

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*

Lesson #3: Chapters 1-4

Question #1

1a. Read the first four chapters of St. Paul's *First Letter to the Corinthians*. What is the tone of this letter, and what has prompted Paul to write to the church in Corinth based on what we know from these first chapters? Why does St. Paul say, "I am thankful I did not baptize any of you . . . so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name" (1Co 1:14-15)? As "partners" of Jesus Christ (1Co 1:9), shouldn't we want to claim many victories in His Name (cf. 1Co 1:31, 3:22-23)?

Readings: Ac 4:11b-12; 2Co 5:20, 6:1,11-13, 10:7; Ga 3:1, 4:19-20; CCC 426-27, 795, 815, 859, 2007-09, 2011.

1b. In the metaphors of the farm or field and the building mentioned in 1Co 3:9, who is the planter and who is the builder, and who is the plant and who is the building (1Co 3:5-11,21-23, 4:6,15-17)? Secondly (II), what point is St. Paul trying to make when he speaks of people using different materials for building (1Co 3:12-16)?

Readings: Is 5:1-7, 62:5; Jn 15:1-5; Ep 2:19-22; 1Tm 3:15; CCC 755-56.

Readings (II): 1Ch 29:1-5; Ws 6:18-19, 8:17-18; Is 28:16-17a; Mt 3:12; 1Co 6:19-20, 15:48-50; 2Co 6:16-18; 2Tm 2:19-21; 1Pt 2:4-8; 2Pt 3:10; Rv 21:1-2,10-11,18-20; CCC 679, 901.

Question #2

2a. Using the text in 1Co 1:17-2:16, explain the difference between true wisdom and imperfect wisdom. Is there such a thing as perfect wisdom in this life? Secondly (II), what kinds of people or situations does God use to reveal His power and wisdom (1Co 1:21,26-29)?

Readings: Jb 42:1-3; Ws 6:17-20, 7:7-8,15-21,27-30; 9, 13:1-9; Si 1:1-10; Mt 11:16-19, 12:42, 13:53-54; Lk 21:12-15; Jn 17:3; 1Jn 5:20; Rv 7:10-12; CCC 216, 286-88, 295, 299, 339, 1831, 1950, 1954, 2500.

Readings II: Dt 7:7-9, 8:17-20; Jg 7:2; 1Sm 16:6-7; Mt 11:25; 2Co 4:7-12, 10:10-11, 13:3-6; Ep 2:7-10; Ja 2:5; CCC 272-73, 526, 2785.

2b. According to what St. Paul says in chapter 4, what is expected of "stewards entrusted with the mysteries of God" (1Co 4:1), and how might we apply these exhortations to ourselves as members of the Church?

Readings: Lk 12:35-48; 2Co 5:9-10, 11:27-30; CCC 428-29, 851.

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