have a husband who is not a believer. If he will live with her, then she must not divorce him. ¹⁴The husband who is not a believer is made holy through his [believing] wife. And the wife who is not a believer is made holy through her [believing] husband. If this were not true, then your children would not be clean. But now your children are holy.

¹⁵But if the person who is not a believer decides to leave, let that person leave. When this happens, the brother or sister [in Christ] is free. God called you to a life of peace. ¹⁶Wives, maybe you will save your husband; and husbands, maybe you will save your wife. You don’t know now what will happen later.

Live as God Called You

¹⁷But each person should continue to live the way the Lord God has given you to live—the way you were when God called you. This is a rule I make in all the churches. ¹⁸If a man was already circumcised* when he was called, then he should not change his circumcision. If a man was without circumcision when he was called, then he should not be circumcised. ¹⁹It is not important if a person is circumcised or

prostitute A woman paid by men for sexual sin.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

“The two ... one” Quote from Gen. 2:24.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

widows A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

circumcised, circumcision To have the foreskin cut off. This was done to every Jewish baby boy. It was a mark of the agreement God made with Abraham. Read Gen. 17:9–14.

not circumcised. The important thing is obeying God's commands. ²⁰Each person should stay the way he was when God called him. ²¹If you were a slave when God called you, don't let that bother you. But if you can be free, then become free. ²²The person who was a slave when the Lord called him is free in the Lord. That person belongs to the Lord. In the same way, the person who was free when he was called is now Christ's slave. ²³You people were bought at a price. So don't become slaves of men. ²⁴Brothers and sisters, in your new life with God each one of you should continue the way you were when you were called.

Questions About Getting Married

²⁵Now I write about people who are not married.* I have no command from the Lord about this. But I give my opinion. And I can be trusted, because the Lord has given me mercy. ²⁶This is a time of trouble. So I think that it is good for you to stay the way you are (*not married*). ²⁷If you have a wife, then don't try to become free from her. If you are not married, then don't try to find a wife. ²⁸But if you decide to marry, that is not a sin. And it is not a sin for a girl that has never married to get married. But those people who marry will have trouble in this life. I want you to be free from this trouble.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, this is what I mean: We don't have much time left. So starting now, people who have wives should use their time [to serve the Lord] like they don't have wives. ³⁰People who are sad should live like they are not sad. People who are happy should live like they are not happy. People who buy things should live like they own nothing. ³¹People who use the things of the world should live like those things are not important to them. You should live like this, because this world, the way it is now, will soon be gone.

³²I want you to be free from worry. A man who is not married is busy with the Lord's work. He is trying to please the Lord. ³³But a man who is married is busy with things of the world. He is trying to please his wife. ³⁴He must think about two things—[pleasing his wife and pleasing the Lord]. A woman who is not married or a girl

who has never married is busy with the Lord's work. She wants to give herself fully—body and soul—to the Lord. But a married woman is busy with things of the world. She is trying to please her husband. ³⁵I am saying these things to help you. I am not trying to limit you. But I want you to live in the right way. And I want you to give yourselves fully to the Lord without giving your time to other things.

³⁶A man might think that he is not doing the right thing with his virgin* [daughter] if she is almost past the best age to marry. So he might think that marriage is necessary. He should do what he wants. He should let them marry. It is no sin. ³⁷But another man might be more sure in his mind. There may be no need for marriage, so that he is free to do what he wants. If this man has decided in his own heart to keep his virgin [unmarried], then he is doing the right thing. ³⁸So the man who gives his virgin [daughter] in marriage does right. And the man who does not give his virgin [daughter] in marriage does better.*

³⁹A woman must stay with her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, the woman is free to marry any man she wants. But she must marry in the Lord. ⁴⁰The woman is happier if she does not marry again. This is my opinion, and I believe that I have God's Spirit.

About Food Offered to Idols

8 Now [I will write] about meat that is sacrificed* to idols.* We know that “we all have knowledge.” “Knowledge” puffs you up full of pride. But love makes [you help] others grow stronger. ²The person who thinks he

virgin A girl that is not married and has never had sexual relations.

Verses 36–38 Another possible translation is: “³⁶A man might think that he is not doing the right thing with his virgin (*the girl he is engaged to*). The girl might be almost past the best age to marry. So the man might feel that he should marry her. He should do what he wants. They should get married. It is no sin. ³⁷But another man might be more sure in his mind. There may be no need for marriage, so he is free to do what he wants. If this man has decided in his own heart to keep his virgin [unmarried], then he is doing the right thing. ³⁸So the man who marries his virgin does right. And the man who does not marry does better.”

sacrificed Killed and offered as a gift to show worship.

idol(s) False gods made from wood or stone and worshiped by the non-Jewish people.

people who are not married Literally, “virgins.”

knows something does not yet know anything like he should. ³But the person who loves God is known by God.

