

## Devotional for 1/29-2/4

Sermon Text for February 5: 1 Cor. 1:16-31

**Read:** 1 Cor. 18-31

**Q1:** God chose to reconcile us to himself through the cross of Christ. Crucifixion in the ancient world was the most gruesome and shameful death, one reserved for slaves and criminals. Therefore, “God chose what is low and despised in the world” to bring us to himself (v.28). Is this how the cross of Christ is viewed today? Have you ever been shamed or felt shame for embracing Jesus’ cross?

**Q2:** We have no wisdom, righteousness, sanctification or redemption of our own, so Jesus became these things for us (v.30). Yet, we are still tempted to boast in ourselves, as though we are wise, righteous, holy and worthy to be redeemed. Where do you need to repent and be resized by the truth of the gospel, such that your boasting is in Christ alone?

**Action Step:** Write out a couple of applications from 1:26-31 and pray that the Holy Spirit would bring the meaning of this text to bear on your heart and help you live it out in your daily life.

## Devotional for 2/5-11

Sermon Text for February 12: 1 Cor. 2:1-5

**Read:** 1 Cor. 1:18-2:5

**Q1:** In ch. 2 Paul continues to contrast the “foolishness” of God with the “wisdom” of the world. Paul contends that he did not rely on eloquence to convince the Corinthians, but merely proclaimed “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (v.3). How does this affect the way you share the gospel with unbelievers in your world?

**Action Step:** Pray that God would protect you from a fear of sharing the gospel due to a lack of eloquence or thoughts of “I’m afraid I’ll sound stupid or won’t say it correctly.” Write out the names of some unbelievers in your life and pray for the courage to gently and lovingly share Christ with them.

## Devotional for 2/12-18

Sermon Text for February 19: 1 Cor. 2:6-16

**Read:** 1 Cor. 2; 2 Cor. 4:1-6

**Q1:** In vv.6-16 Paul teaches that apart from the revelation of the Spirit of God, we are unable to understand the gospel. It is veiled to us because we are blinded by the enemy (2 Cor. 4:6). What are the implications of this truth in our lives? What does this teach us about God’s grace? How does this change the way we pray for the lost? For Kansas City?

**Action Step:** Meditate and pray through this text, focusing on vv.11-12. Pray that God’s free grace would humble you and transform your heart and our city.



*Christ in Glory in the Tetramorph, Graham Sutherland (1953)*

1 Corinthians  
**DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**  
for the weeks 1/8-2/18

## Author and Date

The letter of 1 Corinthians was written by the apostle Paul most likely between AD 54-56.

## Occasion and Purpose

Paul established the church in Corinth on his second missionary journey. He lived and worked with Priscilla and Aquilla and taught in the synagogue until the Jews kicked him out. God told Paul that there were many in the city who would believe, so he stayed in Corinth for over 18 months teaching and preaching (Acts 18:1-17). During this time, many were converted, and the Corinthian church was born. When he left for Ephesus to continue his missionary work, Paul kept in contact with the Corinthian church. He heard of a problem in the church, so he wrote the “previous letter” that he refers to in 1 Corinthians 5:9-11. He later heard reports from Chloe’s household of division in the church and received a list of questions the Corinthians were struggling to understand. This prompted him to write 1 Corinthians, in which he addresses the oral reports and the questions he had been sent. Paul writes this letter from Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:8), where he suffered immense persecution (1 Cor. 15:30-31).

Paul writes to rebuke the Corinthian church for their selfish and divisive ways and exhort them to acknowledge the Lord’s ownership of them and the implications his ownership has on various areas of their lives—both as individuals and members of the body of Christ.

## Why Study 1 Corinthians?

The letter of 1 Corinthians has great relevance for Christians today. Paul warns today’s local churches of the dangers of cultural and worldly “wisdom” infiltrating the church. He reminds us that our hope and boasting are in the gospel message of Jesus Christ and him crucified and nothing else.

The gospel is still deemed foolish by the world and many Christians today face persecution on account of Christ. Paul helps us see that we are not isolated in our suffering, but when one believer suffers, the body suffers with him.

Eschatology is a central piece of 1 Corinthians. Christians easily get bogged down in this life and lose sight of eternity. Paul’s letter refocuses our eyes to see that this world is passing away and we are to live in light of the imminent return of Christ and his eternal kingdom.

Paul’s letter also contains some of the most thorough and vivid teaching on the church. In an individualistic and self-serving society, Western Christians need to be reminded that each one is a member of Christ’s body, spiritually gifted to serve one another.

Above all else, this is a letter about Jesus Christ and the implications of his lordship for our lives. We belong to Christ and his body. He owns us. Jesus’ lordship changes the way we live. From sex and marriage to how we eat and drink, 1 Corinthians teaches us that no aspect of our lives is unaffected by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## How to Use This Devotional Guide

This guide serves as a devotional study through the book of 1 Corinthians. It is designed for the user to set aside at least one day a week to dig into the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday. To help you do this, each week includes a text(s) to read along with questions focusing primarily on the sermon text. These questions are meant to help you understand and apply the meaning of the text. When reading the Bible, we must always

ask: What was God saying to them (i.e., the original audience) and what is he trying to say to us now? God has spoken clearly to us so that we can hear the meaning of his Word and apply it to our lives. Each week read, wrestle and pray through the text. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s help to apply 1 Corinthians in your daily life and to be transformed from the inside out by God’s Holy Word.

## Devotional for 1/8-14

Sermon Text for January 15: 1 Cor. 1:1-9

**Read:** Read all of 1 Corinthians. You could budget a couple of hours to read the entire book in one sitting, or break it up and read it throughout the week.

**Q1:** In your own words, what is the main point of 1 Corinthians?

**Q2:** How does this letter apply to you? To Redeemer Fellowship?

**Action Step:** Write out at least five applications from 1 Corinthians and pray that the Spirit of God would help you obey his Word.

## Devotional for 1/15-21

Sermon Text for January 22: 1 Cor. 1:10-17

**Read:** 1 Cor. 1

**Q1:** In vv.10-17 Paul is addressing divisions in the church. The Corinthian believers were identifying themselves with different Christian leaders rather than the Lord Jesus Christ. How does this apply to us today?

**Q2:** Are there places where you need to repent and make peace with someone?

**Action Step:** Pray that Redeemer Fellowship would be united as one body under the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that God would protect you and the body from the devil’s attempts to cause disunity.

## Devotional for 1/22-28

Sermon Text for January 29: 1 Cor. 1:18-25

**Read:** 1 Cor. 1:1-25; Isa. 29:9-16

**Q1:** In v.19 Paul is quoting Isaiah 29. In both contexts the “wise” are unable to know God on their own terms. How does this apply to you?

**Q2:** Why does Paul refer to the message of Christ crucified (i.e., the gospel) as folly? (“the folly of what we preach”-v.21)

**Action Step:** Pray and ask God that you would have ears to hear and eyes to see Christ as the power of God and wisdom of God. Pray for those in your life who in their “wisdom” believe the gospel to be foolishness. Pray that God would give them a heart that believes and for opportunities to share and manifest Jesus to them.