



“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes

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Lesson 9: Seriously?! <Head Desk>

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Read Matthew 18:15-20. What situation is being looked at here? What is the first step? What should happen if the sinning person listens? What is the next step, if they refuse to listen? Why is this the next step? If they continue to refuse to repent, what is the third step? What happens after that?

What is Jesus talking about binding here? What, in context, are the two agreeing on here? What is the GOAL of this process? (Look back at the first step to see...) Notice that this passage is specifically about an individual’s sin against another person. This is about church discipline, how to handle sin among the body, in a manner that honors God and also calls the sinner to repentance and reconciliation.

Read 1 John 1:5-10. What is the message that John is proclaiming? What can we NOT do while we say we have fellowship with Him? If we walk in the light, what benefits do we have? How might we deceive ourselves? What beautiful promise do we see if we confess our sins? How does John drive this point home, in verse 10?

Read Galatians 5:7-9. What does Paul see having happened to the people in Galatia? Does Paul think this is a good thing? What warning does Paul give in verse 9? What does this mean?

Read Matthew 16:5-12. What information are we given about the disciples? What warning does Jesus give them? How do they misunderstand this? What does that tell us about their focus? What rebuke does Jesus give them? What does He remind them of? What did they finally understand that Jesus was talking about?

How does this go along with the passages in both Galatians and in 1 Corinthians? What concept do we see expanded upon throughout the New Testament?

Read Romans 6:1-4, 6:12-14. What rhetorical question does Paul ask here? What is the rhetorical answer? Can we still live in our sin?

Because we were buried with Him in baptism, how are we now able to walk? What conclusion does Paul make in verse 12? How does he describe sin here?

Knowing that we have been brought from death to life, how can we no longer present even the parts of our bodies? How should we live? What does sin no longer have? Why?

Knowing that, as we are still in these mortal bodies and we, therefore, will sin, read 1 John 3:8-10. John makes a very important point here. Is John talking about intermittent or sporadic sin here? What is he talking about?

What comparison is he drawing out? What does he say is evident? (Keep in mind, John is NOT advocating moral behavior. Only those who are truly God's can even demonstrate true righteousness, not just "moral behavior". These are evidences of a new creation, of a regenerated person. These evidences are NOT the means by which you are saved.)

As you spend time with God today, consider what it means to "offer yourself as an instrument of righteousness." What will your focus be? What things will be important to you? What would it look like to "offer yourselves as instruments of wickedness"?

Ask God to help you to consider your own life, and what the "practice" of your life demonstrates. Who are you living for? What are you living for? Is that evident from how you spend your time and what your attitude reflects? If not, what needs to happen in your life so that your actions line up with your profession?

Remember, 1 John 1:9, and confess your sin, knowing that HE is faithful and just to forgive you and purify you from all unrighteousness. He is faithful, ladies. Cling to Him.