

The Royal Route to Heaven

1 Corinthians Chapter 1

We have titled our study of 1 Corinthians “The Royal Route to Heaven”, patterned after a poem of the same title written by A.B. Christiansen. The first stanza is as follows:

“There’s a royal route to heaven – Will you travel it today?
‘Tis the path of full surrender all along the homeward way.
It is yielding every moment to the blessed Savior’s will,
seeking only for His glory, and His purpose to fulfill.”

The Royal Route is a higher calling, the path each one of us is called to as children of the King. As you begin this study, pray that it will challenge and encourage you to draw closer to God, and to desire to please Him alone as you walk each day on this Royal Route.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. You might want to underline them in your Bible. This will help to give you an overview of the purpose of each section. Below are two repeated words that we found as keys in chapter 1, given here as examples for you to use this week.

1. **Brethren** – How many times do you find this word in chapter 1?

a. Write a biblical definition for “brethren” below.

b. Now read 1 Corinthians 1:10-11 and share what this particular word adds to your understanding of how Paul views those to whom he is writing this letter.

2. **Wisdom** is found repeated often in the second half of chapter 1, so it is certainly an important concept.

a. How many times do you find this word?

b. Write a definition for wisdom below, considering both the world’s definition and a biblical perspective.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1- 3.

Letters were written a little differently in the times of the New Testament writings, so you will notice that right at the beginning we are told both who wrote the letter and to whom it is written.

1. We know this letter is written by Paul but who else did he name in his greeting as a sender?

a. How did Paul describe himself in verse 1?

b. Why is this description important?

c. What does this title mean?

2. Verse 2 tells us to whom Paul was writing. There is a lot of meaning in this verse that we don't want to miss, so let's look closer.

a. *To the church of God which is at Corinth...* Describe the meaning of church.

b. *...to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus...* What does it mean to be sanctified in Christ?

c. *... called [to be] saints...* It is important to notice that "to be" is in brackets, meaning it has been added to the text. The original writing was "*called saints*", which has a very different meaning. In our day the meaning of "saint" is often misunderstood. Saint is not what they will become, or a title assigned by man, but what they are in the sight of God, His separated ones, called *saints*. With this in mind, who are the "saints" Paul is writing to in this letter?

d. Considering the meaning of *saint* given above, how does a person become a *saint*?

e. *...with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours...* With this phrase, who is included in the address of this letter?

3. In verse 3, what two things does Paul greet them with?

a. Give a meaning for each of these words.

b. Paul used this greeting, or some variation of it, in every letter. Why do you think he felt these two things were so important for every person who would read his letters?

Grace and peace are twin sisters, grace being the first born.

Where grace abounds, peace thrives. Where grace is stunted, peace shrivels. *Charles Stanley*

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.

1. What did Paul thank God for concerning this church in verses 4 and 5?

2. The grace of God given by Jesus Christ was confirmed in these believers, evidenced by the statement in verse 5 “...*that you were enriched in everything by Him...*” Define the word enriched.

3. Verse 6 says, “*The testimony of Christ was confirmed in the Corinthians.*” How do verse 7 and 8 expand what this confirmation means for each believer?

4. Write the first three words of verse 9 below.

a. What does this mean to you today?

b. Read the rest of verse 9. What has God called us into?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-16.

1. Paul now must confront a problem in the church. Complete the following verses from NKJV to identify -

a. The problem:

verse 10 ... and that there be no _____ among you...

verse 11 ... that there are _____ among you.

b. The solution:

verse 10 ...but that you be _____

and in _____.

2. Write the question Paul asked at the beginning of verse 13. What do you think this means?

3. This question might also be addressed by Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12. What do you see in the following scriptures?

a. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

b. 1 Corinthians 12:27

4. What does Philippians 2:1-5 have to say about unity?

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-29.

We now have reached the section of this chapter where we will use our definition of wisdom from page 1, so look back and review what you wrote and then read this section.

1. 1 Corinthians 1:17 tells us Paul's purpose in ministry.

a. For what purpose does Paul state that Christ sent him?

b. What more is told about his purpose and his method in this verse?

2. Verse 18 tells us that "...*the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.*"

We read of foolishness or the foolish in this chapter almost as many times as we do of wisdom. Write a definition of foolishness below.

3. The wisdom of the world is very different from the wisdom of God. Consider 1 Corinthians 1:18-21 as you answer the following.

a. What does verse 20 tell us about the wisdom of the world?

b. What did God use to reach men with the gospel? (see verse 21)

4. What does 1 Corinthians 3:19 say about the wisdom of the world?

5. Explain your thoughts on why man's wisdom rejects God's truth?

6. From 1 Corinthians 1:22, what did the Jews and Greeks seek?

7. 1 Corinthians 1:24 states very clearly what Paul preached – Christ crucified! As you write out the last phrase in verse 24 below, praise God for the simplicity and the power of His message.

8. What more do you find about the message Paul preached in Romans 1:16?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:29-31.

1. Write below what you find in verse 29 of the reason for God using the foolishness of man and not his wisdom.

2. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24 and share what you find.

3. James 1:5 tells us that we can get the wisdom of God. How?

Forbid it Lord that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God.
All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to His blood. - Isaac Watts

In closing...

1. Explain the preaching of the cross.

2. What have you found in this chapter that you might share with an unbeliever?

3. In what ways did the gospel seem foolish to you before you were saved and started on this Royal Route to Heaven??