⁴So [this is what I say] about eating meat: We know that an idol* is really nothing in the world. And we know that there is only one God. ⁵It's really not important if there are things called gods, in heaven or on earth. (And there are many [things that people call] "gods" and "lords.") ⁶But for us there is only one God. He is our Father. All things came from him and we live for him. And there is only one Lord. He is Jesus Christ. All things were made through Jesus, and we also have life through him.

⁷But not all people know this. Some people have had the habit of worshiping idols* until now. So now when those people eat meat, they still feel like it belongs to an idol. They are not sure that it is right to eat this meat. So when they eat it, they feel guilty. ⁸But food will not make us closer to God. Refusing to eat does not make us less [pleasing to God]. And eating does not make us better.

⁹But be careful with your freedom. Your freedom to eat anything may make those people who have doubts about what they can eat fall into sin. ¹⁰You understand that it's alright to eat anything, so you can eat in an idol's temple.* But a person who has doubts might see you eating there, and this might encourage them to eat meat sacrificed* to idols too. But they really think it is wrong. ¹¹So this weak brother or sister is ruined because of your better understanding. And Christ died for this person. ¹²When you sin against your brothers and sisters in Christ like this and you hurt them by causing them to do things they feel are wrong, then you are also sinning against Christ. ¹³So if the food I eat makes another believer fall into sin, then I will never eat meat again. I will stop eating meat, so that I will not make my brother or sister sin.

9 I am a free man! I am an apostle*! I have seen Jesus our Lord! You people are [an example of] my work in the Lord. ²Other

people may not accept me as an apostle. But surely you accept me as an apostle. You people are proof that I am an apostle in the Lord.

³Some people want to judge me. So this is the answer I give them: ⁴We have the right to eat and drink, don't we? ⁵We have the right to bring a believing wife with us when we travel, don't we? The other apostles* and the Lord's brothers and Cephas all do this. ⁶And are Barnabas and I the only ones that must work to earn our living? ⁷No soldier ever serves in the army and pays his own salary. No person ever plants a garden of grapes without eating some of the grapes himself. No person takes care of a flock of sheep without drinking some of the milk himself.

⁸These things are not only what men think. God's law says the same things. ⁹Yes, it is written in the law of Moses: "When a work animal is being used to separate grain, don't cover its mouth [and stop it from eating the grain]."* When God said this, was he thinking only about work animals? No. ¹⁰He was really talking about us. Yes, that Scripture* was written for us. The person that plows and the person that separates the grain should hope (*expect*) to get some of the grain for their work. ¹¹We planted spiritual seed among you. So we should be able to harvest (*get*) from you some things for this life. Surely that is not asking too much. ¹²Other men have this right to get things from you. So surely we have this right too. But we don't use this right. No, we endure everything ourselves so that we will not stop [anyone from obeying] the Good News* of Christ. ¹³Surely you know that people that work at the temple* get their food from the temple. And people that serve at the altar* get part of what is offered at the altar. ¹⁴It is the same with people that have the work of telling the Good News. The Lord has commanded that those people that tell the Good News should get their living from this work.

¹⁵But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not trying to get anything from you.

idol(s) False gods made from wood or stone and worshiped by the non-Jewish people.

idol's temple Place for worship of a false god.

sacrificed Killed and offered as a gift to show worship.

apostle(s) The men Jesus chose to represent him in a special way.

"When ... eating the grain" Quote from Deut. 25:4.

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

Good News, message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

temple Special building in Jerusalem for Jewish worship.

altar A stone table at the temple used for offering sacrifices.

That is not my purpose for writing this. I would rather die than to have my reason for boasting taken away. ¹⁶My work of telling the Good News* is not my reason for boasting. Telling the Good News is my duty—something I must do. It will be bad for me if I don't tell people the Good News. ¹⁷If I do this work of telling the Good News because it is my own choice, then I deserve a reward. But I have no choice. I must tell the Good News. I am only doing the duty that was given to me. ¹⁸So what do I get for doing this work? This is my reward: that when I tell people the Good News I can offer it to them for free. This way, I don't use the right [to be paid] that I have in [this work of telling] the Good News.

¹⁹I am free. I belong to no other person. But I make myself a slave to all people. I do this to help save as many people as I can. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew. I did this to help save the Jews. I myself am not ruled by the law.* But to people that are ruled by the law I became like a person who is ruled by the law. I did this to help save those people that are ruled by the law. ²¹To those that are without the law I became like a person that is without the law. I did this to help save those people that are without the law. (But really, I am not without God's law—I am ruled by the law of Christ.) ²²To the people that are weak, I became weak so that I could help save them. I have become all things to all people. I did this so that I could save people in any way possible. ²³I do all these things because of the Good News.* I do these things so that I can share in [the blessings of] the Good News.

