



“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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Lesson 1: An Auspicious (Favorable/Promising) Beginning

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Westminster Shorter Catechism’s first question is “What is the chief end of man?” or “What is man’s primary purpose?” The answer is “To glorify God and adore/enjoy Him forever.” Keep that truth in mind as you look at these passages today.

Read Philippians 1:6-11. What assurance does Paul give to the people in Philippi? Why does Paul have this special interest in these people? What do we see about the relationship between them? What is Paul’s desire for these believers, in light of the assurance he gives them and the relationship that they have? What is the source of all that Paul hopes for them?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Who has brought about our salvation? For what purpose? What are we unable to do, because of this?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. As Paul ends this letter, what comfort and blessing does he give to these people? Why would this comfort them? Why should it comfort us, as well?

Read Romans 5:1-5. What does our justification do to our relationship with God? Why is that, in itself, good news? What else have we been given through Him? Where is our hope? If that is where our hope is, what does that mean our hope is NOT in? What impact should that have on our outlook? How is our hope demonstrated in what we rejoice in? Why do we rejoice in that? Consider why that progression in verses 3-4 is one that brings encouragement to the believer. Why is our hope different than “hope” in general? Again, where does our assurance and encouragement lie?

As you spend time in prayer today, consider the promises that we see, not just here, but throughout Scripture, how we have been given all that we need in Christ, to accomplish the purposes He has set for us. Thank God for His provision, for His faithfulness and for His grace in providing all that we need for salvation. Ask Him to help you to see the joy and comfort throughout your day(s), despite your circumstances, in the hope that you have in Christ, hope that doesn’t put you to shame. Ask Him to help you remember, in those trials, who He is and ask Him to help you to remember that your chief end is to bring Him glory and to ENJOY Him forever.