

# EMBASSY COLLEGE



ανηρ ὃς εμπροσθεν μου γεγονεν, οἱ πρωτος  
μου η̄ν. **31**καγω ουκ η̄δειν αυτον, αλλ' ινα  
φανερωθη τῷ Ἰσραηλ δια τουτο η̄λθον εγω  
εν ῡδατι βαπτιζων. **32**Και εμαρτυρησεν  
Ἰωάννης λεγων ὅτι Τεθεαμαι το πνευμα.



## SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

### Book of First Corinthians 1

NT458

Dr. Ron Cottle

# The Book of First Corinthians I

*Dr. Ronald E. Cottle*



# COURSE SYLLABUS

## I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Paul's letters to the church at Corinth form the basis for a study of vital ethical and theological problems and questions in the first century Christian community. In this course, we will study the problems and questions in the first six chapters, in order to find the enduring spiritual principles which come down to us through their solutions. Chapter-by-chapter, we will examine such matters as Divisions in the Church, Judging, Moral Standards, and Sexual Morality. Special attention will be focused upon the theological foundation from which these issues are resolved.

## II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Understand and appreciate the early Christian Church in Corinth with its special spiritual endowments;
- B. Understand the pastoral role in the Church;
- C. Probe significant theological principles and issues raised by First Corinthians, Chapters 1-6;
- D. Apply this up-to-date New Testament book to his/her own Christian faith and experience.

## III. SUGGESTED TOOLS OF STUDY

- A. The Holy Bible: King James Version
- B. One other Bible version of the student's own choosing
- C. This Study Guide/Syllabus
- D. Textbook

Morris, Leon. *First Corinthians*. Tyndale; *New Testament Commentaries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

#### IV. SUGGESTED STUDY HABITS

- A. Read First Corinthians 1-6 prayerfully before the course begins.
- B. Re-read the assigned chapters each day as your devotional time.
- C. Do not miss a single class session.
- D. Master the study guide and use it as you read the Scripture assignments. Fix the outline and purpose of First Corinthians 1-6 in your mind and heart.
- E. Take many notes. NOTE: It will help you if you share notes and ideas with a study partner at the end of each class day.

#### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Read and study in as many of the books on the bibliography as you can.
- B. There will be a final examination over the entire course. It will be assigned at the final class.

#### VI. COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURE

- A. Attendance at all the lectures is required. If a lecture is missed for any (legitimate) reason the chancellor must be informed in advance and the student must listen to a recording of the lesson.
- B. Final examination

#### VII. COURSE CALENDAR

PERIOD	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
One A	Course Orientation	Read 1 Corinthians
One B	Introduction to 1 Corinthians	Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
One C	Divisions in the Church	Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-2:16
Two A	Divisions in the Church	same as above
Two B	Judging	Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4:21
Three A	Moral Standards	Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
Three B	Forbidden Lawsuits	Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-20

## FIRST CORINTHIANS – OUTLINE

I.	Background Information	
II.	Introduction of the Letter.....	1:1-9
III.	The Problems of Corinth.....	1:10-6:20
A.	Introduction: Three “Problems” Addressed	
B.	Problem 1: Divisions.....	1:10-4:21
	1. Statement of the Problem.....	1:10-12
	2. Arguments against Divisions.....	1:13-3:23
	3. General Conclusions .....	4:1-21
C.	Problem 2: Sexual Abuse.....	5:1-13
	1. The Case.....	5:1-5
	2. Purity of the Church.....	5:6-8
	3. Correction of a Misunderstanding.....	5:9-1
D.	Problem 3: Lawsuits.....	6:1-11
	1. Non-Christians Are Not To Judge Christians.....	6:1-32
	2. Paul Shames the Corinthians.....	6:4-8
	3. Conclusion.....	6:9-11
E.	General Conclusion .....	6:12-20
	“Limitations on Christian Liberty”	
	1. Introduction.....	6:12
	2. Slogan One.....	6:12
	3. Slogan Two.....	6:13-18
	4. Conclusion.....	6:19-20

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barclay, William. *The Letters to the Corinthians (DSB)*. Edinburgh: St. Andrews Press, 1954.

Barrett, C. K. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. New York: Harper, 1968.

Ellicott, C. J. *A Critical and Grammatical Commentary on St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians*. London: Longmans, 1887.

Fee, G. D. *First Corinthians. NICNT*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991

Godet, F. *Commentary on St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians*. 2 vols. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1889.

Grosheide, F. W. *Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1953.

Hering, Jean. *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*. London: Epworth, 1962.

Hodge, Charles. *An Exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians*. New York: Robert Carter, 1857.

Lenski, R. C. H. *Interpretation of St. Paul's First and Second Epistles to the Corinthians*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Press, 1938.

Moffatt, James. *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*. New York: Harper, 1938.

Morris, Leon. *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1958.

Parry, R. St. John. *The First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1916.

Robertson, A., and A. Plummer. *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians*. New York: Scribner's, 1911.

Simon, W. G. H. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. London: SCM Press, 1959.

# EXEGESIS AND INTERPRETATION

## I. INTRODUCTION: BACKGROUND

### A. THE CITY OF CORINTH

#### 1. Location

a. Situated for \_\_\_\_\_

- 50 miles west of Athens
- Fourth largest city in Roman Empire (Rome • Alexandria • Antioch)
- The leading commercial city of Greece.

b. Isthmus

- Strip of land between the two ports
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – Saronic Gulf
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – Corinthian Gulf
- 4 ½ miles across (neck) – \_\_\_\_\_



c. All North-South and East-West traffic had to pass through Corinth.

- All Greek travel
- All international travel

d. Diolkos

- Wooden tramway with rails for dragging small boats across
- “Place of dragging across”

e. Two sayings

- “Let him who sails around Malea \_\_\_\_\_ his home.”
- “Let him who sails around Malea first make his \_\_\_\_\_.”
- 202 miles of treacherous sea travel

2. Wickedness

a. Corinth was a byword for evil and \_\_\_\_\_ living.

- “Corinthianize” – “to live in drunkenness and immortality”

b. Temple of Aphrodite, goddess of \_\_\_\_\_

- Major source of evil

c. Acropolis

- “High place” – Strabo – \_\_\_\_\_ priestesses/sacred prostitutes

3. History

a. In two parts

b. Thucydides

- First triremes (three-tiered Greek battleships) were built there.

- Thus—very \_\_\_\_\_

c. 146 B.C. destroyed by \_\_\_\_\_ – Lucius Mummius, Roman general

d. 46 B.C.

- Re-built by Julius Caesar as a Roman Colony
- It soon became the \_\_\_\_\_ of Achaia which included nearly all of Greece.

4. People

a. \_\_\_\_\_ largest city in entire Roman Empire – approximately 600,000 people (Godet)

b. Roman \_\_\_\_\_

- They were settled there to colonize it by Julius Caesar.
- Soldier with 20 years of service
  - Roman Citizen
  - Grant of land

c. \_\_\_\_\_ – attracted by commerce

d. \_\_\_\_\_ – always followed commerce