²⁴You know that in a race all the runners run. But only one runner gets the prize. So run like that. Run to win! ²⁵All people that compete in the games use strict training. They do this so that they can win a crown (*reward*). That crown is an earthly thing that lasts only a short time. But our crown (*reward*) will continue forever. ²⁶So I run like a person that has a goal. I fight like a boxer that is hitting something—not just the air. ²⁷It is my own body that I hit. I make it my slave. I do this so that I myself will not be

thrown out [by God] after I have told other people [about his blessings].

Warning from the History of God's People

10 Brothers and sisters, I want you to know what happened to our ancestors* [that followed Moses*]. They were all under the cloud, and they all walked through the sea. ²Those people were all baptized* into Moses in the cloud* and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food. ⁴And they all drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from that spiritual rock that was with them. That rock was Christ. ⁵But God was not pleased with most of those people. They were killed in the desert.

⁶And these things that happened are examples for us. These examples should stop us from wanting evil things like those people did. ⁷Don't worship idols* like some of those people did. Like the Scriptures* say, "The people sat down to eat and drink. The people stood up to dance."* ⁸We should not do sexual sins like some of those people did. In one day 23,000 of them died [because of their sin]. ⁹We should not test the Lord like some of those people did. They were killed by snakes [because they tested the Lord]. ¹⁰And don't complain like some of those people did. Those people were killed by the angel that destroys.

¹¹The things that happened to those people are examples. And those things were written to be warnings for us. We live in the time that all those past histories were pointing to. ¹²So the person that thinks he is standing strong should be careful that he doesn't fall. ¹³The only temptations that you have are the same temptations that all people have. But you can trust God. He will not let you be tempted more than you can bear. But when you are tempted,

ancestors Literally, "fathers," meaning a person's parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

Moses One of the most important leaders of the Jewish people during the time of the Old Testament.

baptized A Greek word meaning to be immersed, dipped, or buried briefly under water.

cloud The cloud that led the people of Israel out of Egypt and across the Red Sea. See Ex. 13:20–22 14:19,20.

idol(s) False gods made from wood or stone and worshipped by the non-Jewish people.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

"The people ... dance" Quote from Ex. 32:6.

Good News, message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

law Probably the Jewish law—the law of Moses.

God will also give you a way to escape that temptation. Then you will be able to endure it.

¹⁴So, my dear friends, stay away from worshipping idols.* ¹⁵I am speaking to you like you are intelligent people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶The cup of blessing* that we give thanks for is a sharing in the blood (*death*) of Christ, isn't it? And the bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ, isn't it? ¹⁷(There is one loaf of bread. And we are many people. But we all share from that one loaf. So we are really one body.)

¹⁸And think about what happens when the people of Israel (*the Jews*) offer sacrifices.* When they eat the meat that is sacrificed, they are sharing their meal with God at the altar,* aren't they? ¹⁹So, what about food that is sacrificed to idols*? Am I saying that sacrifices to idols are the same as those Jewish sacrifices? No, because an idol is nothing, and the things offered to idols are worth nothing. ²⁰But I am saying that when food is sacrificed to idols, it is an offering to demons,* not to God. And I don't want you to share anything with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and then go drink a cup with demons. You cannot share a meal at the Lord's table and then go share a meal with demons. ²²Doing that would make the Lord jealous*! And we don't want to do that, do we? No, because he is much stronger than we are.

Use Your Freedom for God's Glory

²³"All things are allowed." Yes. But not all things are good. "All things are allowed." Yes. But some things don't help others grow stronger. ²⁴No person should try to do the things that will help only himself. He should try to do what is good for other people.

²⁵Eat any meat that is sold in the meat market. Don't ask questions about the meat to

see if it is something you think is wrong to eat. ²⁶You can eat it, "because the earth and everything in it belong to the Lord."*

²⁷A person that is not a believer might invite you to eat with him. If you want to go, then eat anything that is put before you. Don't ask questions to see if it is something you think is wrong to eat. ²⁸But if a person tells you, "That food was offered to idols,*" then don't eat it. Why? Because some people think it is wrong, and it might cause a problem for the person who told you that. ²⁹I don't mean that you think it is wrong. But the other person might think it is wrong. [That is the only reason I would not eat the meat.] My own freedom should not be judged by what another person thinks. ³⁰I eat the meal with thankfulness. So I don't want to be criticized because of something I thank God for.

³¹So if you eat or if you drink or if you do anything, do it for the glory of God. ³²Never do anything that might make other people do wrong—Jews, Greeks (*non-Jews*), or God's church. ³³I do the same thing. I try to please everybody in every way. I am not trying to do what is good for me. I try to do what is good for the most people, so that they can be saved.

