

## BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #27

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS

07-02-23

Monday - 1 Corinthians 1-6

Wednesday - 1 Corinthians 12-16

Friday - 2 Corinthians 8-13

Tuesday - 1 Corinthians 7-11

Thursday - 2 Corinthians 1-7

**First Corinthians** is the first of two letters from the apostle Paul to the church at Corinth. Paul established the church there on his second missionary journey as described for us by Luke in the eighteenth chapter of the book of Acts. At that time Corinth was a large city with a population of about 500,000. It was the capital of the province of Achaia and a major center of trade and travel during the first century. Unfortunately it was also a center of idolatry and immorality as well. The pagan goddess Aphrodite, also known as Venus, had a large following there. The temple that was built in her honor housed 1,000 female priestesses whose service to their goddess amounted to nothing more than prostitution in the name of religion. When we consider how evil much of the culture of this ancient city was we can better appreciate the difficulties that the Christians there faced in their efforts to serve God faithfully.

**The author** is identified as the apostle Paul (1 Cor 1:1). He wrote this letter on his third journey from the city of Ephesus ( 1 Cor 16:8-9; Acts 19:20-22). The year would have been around A.D. 57.

**The purpose** of the book was basically three-fold:

- 1.) To respond to what Paul had heard from the house of Chloe
- 2.) To answer questions the church had asked in a letter to Paul
- 3.) To tell them about the collection for the Jerusalem church

**An outline** of First Corinthians:

- 1.) The preacher-church relationship 1-4
- 2.) Church problems 5-15
- 3.) The collection and closing remarks 16

**Second Corinthians** appears to have followed First Corinthians by just a few months. Where a lot of the first letter was stern and rebuking much of the second was joyous and thankful. Paul was elated over how well they had handled their mistakes and made certain corrections upon which he had insisted. As some problems were being corrected at least one new one had surfaced, so Paul addressed it, and those that were responsible. He warned them that he would be there shortly and would deal appropriately with those involved in sin.

**The author** is the apostle Paul (1 Cor 1:1) and Second Corinthians was written around A.D. 57-58 from somewhere in Macedonia (2 Cor 7:5-6).

**The purpose** Second Corinthians is also three-fold:

- 1.) To express Paul's joy for the obedience of the majority and to further encourage them
- 2.) To remind them of the collection for the Jerusalem Christians
- 3.) To defend his apostleship and rebuke his enemies

**An outline** for Second Corinthians:

- 1.) Paul's comments to his friends 1-7
- 2.) Concerning the collection 8-9
- 3.) Paul's comments to his enemies 10-13

**Questions** for First and Second Corinthians:

- 1.) What did Paul say the foundation was that had been laid in 1 Cor 3:11?
- 2.) In 1 Cor 6:19, what did Paul tell the Corinthian Christians their bodies were?
- 3.) Whom does Paul address in 1 Cor 7:8?
- 4.) What did Paul tell the Christians to do in 2 Cor 2:7, to the man that had earlier been rebuked for sin?
- 5.) In 2 Cor 5:20, Paul said that he was a what for Christ and what did he beg the Corinthians to do?

**Answers** to questions for Week # 26 – Job 22-42?

- 1.) Because of wickedness and iniquity.
- 2.) He does not pay attention.
- 3.) That he is righteous.
- 4.) The listened to him and showed him respect.
- 5.) The limited capabilities of man and the unlimited power and strength of God.