

3rd Yr. Ambassadors

Lesson 31

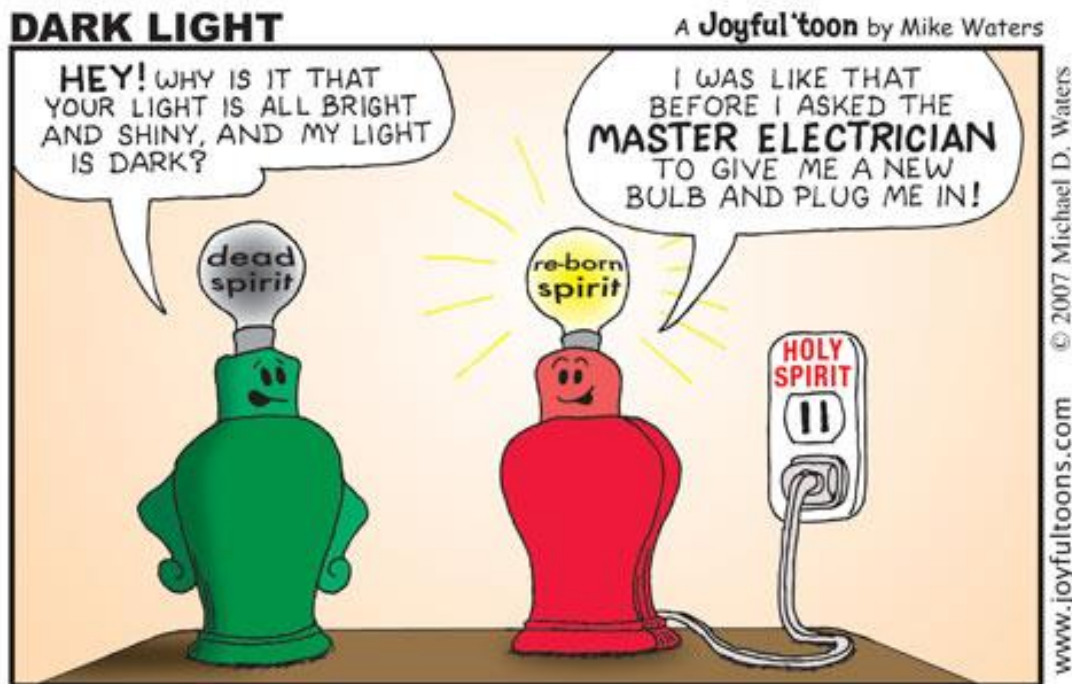


Light in the Darkness

Read: 1 Corinthians 3:1-6; 6:1-18; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

If you have spent any time at KAA you know that it can get really dark at night. Have you ever walked the road or path at camp in the dark? It can be a challenge, but if you walk with a flashlight, the things you could not see in the dark would become visible with the light from your flashlight. Your flashlight did not give enough light to make the darkness daylight, but it gave you enough light for you to see where you were walking.

That's what the Apostle Paul said about Christians, "You are the children of the light, and the children of the day (1 Thessalonians 5:5). Paul urged them to let their light shine by doing good works that lead others to God. But Christians in the early Church at Corinth were letting their light go out. Instead of living righteously, they were behaving like the godless people around them. To correct the Corinthian believers, Paul wrote them two letters, 1 and 2 Corinthians. You will study these letters and see what God may be saying to you.



But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!
- MATTHEW 6:23 NIV

Biblical Facts on 1 Corinthians

Author: Paul

Written to: the Church in Corinth

Date: About 56 A.D.

Theme: Correction and Counsel

Cliques in the Church: Say It Isn't So!

Corinthian Christians were arguing among themselves about which of their teachers was the greatest. Some Corinthians followed Paul, others claimed Apollos as their leader, and some Jews followed the Apostle Peter as their leader. Those who thought they were more spiritual than others bragged that they followed Christ (1:12; 3:1-4).



Paul explained that both he and Apollos were only servants of the Lord. Each man was used by God in a different way among the Corinthians. But it was **God** who blessed His Word and caused the church to grow (3:5-9).

Paul reminded the Corinthians that Jesus Christ is not divided. He is one with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. Similarly, believers are one with their church leaders, and all are one with Christ (3:21-23). There are no **cliques** in Christ.

How to Fight Off Disease in the Church

It was reported to Paul that there was gross immorality (girls and guys gone wild) in the Church. One man was even committing incest with his stepmother (5:1). Instead of being ashamed and dealing with this sin, the Corinthians were proud. They thought their freedom in Christ allowed them to live like non-Christians.