1 Follow my example, like I follow the example of Christ.

Being Under Authority

²I praise you because you remember me in all things. You follow closely the teachings that I gave you. ³But I want you to understand this: The head (*authority*) of every man is Christ. And the head of a woman is the man.* And the head of Christ is God. ⁴Every man that prophesies* or prays with his head covered brings shame to his head. ⁵But every woman that prays or prophesies should have her head covered. If her head is not covered, then she brings shame to her head. Then she is the same as a woman that has her head shaved. ⁶If a woman does not cover her head, then it is the same as cutting off all her hair. But it is shameful for a woman to cut off her hair or to

idol(s) False gods made from wood or stone and worshiped by the non-Jewish people.

cup of blessing The cup of wine that Christians thank God for and drink at the Lord's Supper.

sacrifice(s) Animals killed and offered as gifts to God.

altar A stone table at the temple used for offering sacrifices.

demon(s) Demons are evil spirits from the devil.

make the Lord jealous Read Deut. 32:16,17.

"because ... Lord" Quote from Ps. 24:1; 50:12; 89:11.

the man This could also mean "her husband."

prophesies Speaks or teaches things from God.

shave her head. So she should cover her head. ⁷But a man should not cover his head. Why? Because he is made like God and is God's glory. But woman is man's glory. ⁸Man did not come from woman. Woman came from man. ⁹And man was not made for woman. Woman was made for man. ¹⁰So that is why a woman should have her head covered with [something to show that she is under] authority. And also she should do this because of the angels.

¹¹But in the Lord the woman is important to the man, and the man is important to the woman. ¹²This is true because woman came from man, but also man is born from woman. Really, everything comes from God. ¹³Decide this for yourselves: Is it right for a woman to pray to God without something on her head? ¹⁴Even nature itself teaches you that wearing long hair is shameful for a man. ¹⁵But wearing long hair is a woman's honor. Long hair is given to the woman to cover her head. ¹⁶Some people may still want to argue [about this]. But we and the churches of God don't accept what those people are doing.

The Lord's Supper

¹⁷In the things I tell you now I don't praise you. Your meetings hurt you more than they help you. ¹⁸First, I hear that when you meet together as a church you are divided. And I believe some of this. ¹⁹(It is necessary for there to be differences among you. That is the way to make it clear which ones of you are really doing right.) ²⁰When you all come together, you are not really eating the Lord's Supper.* ²¹Why? Because when you eat, each person eats without waiting for the others. Some people don't get enough to eat [or drink], while other people [have so much that they] become drunk. ²²You can eat and drink in your own homes! It seems that you think God's church (*people*) is not important. You embarrass those people that are poor. What should I tell you? Should I praise you for doing this? I don't praise you.

²³The teaching that I gave you is the same teaching that I received from the Lord: On the night when Jesus was given to be killed, he took bread ²⁴and gave thanks for it. Then he divided the bread and said, "This is my body; it is for you. Eat this to remember me." ²⁵In the same way, after they ate, Jesus took the cup of wine. Jesus said, "This wine shows the new agreement [from God to his people]. This new agreement begins with my blood (*death*). When you drink this, do it to remember me." ²⁶Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you make known the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷So if a person eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in a way that is not worthy of it, then that person is sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸Every person should look into his own heart before he eats the bread and drinks the cup. ²⁹If a person eats [the bread] and drinks [the cup] without recognizing the body, then that person is judged guilty by eating and drinking. ³⁰That is why many in your group are sick and weak. And many have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves in the right way, then God would not judge us. ³²But when the Lord judges us, he punishes us to show us the right way. He does this so that we will not be condemned with [the other people in] the world.

³³So, my brothers and sisters, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. ³⁴If a person is [too] hungry to wait, then he should eat at home. Do this so that your meeting together will not bring God's judgment on you. I will tell you what to do about the other things when I come.

Gifts from the Holy Spirit

12 Now, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand about spiritual [gifts]. ²You remember the lives you lived before you were believers. You let yourselves be influenced and led away [to worship] idols*—things that have no life. ³So I tell you that no

Lord's Supper The special meal Jesus told his followers to eat to remember him. See Lk. 22:14–20.

idol(s) False gods made from wood or stone and worshiped by the non-Jewish people.

person that is speaking with the help of God's Spirit says, "Jesus be cursed." And no person can say, "Jesus is Lord," without the help of the Holy Spirit.*

⁴There are different kinds of [spiritual] gifts; but [they are all from] the same Spirit.*
⁵There are different ways to serve; but [all these ways are from] the same Lord. ⁶And there are different ways that God works in people; but [all these ways are from] the same God. God works in us all to do everything. ⁷Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person. The Spirit gives this to each person to help other people. ⁸The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak with wisdom. And the same Spirit gives another person the ability to speak with knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives faith to one person. And that one Spirit gives another person gifts of healing. ¹⁰The Spirit gives to another person the power to do miracles,* to another person the ability to prophesy,* to another person the ability to know the difference between good and evil spirits. The Spirit gives one person the ability to speak in different kinds of languages, and to another person the ability to interpret those languages. ¹¹One Spirit, the same Spirit, does all these things. The Spirit decides what to give each person.

