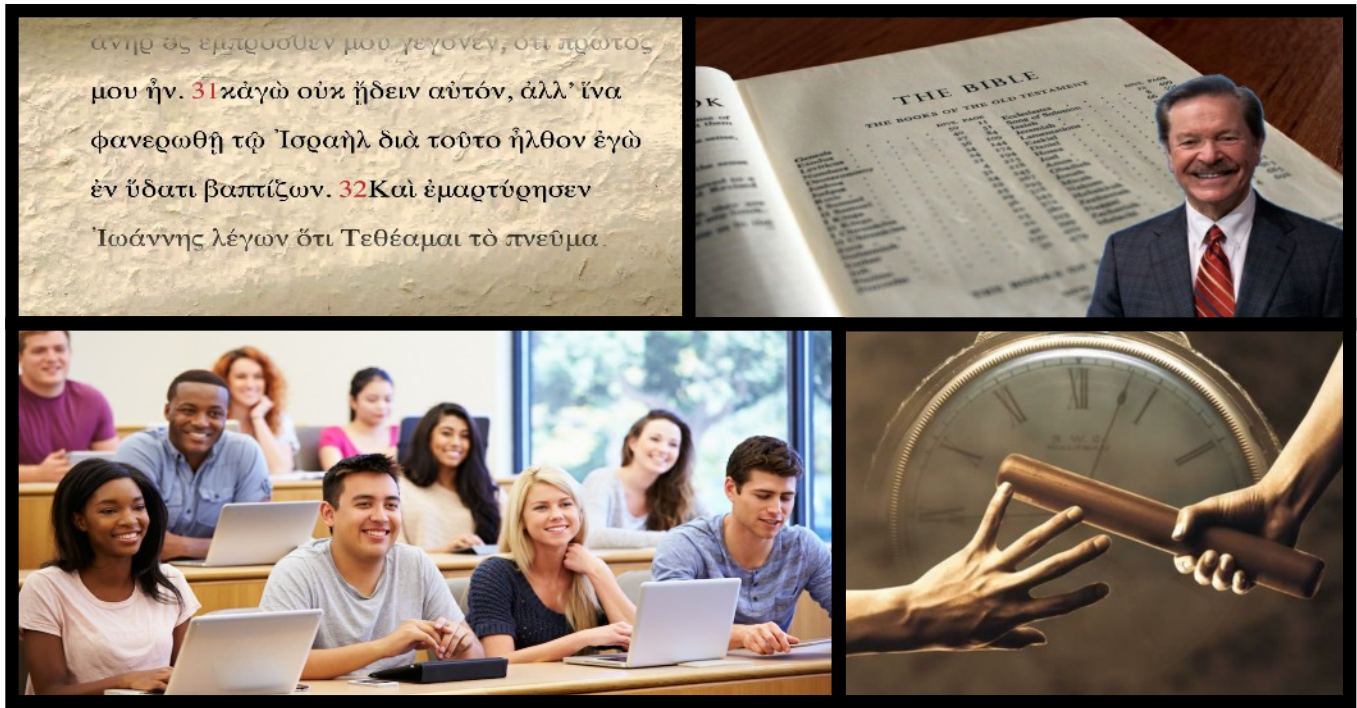


EMBASSY COLLEGE



SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

First Corinthians 2

NT459

Dr. Ron Cottle

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The second half of 1 Corinthians deals with direct questions asked of Paul in a letter from the members of the church at Corinth. These questions and answers touch: marriage; Christian freedom: eating meat offered to idols; fornication; spiritual gifts; the resurrection; the offering for needy saints in Jerusalem; and finally, Apollos. We shall explore Paul's wisdom in these passages.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to:

- A. Build significantly upon 1 Corinthians I, chapters 1-6;
- B. Show the practical nature of "doing theology" in the early church;
- C. Probe Paul's answers for principles relevant to today's Christian and the Church;
- D. Apply these principles to our daily lives.

III. SUGGESTED TOOLS OF STUDY

- A. The Holy Bible: King James Version
- B. One other Bible version of the student's choosing
- C. This study guide
- D. Textbooks (choose one):

Barclay, William. *The Letters to the Corinthians* (DSB. Westminster, 1956.

Barrett, C.K. *The First Epistle to the Corinthian*. Harper, 1968.

Fee, Gordon D. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (NICNT). Eerdmans, 1989.

Grosheide, F.W. *Commentary on the First Epistle to the Corinthians*. (NIC. Eerdmans, 1953.

