

## **Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes**

### **Third Quarter 2026: *1 and 2 Corinthians***

#### **Lesson 1 “Paul’s Ministry in Corinth”**

#### **Read for this week’s study**

1 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; Acts 17:16–34; 1 Corinthians 5:9–11; Acts 18:4–10, 2 Corinthians 2:4.

#### **Memory Text**

“One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people’ ” (Acts 18:9, 10, NRSV).

#### **Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide**

- I. Introduction
- II. Paul, a God-called Apostle of Jesus
- III. From Athens to Corinth
- IV. The City of Corinth
- V. “Many in This City”
- VI. Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians
- VII. Further Study

#### **Questions and Notes for Consideration**

##### **Facilitator: Jon Paulien**

1. Why do people write letters? Or in today’s society, why do people write emails and text messages? (Intro to the quarter)
2. Do a little online research to discover all you can about the ancient city of Corinth. (Intro to the Quarter)
3. Paul worked in the tent-making factory of Aquila and Priscilla while he was in Corinth. Learn all you can about the process of making tents in the first century. Do you think Paul’s way of supporting his ministry was more of an asset to, or a distraction from, his ministry? (Sabbath Afternoon)
4. Read Acts 18:1-3, 1 Corinthians 5:9-11, and 1 Corinthians 8:4. What can we infer from these texts about Corinth’s economy, morality, and religious life? Paul faced

- the challenge of an idolatrous and licentious society. What challenges in today's culture make it hard to share the gospel? (Tuesday)
5. What do the following texts tell us about the situation in Corinth and why Paul wrote the letter (1 Cor 16:5-9; 1:11-13; 7:1; 2 Cor 10:9)?
  6. Read Acts 17:16-34. Where was Paul before going to Corinth, and what did he do there? How does his sermon in Athens differ from the kind he delivered in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-3)? (Monday)
  7. Read Acts 18:1-11. What does Paul do when he arrives in Corinth and continue to do during his whole stay in the city? What can we learn from Paul's missionary activity in Athens and Corinth about using every opportunity to preach the gospel?
  8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1 and 2 Corinthians 1:1, cf. 1 Corinthians 15:9-11. What two elements of Paul's ministry are emphasized in these passages? How can you distinguish if you are called by God or by other people? What is the relationship between those two types of call? Why does God call one person and not another? What is your calling, and how do you know it is your calling? (Sunday)
  9. Read Acts 18:4-8. What were the results of Paul's preaching in Corinth? Read Acts 18:9-10. How did Paul feel about the challenges he faced there? What did God do to change his perceptions? Have there been times in your life when disappointment and discouragement were actually pointers to making a positive change? How did that work out for you? (Wednesday)
  10. Paul was convinced that he was an apostle of Jesus, and that his calling came from God. How important has it been to know who you are, how God designed you, and exactly where you can best serve?
  11. The church members in Corinth were significantly influenced by the surrounding culture. Is it possible to be in the world and yet not be influenced by the world?

### Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

Now, one thing one needs to do is to recall the situation in which this church was founded. Corinth was a port city. You remember this from days gone by. Remember drawing the map of Greece there. The larger area to the north, and the "almost an island" at the bottom. In the Greek, "almost an island" is "Peloponnesus", so that's what it's called, the "Peloponnesus". And there's a little neck of land in between, a narrow isthmus, and right on that isthmus was the port city of Corinth. And the isthmus was so narrow that when it was too stormy around the cape at the bottom of the Peloponnesus, they would drag the boats overland to the port. So that was a port city where sailors arrived by land and by sea, both.

I mean, that was some port city, when you could arrive both ways. And it was like all the port cities of the world. It was a center of every conceivable kind of religion, and every conceivable

kind of vice and indulgence. But the extraordinary perversity of it all was that you could accomplish both at the same time! You see, you didn't go to church, and then that night go to a brothel. You would be taken care of by the dedicated temple prostitutes. They were the Bible instructors of the day. And you didn't pay a fee; you made an offering. As Ellen White puts it, "Immorality was consecrated as part of religious worship." And if you ever have the time or inclination, you can read books about the Corinth of those days. It's simply incredible, what was going on. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – 1 & 2 Corinthians, recorded May 1982, Riverside, California}

**Recommended Listening:** The entire session by Graham Maxwell of "The Picture of God in all 66" 1 & 2 Corinthians is available at:

<http://pkp.cc/63MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/64MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