The Body of Christ

¹²A person's body is only one thing, but it has many parts. Yes, there are many parts to a body, but all those parts make only one body. Christ is like that too: ¹³Some of us are Jews and some of us are Greeks (*non-Jews*); some of us are slaves and some of us are free. But we were all baptized* into one body through one Spirit.* And we were all given* the one Spirit.

¹⁴And a person's body has more than one part. It has many parts. ¹⁵The foot might say, "I

am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body." But saying this would not stop the foot from being a part of the body. ¹⁶The ear might say, "I am not an eye. So I don't belong to the body." But saying this would not make the ear stop being a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, then the body would not be able to hear. If the whole body were an ear, then the body would not be able to smell anything. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹If each part of the body were the same part, then there would be no body. But truly God put the parts in the body like he wanted them. He made a place for each one of them. ²⁰And so there are many parts, but only one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the foot, "I don't need you!" ²²No! Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are really very important. ²³And the parts of the body that we think are not worth very much are the parts that we give the most care to. And we give special care to the parts of the body that we don't want to show. ²⁴The more beautiful parts of our body don't need this special care. But God put the body together and gave more honor to the parts that need it. ²⁵God did this so that our body would not be divided. God wanted the different parts to care the same for each other. ²⁶If one part of the body suffers, then all the other parts suffer with it. Or if one part of our body is honored, then all the other parts share its honor too.

²⁷All of you together are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of that body. ²⁸And in the church God has given a place first to apostles,* second to prophets,* and third to teachers. Then God has given a place to those people that do miracles,* those people that have gifts of healing, those people that can help others, those people that are able to lead, and those people that can speak in different kinds of languages. ²⁹Not all people are apostles. Not all people are prophets. Not all people are teachers. Not all people do miracles. ³⁰Not all people have gifts of healing. Not all people speak in [different kinds of] languages. Not all people

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God's work among people in the world.

miracles Amazing works done by God's power.

prophesy(ing) To speak or teach things from God.

baptized A Greek word meaning to be immersed, dipped, or buried briefly under water.

given Literally, "given to drink."

apostle(s) The men Jesus chose to represent him in a special way.

prophet(s) People that speak for God.

interpret those languages. ³¹But you should truly want to have the greater gifts [of the Spirit*].

Let Love Be Your Guide

And now I will show you the best way of all. **13** I may speak in different languages of men or even angels. But if I don't have love, then I am only a noisy bell or a ringing cymbal. ²I may have the gift of prophecy*; I may understand all the secret things [of God] and know everything; and I may have faith so great that I can move mountains. But even with all these things, if I don't have love, then I am nothing. ³I may give everything I have to feed people. And I may even give my body [as an offering] to be burned. But I gain nothing by doing these things if I don't have love.

⁴Love is patient, and love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not boast, and it is not proud. ⁵Love is not rude, love is not selfish, and love does not become angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. ⁶Love is not happy with evil, but love is happy with the truth. ⁷Love patiently accepts all things. Love always trusts, always hopes, and always continues strong.

⁸Love never ends. There are [gifts of] prophecy,* but they will be ended. There are [gifts of] speaking in different kinds of] languages, but those gifts will end. There is [the gift of] knowledge, but it will be ended. ⁹These things will end, because this knowledge and these prophecies we have are not complete (*not perfect*). ¹⁰But when perfection comes, the things that are not complete will end. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child; I made plans like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. ¹²It is the same with us. Now we see like we are looking into a dark mirror. But at that time, in the future, we shall see clearly. Now I know only a part. But at that time I will know fully, like God has known me. ¹³So these three things continue: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.

Use Spiritual Gifts to Help the Church

14 Love is the thing you should try for. And you should truly want to have the spiritual gifts. And the gift you should want most is to be able to prophesy.* ²I will explain why: A person [that has the gift of] speaking in a [different] language is not speaking to people. He is speaking to God. No one understands that person—he is speaking secret things through the Spirit.* ³But a person that prophesies is speaking to people. He gives people strength, encouragement, and comfort. ⁴The person that speaks in a [different] language is helping only himself. But the person that prophesies is helping the whole church. ⁵I would like all of you [to have the gift of] speaking in [different] languages. But more, I want you to prophesy. The person that prophesies is greater than the person that can only speak in [different] languages. But the person speaking in [different] languages is the same as the person that prophesies if he can also interpret those languages. Then the church can be helped [by what he says].