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

IV. SUGGESTED STUDY HABITS

- A. Read 1 Corinthians 7-16 prayerfully several times *before* the course begins.
- B. Re-read the assigned chapters each day during the course.
- C. Do not miss a single class session.
- D. Master the syllabus and use it as you read the Scripture assignments. Impress firmly in your heart and mind the outline and purpose of these chapters.
- E. Take many notes. NOTE: It will help if you share notes and ideas with a study partner at the end of each class.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

VI. COURSE EVALUATION

- A. Attendance and participation in all classes
- B. Final Examination

VII. COURSE CALENDAR PERIOD TOPIC

PERIOD	TOPIC	READ	
One	Course Orientation	1 Corinthians 7-16	Text 59-169
Two	Partnership in Marriage	1 Corinthians 7	Text 59-71
Three	Partnership in Marriage	1 Corinthians 7	Text 59-71
Four	Eating Meat offered to Idols	1 Corinthians 8-9	Text 71-86
Five	The Danger of Overconfidence	1 Corinthians 10	Text 87-96
Six	The Lord's Supper	1 Corinthians 11	Text 97-105
Seven	Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12-14	Text 106-137
Eight	Resurrection	1 Corinthians 15	Text 137-161
Nine	Practical Plans	1 Corinthians 16	Text 161-169
Ten	Final Exam Overview		

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

A. PARTNERSHIP IN MARRIAGE	7:1-40
1. Introduction: General Principles	7:1-7
2. Advice to Special Groups	7:8-17
3. Status Quo Philosophy	7:18-24
4. Virgins	7:25-35
5. Ascetic Couples	7:36-38
6. Widows	7:39-40
 B. CHRISTIAN FREEDOM	 8:1-11:1
1. Introduction: Food Offered to Idols	8:1-6
2. Advice to the Wise	8:7-13
3. Paul Renounces His Rights	9:1-23
4. The Danger of Overconfidence	9:24-10:18
5. The Limits of Christian Freedom	10:23-11:1
 C. PRACTICAL ADVICE ON WORSHIP	 11:2-14:40
1. Order	11:2-16
2. Agape Feast	11:10-22
3. Lord's Supper	11:23-34
4. Spiritual Gifts	12:1-31
5. Agape: The Way of Love	13:1-13
6. Practical Advice on Gifts on Worship	14:1-40
 D. RESURRECTION	 15:1-58
1. Introduction	15:1-11
2. The Risen Christ	15:12-34
3. Our Resurrection: The Resurrection Body	15:35-49
4. Victory over Death	15:50-58
 E. PRACTICAL PLANS AND GREETINGS	 16:1-21
1. Offering for the Saints	16:1-4
2. Travel Plans	16:5-12
3. Concluding Greetings	16:13-24

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barclay, William. *The Letters to the Corinthians* (DSB. Edinburgh: St. Andrews, 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, Gordon. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. 1987. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- 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, 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 UP, 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, 1959.

EXEGESIS AND INTERPRETATION

I. PARTNERSHIP IN MARRIAGE (7:1-40)

A. INTRODUCTION

- The Corinthians had written to Paul with a series of questions about the Christian life.

1. *Peri de*

- Paul answers these questions using the introductory phrase: “Now concerning” for each.
- The questions are:
 - Marriage (7:1-40)
 - Food offered to idols (8:1-11)
 - Spiritual gifts (12:1-14)
 - Resurrection (15:1-58)
 - Contribution for the Saints in Judea (16:1-11)
 - Apollos (16:12)

2. Asceticism

- Other topics not introduced by *Peri de* might have been included.
- However, if so we have no evidence of it.
- Up to now Paul has dealt with libertinism; he now deals with its twin opposite, asceticism.

B. GENERAL PRINCIPLES (vv. 1-7):

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

1. Main Thesis (vv. 1-2)

a. It is good.

- Kalon – ok, excellent, not base, vile or ugly
- Genesis 2:18 – “It is not good that a man should be alone.”

b. To touch

- *Hapto* – to ignite, set on fire, take hold of
- See Genesis 20:6; Proverbs 6:29
- Did Paul exalt celibacy above marriage? NO
- See 1 Timothy 4:3
- Here “forbidding to marry” is a “doctrine of demons.”
- Some in Corinth might have viewed celibacy as a mark of spiritual superiority (C. K. Barrett).

c. Have his own wife

- *Exeto* – “have sexually”
- His...wife...her own husband
- This is a call for monogamous sex within marriage.

d. On account of fornication

- Some say that while Paul views celibacy as superior, he ok’s marriage as better than fornication—illicit sex.