



# HAMMERING IT OUT

Studies in 1 Corinthians

July 17, 2011

*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

Volume 9, Issue 46



## Who Knew? 1 Corinthians 1-2



**Authentic Christianity is hammered out in the details of life.**

### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

A current commercial asks the question, “Who Knew?”, referring to the surprisingly great clothes that the retailer carries. As the study in 1 Corinthians opens this week several surprising elements of Christianity are covered. Each of these is vitally important to the task of hammering out the details of the Christian life. The first surprising element for the Corinthian Christians was their special calling. The fact that they were graciously set apart by God (saints) was unexpected because of their reputation. The Corinthian culture was considered degenerate in the ancient world, primarily because a fertility cult had arisen around the worship of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. Prostitution, idolatry, and immorality was rampant, but out of this situation God called them

into fellowship with Himself. They were enriched with the knowledge of God and spiritually gifted. However, in spite of this, they had become divided, with groups following Paul, Apollos, Peter, and even Christ. This sectarian spirit threatened to discredit the gospel so Paul called them back to unity. He told them that not only did they have a special calling, but they had also received a simple message that was available to all. It was not for the elite—whether Jews who wanted a sign or Greeks who wanted advanced wisdom. It was the message of Christ’s crucifixion, which rendered all equal at the foot of the cross. This “foolishness and weakness of God” was wiser and stronger than men, for it had accomplished redemption for all—not just for the wise, noble

and mighty. Thus, the only boast any man could have was in the Lord. For this reason Paul had come to them with the simple message of Christ crucified. This message, though, could be understood only by spiritual revelation. This “hidden wisdom” could not be received by natural man because it was spiritually filtered. Only those who have the Spirit of God can grasp how great Christ’s sacrifice is. Additionally, those with the Spirit can know the things that have been freely given to them by God. Thus we should live in unity because of God’s grace—but to the natural man, who knew?

## Study Questions for 1 Corinthians 1-2

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

1. Read 1 Cor 1:1-3. How does Paul, the human author, describe himself (v1) and the Corinthian church to whom he wrote (v2)? What is significant about these descriptions? What does he pray for them (v3)?	
2. From 1:4-9 what about the Corinthians made Paul thankful (v4, 5, 6, 7)? What did God promise to do for them (v8) and what had He done for them (v9)? Why had He done this (v9)?	
3. From 1:10-17 what was the situation in Corinth (v11) and why (v12)? What did Paul encourage (v10) and what was his rationale (v13)? What had his position been (v14-16) and what was it now (v17)?	

(Continued on Next Page)

# I Corinthians 1-2 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In 1 Cor 1:18-20 how is the word of the cross viewed by those perishing (v18) and those saved (v18)? What has God done to the world's wisdom (v19-20) and why is it foolish?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 1:21-25 what <i>is</i> and <i>is not</i> God's method of salvation (v21)? What do Jews and Greeks each seek (v22) and how do they view the crucified Christ (v23)? What do the ones called understand about Him (v24-25)?</p>	
<p>6. Using 1:26-30 describe those who are called to believe (v26). Why did God do this (v27-29, 31)? Why are we in Christ (v30) and what is He to us (v30)? Explain.</p>	
<p>7. From 2:1-5 how did Paul present Christ's message (v1-2) and what was his manner (v3-4)? Why (v5)? How can we apply this?</p>	
<p>8. In 2:6-10 how is the true message of God described (v6, 7)? Who didn't understand it and what did this cause (v6, 8)? Who does understand it (v6, 10) What has the Spirit revealed (v9)?</p>	
<p>9. Read 2:11-13. Who knows God's thoughts (v11) and what does this mean to us (v12)? Why (v12)? What should we do with this (v13)?</p>	
<p>10. According to 2:14-16 how well does the "natural" man understand God's truth (v14), and the one who is spiritual (v15)? What are the implications of this (v15-16) and why (v16)?</p>	
<p>11. Reviewing 1 Cor 1-2 what special calling do Christians have (1:1-17), and what simple message (1:18-2:5) and the spiritual revelation have we received (2:6-16)? What should this mean to us (1:10)?</p>	

**Scripture to Remember**

"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption."

**1 Corinthians 1:30 (NASB)**

***Celebration Fellowship***

*Help—Hope—Healing*



**Life Group Questions—*The Right View (Romans 12:1-2)***  
*(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Think about your life as a "before and after" picture—how different does your life *after* becoming a Christian look from *before*? Share that with the group.
2. Read Rom 12:1-2. Summarize the point of these verses. What "mercies" has God given to us—the drama of God's story and His salvation in our lives? How does that affect you?
3. Discuss how well you are "presenting" yourself to God—what "God" do you worship (where do your thoughts, time and money go)?
4. What do your actions in your various roles in life—church, home, family, work, play, etc—say about how well you are serving/worshiping God?
5. Talk about the importance of small groups, training, and intentionality in becoming transformed into the image of Christ. How could you improve in these areas?
6. Discuss what it means to be "missional", think critically, and to be genuine "salt and light". What are some specific ways to become more like this?
7. Share about your experience of enjoying God (if you do). Why is this the result of being in God's will and how does this show that His will is good, pleasing, and complete?