⁶Brothers and sisters, will it help you if I come to you speaking in [different] languages? No! It will help you only if I bring you a new truth or some knowledge, or some prophecy,* or some teaching. ⁷It is the same as with non-living things that make sounds—like a flute or a harp. If the different musical notes are not made clear, then you can't understand what song is being played. Each note must be played clearly for you to be able to understand the tune. ⁸And [in a war], if the trumpet does not sound clearly, then the soldiers will not know it is time to prepare for fighting. ⁹It is the same with you. The words you speak with your tongue must be clear. If you don't speak clearly, then no person can understand what you are saying. You will be talking to the air! ¹⁰It is true that there are many different languages in the world. And they all have meaning. ¹¹So if I don't understand the meaning of what a person says to me, then I think that he talks strange, and he thinks that I talk strange. ¹²It is the same with you. You want

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God's work among people in the world.

prophecy Speaking or teaching things from God.

prophecy(ing) To speak or teach things from God.

prophecy A message from God.

spiritual gifts very much. So try most to have those things that help the church grow stronger.

¹³So the person that has the gift of speaking in a [different] language should pray that he can also interpret the things he says. ¹⁴If I pray in a [different] language, then my spirit is praying, but my mind does nothing. ¹⁵So what should I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. ¹⁶You might be praising God with your spirit. But a person there without understanding cannot say “Amen*” to your prayer of thanks. Why? Because he does not know what you are saying. ¹⁷You may be thanking God in a good way, but the other person is not helped.

¹⁸I thank God that my gift of speaking in [different kinds of] languages is greater than any of yours. ¹⁹But in the church meetings I would rather speak five words that I understand than thousands of words in a [different] language. I would rather speak with my understanding, so that I can teach other people.

²⁰Brothers and sisters, don’t think like children. In evil things be like babies. But in your thinking you should be like full-grown people. ²¹Like the Scriptures* say,

“Using people that speak different kinds of languages and using the lips of foreigners, I will speak to these people; but even then these people will not obey me.” *Isaiah 28:11-12*

That is what the Lord says.

²²So, [here, different] languages are a proof for people that don’t believe, not for people that believe. And prophecy* is for people that believe, not for people that don’t believe. ²³Suppose the whole church meets together and you all speak in [different] languages. If some people come in that are without understanding or don’t believe, then those people will say you are crazy. ²⁴But suppose

you are all prophesying* and a person comes in that does not believe or a person without understanding comes in. If you are all prophesying, then that person’s sin will be shown to him, and he will be judged by all the things you say. ²⁵The secret things in that person’s heart will be made known. So that person will bow down and worship God. He will say, “Truly, God is with you.”

Your Meetings Should Help the Church

²⁶So, brothers and sisters, what should you do? When you meet together, one person has a song, another person has a teaching, another person has a new truth from God, another person speaks in a [different] language, and another person interprets that language. The purpose of all these things should be to help [the church] grow strong. ²⁷When you meet together, if any person speaks to the group in a [different] language, then it should be only two or not more than three people that do this. And they should speak one after the other. And another person should interpret [what they say]. ²⁸But if there is no interpreter, then any person that speaks in a [different] language should be quiet in the church meeting. That person should speak only to himself and to God.

²⁹And only two or three prophets* should speak. The others should judge what they say. ³⁰And if a message from God comes to another person that is sitting, then the first speaker should be quiet. ³¹You can all prophesy* one after the other. In that way all the people can be taught and encouraged. ³²The spirits of prophets are under the control of the prophets themselves. ³³God is not a God of confusion but a God of peace.

³⁴Women should keep quiet in these church meetings. This is the same as in all the churches of God’s people. Women are not allowed to speak. They must be under authority, like the law [of Moses] says. ³⁵If there is something the women want to know, then they should ask their own husbands at home. It is shameful for a woman to speak in the church meeting. ³⁶Did God’s teaching

Amen To say “Amen” means to agree strongly.

Scriptures Literally, “law,” which sometimes means the Old Testament.

prophecy Speaking or teaching things from God.

prophesy(ing) To speak or teach things from God.

prophet(s) People that speak for God.

come from you? No! Or are you the only ones that have received that teaching? No!

³⁷If any person thinks that he is a prophet* or that he has a spiritual gift, then that person should understand that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command. ³⁸If that person does not know this, then he is not known [by God].

³⁹So my brothers and sisters, you should truly want to prophesy.* And don't stop people from [using the gift of] speaking in [different] languages. ⁴⁰But everything should be done in a way that is right and orderly.

