

**Bible Passages - Lesson 1: The Quest for Truth**

**Acts 18:1-4** After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. **2**There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, **3**and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. **4**Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

**I Corinthians 1:1-3** 1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, **2**To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: **3**Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**I Corinthians 1: 4-9 4**I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. **5**For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—**6**God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. **7**Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. **8**He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9**God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 1:8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

**Ephesians 1:15** For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people,

**Philippians 1:3-7 3**I thank my God every time I remember you. **4**In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5**because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6**being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**7**It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me.

**Philippians 4:10-20 10**I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.**11**I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12**I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13**I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

**14**Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. **15**Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; **16**for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. **17**Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. **18**I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. **19**And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. **20**To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Colossians 1:3-6 3**We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4**because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people—**5**the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel **6**that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4** Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. **2**I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. **3**You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? **4**For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere human beings?

**I Corinthians 1:17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

**I Corinthians 1:18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**I Corinthians 1:19** For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

**Isaiah 29:14** Therefore once more I will astound these people
     with wonder upon wonder;
 the wisdom of the wise will perish,
     the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.”

**I Corinthians 1:20-25 20**Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21**For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. **22**Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23**but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24**but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25**For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**I Corinthians 1:26-31 26**Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. **27**But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. **28**God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, **29**so that no one may boast before him. **30**It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. **31**Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

**I Corinthians 2:1-5** And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.**2**For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3**I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. **4**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, **5**so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.

**I Corinthians 2:6-16 6**We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. **7**No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. **8**None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **9**However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,
    what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”
    the things God has prepared for those who love him—

**10**these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. **11**For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. **12**What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. **13**This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.**14**The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. **15**The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, **16**for,

“Who has known the mind of the Lord
    so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

**I Corinthians 3:18-23 18**Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. **19**For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; **20**and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” **21**So then, no more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, **22**whether Paul or Apollos or Cephasor the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, **23**and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.