### Further Study with Ellen White

Saul took no part in casting the stones at Stephen, yet he consented to his death. He was zealous in persecuting the church of God, hunting them, seizing them in their houses, and delivering them to those who would slay them. Saul was a man of ability and education; his zeal and learning caused him to be highly esteemed by the Jews, while he was feared by many of the disciples of Christ. His talents were effectively employed by Satan in carrying forward his rebellion against the Son of God, and those who believed in Him. But God can break the power of the great adversary and set free those who are led captive by him. Christ had selected Saul as a "chosen vessel" to preach His name, to strengthen His disciples in their work, and to more than fill the place of Stephen. {EW 199.1}

During His earthly ministry Christ began to break down the partition wall between Jew and Gentile, and to preach salvation to all mankind. Though He was a Jew, He mingled freely with the Samaritans, setting at nought the Pharisaic customs of the Jews with regard to this despised people. He slept under their roofs, ate at their tables, and taught in their streets. {AA 19.2}

The Saviour longed to unfold to His disciples the truth regarding the breaking down of the "middle wall of partition" between Israel and the other nations—the truth that "the Gentiles should be fellow heirs" with the Jews and "partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel." Ephesians 2:14; 3:6. This truth was revealed in part at the time when He rewarded the faith of the centurion at Capernaum, and also when He preached the gospel to the inhabitants of Sychar. Still more plainly was it revealed on the occasion of His visit to Phoenicia, when He healed the daughter of the Canaanite woman. These experiences helped the disciples to

understand that among those whom many regarded as unworthy of salvation, there were souls hungering for the light of truth. {AA 19.3}

The Bible shows us God in His high and holy place, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy beings, all waiting to do His will. Through these messengers He is in active communication with every part of His dominion. By His Spirit He is everywhere present. Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men. {MH 417.2}

The God of heaven is constantly at work. It is by His power that vegetation is caused to flourish, that every leaf appears and every flower blooms. Every drop of rain or flake of snow, every spire of grass, every leaf and flower and shrub, testifies of God. These little things so common around us teach the lesson that nothing is beneath the notice of the infinite God, nothing is too small for His attention. {8T 260.1}

He finds His faithful ones, and holds communion with them, encouraging and strengthening them. And angels of God, that excel in strength, are sent forth by God to minister to His human workers who are speaking the truth to those who know it not. {8T 17.3}

Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine. Every individual has a life distinct from all others, and an experience differing essentially from theirs. God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him, marked by our own individuality. These precious acknowledgments to the praise of the glory of His grace, when supported by a Christ-like life, have an irresistible power that works for the salvation of souls. {DA 347.3}

Often your mind may be clouded because of pain. Then do not try to think. You know that Jesus loves you. He understands your weakness. You may do His will by simply resting in His arms. {MH 251.3}

In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God. {COL 38.1}

Those who surrender their lives to His guidance and to His service will never be placed in a position for which He has not made provision. Whatever our situation, if we are doers of His word, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexity, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. {MH 248.2}

Eve really believed the words of Satan, but her belief did not save her from the penalty of sin. She disbelieved the words of God, and this was what led to her fall. In the judgment men will

not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth. Notwithstanding the sophistry of Satan to the contrary, it is always disastrous to disobey God. We must set our hearts to know what is truth. All the lessons which God has caused to be placed on record in His word are for our warning and instruction. They are given to save us from deception. Their neglect will result in ruin to ourselves. Whatever contradicts God's word, we may be sure proceeds from Satan. {PP 55.2}

All whose hearts are in sympathy with the heart of Infinite Love will seek to reclaim, and not to condemn. Christ dwelling in the soul is a spring that never runs dry. Where He abides, there will be an overflowing of beneficence.— *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 39. (1896) {Ev 174.3}

The work of Christ is to redeem, to restore, to seek and to save that which was lost. If we are connected with Christ, we also are partakers of the divine nature and are to be laborers together with God. We are to bind up the bruised and wounded soul; and if a brother or a sister has erred, we are not to join with the enemy in destroying and ruining, but to work with Christ to restore such a one in the spirit of meekness. {HP 291.2}

Christ came to bring salvation within the reach of all. . . . The most erring, the most sinful, were not passed by; His labors were especially for those who most needed the salvation He came to bring. The greater their need of reform, the deeper was His interest, the greater His sympathy, and the more earnest His labors. His great heart of love was stirred to its depths for the ones whose condition was most hopeless and who most needed His transforming grace. {HP 291.4}