The Good News About Christ

15 Now, brothers and sisters, I want you to remember the Good News* I told you about. You received this message, and you continue strong in it. ²You are saved by this message. But you must continue believing the things I told you. If you don't do that, then you believed for nothing.

³I gave you the message that I received. I told you the most important things: that Christ died for our sins, like the Scriptures* say; ⁴that Christ was buried and was raised to life on the third day, like the Scriptures say; ⁵and that Christ showed himself to Peter and then to the twelve [apostles* together]. ⁶After that, Christ showed himself to more than 500 of the brothers and sisters at the same time. Most of these people are still living today. But some have died. ⁷Then Christ showed himself to James and later to all the people he sent to do his work.* ⁸Last of all, Christ showed himself to me. [I was different,] like a baby that is born before the normal time. ⁹All the other apostles are greater than I am. This is because I persecuted* the church of God. That is why I am not even good enough to be called an apostle. ¹⁰But, because of God's grace (gift), that is what I am. And his grace that he gave me was not wasted. I worked harder than all

the other apostles. (But I was not really the one working. It was God's grace that was with me.) ¹¹So then [it is not important] if I [told you God's message] or if it was the other apostles [that told you]—we all tell people the same message, and this is what you believed.

We Will Be Raised from Death

¹²We tell everyone that Christ was raised from death. So why do some of you say that people will not be raised from death? ¹³If people will never be raised from death, then Christ has never been raised from death. ¹⁴And if Christ has never been raised, then the message we tell people is worth nothing. And your faith is worth nothing. ¹⁵And also we will be guilty of lying about God. Why? Because we have told people about God, saying that he raised Christ from death. And if people are not raised from death, then God never raised Christ from death. ¹⁶If dead people are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised from death, then your faith is for nothing; you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸And those people in Christ who have already died are lost. ¹⁹If our hope in Christ is only for this life [here on earth], then people should feel more sorry for us than for anyone else.

²⁰But Christ has truly been raised from death—the first one of all those [believers] who will be raised from death. ²¹Death happens to people because of what one man (*Adam*) did. But the rising from death also happens because of one man (*Christ*). ²²In Adam all of us die. In the same way, in Christ all of us will be made alive again. ²³But every man will be raised to life in the right order. Christ was first to be raised. Then when Christ comes again, the people who belong to Christ will be raised to life. ²⁴Then the end will come. Christ will destroy all rulers, authorities, and powers. Then Christ will give the kingdom to God the Father. ²⁵Christ must rule until God puts all enemies under Christ's control.* ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed will be death. ²⁷[Like the Scripture* says,] “God put all things under his control.”*

prophet(s) People that speak for God.

prophesy(ing) To speak or teach things from God.

Good News, message The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

apostle(s) The men Jesus chose to represent him in a special way.

people ... work Literally, “apostles.”

persecute(d) To hurt, bother, or do bad things to.

control Literally, “feet.”

Scripture Part of the Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

“God put ... control” Quote from Ps. 8:6.

When it says that “all things” are put under him (*Christ*), it is clear that this does not include God himself. God is the one putting everything under Christ’s control. ²⁸After everything has been put under Christ, then the Son (*Christ*) himself will be put under God. God is the One who put all things under Christ. Christ will be put under God, so that God will be the complete ruler over everything.

²⁹If people will never be raised from death, then what will people do who are baptized* for those who have died? If dead people are never raised, then why are people baptized for them?

³⁰And what about us? Why do we put ourselves in danger every hour? ³¹I die every day. That is true, brothers, the same as it is true that I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. ³²I fought wild animals in Ephesus. If I did that only for human reasons, to satisfy my own pride, then I have gained nothing. If people are not raised from death, “Let us eat and drink, because tomorrow we die.”*

³³Don’t be fooled: “Bad friends will ruin good habits.” ³⁴Come back to your right way of thinking and stop sinning. Some of you don’t know God. I say this to shame you.

What Kind of Body Will We Have?

³⁵But some person may ask, “How are dead people raised? What kind of body will they have?” ³⁶Those are stupid questions. When you plant something, it must die _{in the ground} before it can live and grow. ³⁷And when you plant something, the thing you plant does not have the same “body” that it will have later. The thing you plant is only a seed, maybe wheat or something else. ³⁸But God gives it a body that he has planned for it. And God gives each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹All things made of flesh (*bodies*) are not the same kind of flesh: People have one kind of flesh (*body*), animals have another kind, birds have another kind, and fish have another kind. ⁴⁰Also there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the beauty of the heavenly bodies is one kind. The beauty of the earthly bodies is

another kind. ⁴¹The sun has one kind of beauty, the moon has another kind of beauty, and the stars have another. And each star is different in its beauty.

