Bible Study 10 September 15, 2021

1 Corinthians

Chapter 1:

Paul writes back to the church in Corinth, he reminds them of their unity in Christ and how Christ has changed the dynamic of their lives.

He tries to tell them that they must not quarrel as to who follows who. Only the cross of Jesus is important. There is no one among us wise, wealthy, or influential. God did not choose you because of any of those things. You were called precisely because you were lowly and foolish to shame the wisdom of this world.

I Paul have one mission: to preach the Gospel.

Chapter 2:

“Jesus and him crucified.” --- central to all of Paul’s thinking.

Paul seems to infer that the Christians are waiting for the return of Jesus. This is a continuing debate in the first and second centuries.

There is a strong reference in Chapter 2 to the Holy Spirit. It brings a different kind of wisdom that what the world offers.

Chapter 3:

Begins with acknowledging that the church is in its infancy. Paul tells

the Corinthians that they are not ready for the wisdom of God while they are quarreling among each other.

He talks about the disciple Apollo and not in a bad way. Paul talks of how he only laid the foundation, but it is Christ who brings the growth. He loves to use metaphors such as the ‘builder’ and building.

Again he talks of each person as a temple wherein the Holy Spirit dwells.

Chapter 4:

Paul warns against ‘judging’ one another, but waiting for the judgment of God. He promises to come among them once again and mentions Timothy. He again warns that he does not want to go angry to scold them but rather to come in love.

The Letter is vastly different from the Letter to the Romans which is deeply theological. The Letter to the Corinthians is very pastoral with a deep concern and love for the community in Corinth.

The letter gives insights into the church in one small place –

Corinth. In a way it shows us that even in the Early Church disagreements and quarrels persisted, just like today.

Read through Chapter 8.