



# The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

## **Bible Course** **Acts to Revelation** **Lesson 18**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Read 1 Corinthians 2*

In Chapter 2 Paul reminds the Corinthians of the core of his message: man's works and "wisdom" do not compare with God's wisdom. Absolute perfection is required, but our best works are imperfect and defiled with sin. Even among Corinthian believers and believers today, God's perfect wisdom is needed and supplied by the Holy Spirit. Those who reject the message of God and in whom the Holy Spirit does not work, cannot know or understand these things.

1. Paul was a brilliant scholar and could have overwhelmed his readers with arguments. Instead he gives a simple message, letting the Holy Spirit work so readers would look to Christ, not to Paul. Paul notes that he was not a good speaker. Describe what he says about himself. (1 Cor 2: 1-4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Paul determined not to know anything except \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. In every sermon, Paul would direct all things back to His perfect work and sacrifice (2:2).
3. Christ was the apostle Paul's heaven - for me to live is Christ (heaven on earth) and to die is gain (heaven eternally) (Philippians 1:21). What does Paul say here about heaven – what will it be like? (1 Cor 2: 9) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Note what Paul is saying that heaven is not of the senses, heaven is not of the imagination or intellect. Here Paul quotes the prophet \_\_\_\_\_, who saw the captivity of the children of Israel coming. Today also, there are storms, troubles, and persecutions. Heaven where peace and love prevail is an inconceivable thing, yet Paul does not end here. He continues, "But God hath \_\_\_\_\_ them unto us by his \_\_\_\_\_." Paul's focus is

on the unbelieving world – they cannot conceive of anything in the spiritual realm because the spirit which “searcheth ... the \_\_\_\_\_ things of God” (v.10) does not dwell in them.

5. Man’s wisdom and teaching here are set aside as folly. Paul then explains how a believer, by the Holy Spirit is to look at things. He must compare \_\_\_\_\_ things with \_\_\_\_\_. This is what good commentaries seek to do. They use other scriptures to help explain the scripture at hand. The problem of understanding spiritual things lies in fallen man (not God) because he counts them as \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 2: 14) “neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.

### *Read 1 Corinthians 3*

**In chapter 3**, Paul finishes explaining the Christian message and then corrects a wrong conception of Christian ministry and ministers. Paul returns to what he started in Chapter 1 and rebukes them for all the divisions. He reminds them that all of God’s ministers are fellow-laborers.

6. Paul uses an example that all humans understand. When a baby is young, you feed the baby \_\_\_\_\_ not meat (3:2). So Paul says he did among them. He was careful among them, but they are not babies any more. They need more than milk, they need more substantive food.
7. So Paul starts this chapter by warning them that “ye are yet \_\_\_\_\_: for whereas there is among you envying, and \_\_\_\_\_ and divisions” among them (3:3).
8. Paul now leaves the analogy of a baby and turns to the analogy of a tree or plant. Through the preaching the seed of the word is \_\_\_\_\_. It may be \_\_\_\_\_ by a different minister, but only \_\_\_\_\_ can make it grow (give the increase) (1Cor. 3:7). Paul strikes an interesting balance in how he states that the planter and waterer are one in that they are nothing (in themselves) , and yet “we are \_\_\_\_\_ together with God. God does not need man. Man is nothing, and yet God uses men (ministers).
9. Paul uses a third type of analogy - that of a building. Before we start building, we need a \_\_\_\_\_ underneath it which metaphorically is compared to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 3:10,11). This is the most important part of the building. If this base is weak or non-existent, the building may teeter (like the leaning tower of Pisa) or worse yet, fall over. But Paul doesn't talk about the building this way. He says that the building (the life and soul of a man) will be tried by \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13). Will your building be able to withstand? Today we speak of "fire-proofing" a building, by special materials. Paul notes that we can build good things on this foundation like: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. These flow from the work of Christ and make the building (person) beautiful. Or we can build with poor things (things that burn easily) like: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ but whatever is not the work of Christ in the day of days will burn away.

10. Paul had to deal with many pagan customs, many of them sexual in nature. If the \_\_\_\_\_ dwells in believers (which is certainly does) then their bodies house the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16,17). Therefore, Paul calls the body of a believer a \_\_\_\_\_ of God. There are many ways to \_\_\_\_\_ this temple, but Paul warns that whosoever does this "him will God \_\_\_\_\_." Note: Ongoing sin and lack of repentance would show as the Epistle of James teaches, that he/she was not a true believer, but had a dead faith. Try to list some sins that defile the temple of God. Use Paul's list in 1 Cor. 6:9,10 \_\_\_\_\_. What types of things could we add from today's world? \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Paul now comes back to earthly wisdom which he described earlier in chapter 1 and 2 and says to us, "If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a \_\_\_\_\_ that he may be \_\_\_\_\_ (3:18). In fact, God takes the wise in their own \_\_\_\_\_. Man's wisdom is worth nothing; it is not worthy of any honor. Paul will give no glory to man (even if they are Christ's ministers) but only to God alone.

#### *Read I Corinthians 4*

**Chapter 4** – Paul had spoken earlier how he labored with others in God's service. Paul is concerned about his (or any minister's) reputation, because it is the first step toward usefulness in the church.

12. Ministers are called the \_\_\_\_\_ of the mysteries of God. It is important that ministers are found \_\_\_\_\_ or trustworthy.
13. The servants of God are often persecuted. The apostles were appointed to \_\_\_\_\_ and made a \_\_\_\_\_ to the world (1 Cor. 4:9).
14. Paul also was reviled, defamed and made as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world, and “the **offscouring**” of all things (4:9-13).
15. **Offscouring** means: someone rejected by society, outcast, refuse (garbage)
16. Paul wrote this book after he had left Corinth, where he had been for 18 months. He hopes to come again to see them if the Lord allows him. At the end of the chapter he reminds them that the kingdom of God is not in \_\_\_\_\_ but in \_\_\_\_\_.

**Evaluator:** \_\_\_\_\_

Meditation: “*The Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*” *I Corinthians 2:10*

The Spirit of God which dwelleth in a man, making his body his temple, searcheth the deep things of God; for there is in these deep things a most heavenly treasure, which is to be searched into that it may be found. What depths do we sometimes see in a single text of Scripture as opened to the understanding, or applied to the heart; what a depth in the blood of Christ: how it “cleanseth from all sin,” and if from all sin it must cleanse away millions of millions of the foulest sins of the foulest sinners. What a depth in His bleeding, dying love that could stoop so low to lift us so high! What a depth in His pity and compassion to extend itself to such guilty, vile transgressors as we are! What depth in the eternal counsels and unspeakable wisdom of God to contrive such a plan as was accomplished and brought to light in the incarnation and death of His dear Son, that thus mercy and justice might meet together without jar or discord, every attribute of God be fully honoured, and yet that those who deserved hell should be lifted up into the enjoyment of heaven. What depths, too, there are in our own heart, not merely of sin but of grace, for true religion has its depths which the Spirit searches and brings to view. Thus if we have any faith, it lies very deep, for it is hidden in the heart, and sometimes so hidden as to be almost, if not altogether, out of sight. The Spirit then searches for it, and brings it out and up. So if we have any love, it strikes its root into the inmost recesses of our affections, and therefore needs to be searched into; or any hope, it lies like the anchor at the bottom of the sea. It therefore has to be searched into that it may be made manifest that it is sure and steadfast and enters within the veil.

*Taken from: Ears from Harvested Sheaves by J.C. Philpot*