⁴²It is the same with the dead people who are raised to life. The body that is “planted” will ruin and decay. But that body is raised to a life that cannot be destroyed. ⁴³When the body is “planted,” it is without honor. But it is raised in glory. When the body is “planted,” it is weak. But when it is raised, it has power. ⁴⁴The body that is “planted” is a physical body. When it is raised, it is a spiritual body.

There is a physical body. So there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Like the Scriptures* say, “The first man (Adam) became a living thing.”*⁴⁶But the last Adam (*Christ*) became a spirit that gives life. ⁴⁶The spiritual _{man} did not come first. It was the physical _{man} that came first; then came the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man came from the dust of the earth. The second man (*Christ*) came from heaven. ⁴⁸People belong to the earth. They are like that first man of earth. But those people who belong to heaven are like that man of heaven. ⁴⁹We were made like that man of earth. So we will also be made like that man of heaven.

⁵⁰I tell you this, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood (*a physical body*) cannot have a part in the kingdom of God. A thing that will ruin cannot have a part in something that never ruins. ⁵¹But listen, I tell you this secret: We will not all die, but we will all be changed. ⁵²It will only take the time of a second. We will be changed as quickly as an eye blinks. This will happen when the last trumpet blows. The trumpet will blow and those _{believers} who have died will be raised to live forever. And we _{also} will all be changed. ⁵³This _{body} that will ruin must clothe itself with something that will never ruin. And this _{body} that dies must clothe itself with something that will never die. ⁵⁴So this _{body} that ruins will clothe itself with that which never ruins. And this body that dies will clothe itself with that which never dies. When this happens, then the Scriptures* will be made true:

baptized A Greek word meaning to be immersed, dipped, or buried briefly under water.

“Let us ... die” Quote from Isa. 22:13; 56:12.

Scriptures Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

thing Literally, “soul.”

“The first man ... thing” Quote from Gen. 2:7.

“Death is swallowed (*defeated*) in victory.”
Isaiah 25:8

55 “Death, where is your victory?
 Grave, where is your power to hurt?”
Hosea 13:14

⁵⁶Death’s power to hurt is sin. And the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But we thank God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸So, my dear brothers and sisters, stand strong. Don’t let anything change you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord. You know that your work in the Lord is never wasted.

The Collection for Other Believers

16 Now I will write about the collection of money for God’s people. Do the same thing that I told the Galatian churches to do: ²On the first day of every week each one of you should save as much money as you can from what you are blessed with. You should put this money in a special place and keep it there. Then you will not have to gather your money after I come. ³When I come, I will send some men to take your gift to Jerusalem. These men will be the men that you all agree should go. I will send them with letters of introduction. ⁴If it seems good for me to go also, then those men will go with me.

Paul’s Plans

⁵I plan to go through Macedonia. So I will come to you after I go through Macedonia. ⁶Maybe I will stay with you for a time. I might even stay all winter. Then you can help me on my trip, wherever I go. ⁷I don’t want to come see you now, because I would have to leave to go to other places. I hope to stay a longer time with you if the Lord allows it. ⁸But I will stay at Ephesus until Pentecost.* ⁹I will stay here, because a good opportunity for a great and growing work has been given to

me now. And there are many people working against it.

¹⁰Timothy might come to you. Try to make him feel comfortable with you. He is working for the Lord the same as I am. ¹¹So none of you should refuse to accept Timothy. Help him on his trip in peace, so that he can come back to me. I am expecting him to come back with the brothers.

¹²Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly encouraged him to visit you with the other brothers. But he was sure that he did not want to go now. But when he has the opportunity, he will go to you.

Paul Ends His Letter

¹³Be careful. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage and be strong. ¹⁴Do everything in love.

¹⁵You know that Stephanas and his family were the first believers in Achaia. They have given themselves to the service of God’s people. I ask you, brothers and sisters, ¹⁶to follow the leading of people like these, and any other person that works and serves with them.

¹⁷I am happy that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have come. You are not here, but they have filled your place. ¹⁸They have given rest to my spirit and to yours. You should recognize the value of men like these.

¹⁹The churches in Asia* say hello to you. Aquila and Priscilla say hello to you in the Lord. Also the church that meets in their house says hello to you. ²⁰All the brothers and sisters here say hello to you. Give each other a holy kiss when you meet.

²¹I am Paul, and I am writing this greeting with my own hand.

²²If any person does not love the Lord, then let that person be separated from God—lost forever!

Come, O Lord!*

²³The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

²⁴My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

Pentecost Jewish festival celebrating the harvest of wheat. It was always 50 days after Passover.

Asia The western part of modern Turkey.

Come, O Lord This is a translation of the Aramaic “*marana tha.*”

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