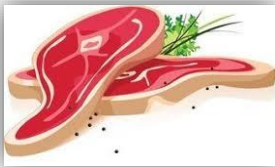
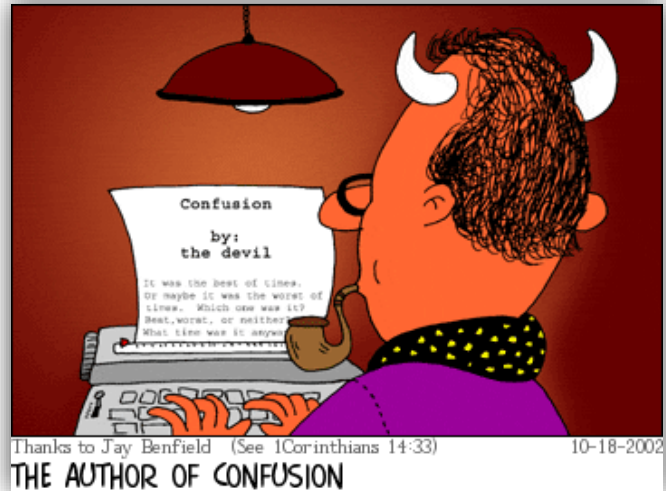
Paul instructed Christians to put the guilty person out of the Church until he repents (turns away) from his sin. They were not even to associate with immoral, unrepentant people who called themselves Christians (5:9-13).

The Apostle Paul also addressed the problem of the Corinthian Christians filing lawsuits against each other. Paul said that believers should appoint their own judges and settle matters among themselves. They can do this better than worldly judges, because Christians are guided by God's Word and the Holy Spirit. Paul concluded that it is better to be wronged and cheated than to take a fellow believer to court (6:1-7).

If Paul spoke against these things, then how much more is it needed for us to speak to those who are not living rightly?

A Letter to Paul

The Corinthians had written Paul a letter with some hard questions. When he instructed them about marriage, he had in mind the terrible immoral conditions in Corinth. He also knew that believers were suffering for their faith. His advice was that Christians remain as they were. If married, they were to stay married; but if single, they were to be content. Being married would cause more hardship because having a spouse would absorb a lot of time and attention. Paul wanted believers to serve the Lord without having to be concerned about the affairs of this life (7:25-34).



Next, Paul talked about food that had been sacrificed by idols. Paul said that idols are not real, so Christians could eat the meat without dishonoring Christ. But weak Christians thought eating the meat would be taking part in idol worship. Paul said they were not to go against their consciences. Stronger Christians should consider their weaker brother in deciding what they would do (8:1-13; 10:23-24).

Paul also told believers to examine the attitudes of their hearts before they observed the Lord's Supper and to participate reverently (chapters 11-12). In teaching about the resurrection, Paul assured the Corinthians that the dead will rise and told what will happen when Christ returns (chapter 15).

The Apostle Paul closed his first letter by instructing believers to set aside money the first day of every week so the Church could send it to the needy Christians in Jerusalem (16:1-4).

In his second letter, Paul stated clearly that he was an apostle (1:1; 12:12). Yet, **false teachers** were coming into the Corinthian church claiming that Paul was not really an apostle and his word was not to be trusted (1:12-23). Paul told the Christian believers that he would deal with those men during his next visit (13:2).

Paul then urged the Christians to recall his godly way of living when he was with them and emphasized that the message of salvation he preached was true. He encouraged the church to be generous in collecting money for the churches in the city of Macedonia. Then he defended his right to speak as an apostle, telling about the revelation God had given him (12:2-7).

*2 Corinthians 4:5-6
"For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

Now click here to watch this Supplemental Video about your lesson:
<https://youtu.be/yiHf8kICc4>

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Lesson 31 Quiz



Click here if you are taking your quiz online, then send the email you receive to your mentor to grade and discuss: <https://forms.gle/wBDL2vVsYtkaeC5N8>

Complete this assignment and set up a time to meet with an adult mentor who will go over this with you. Mentor, after you have graded this lesson using the Answer Key, please enter the lesson online using the links on our website in order to receive credit. Thanks.

Student Name: _____

1. True or False. Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians to deal with the problems of church cliques, immorality, and lawsuits.
2. True or False. He also answered the Corinthians' questions about marriage, Christian freedom, public worship, and the resurrection.
3. Fill in the blanks. Paul said that a Christian brother who was acting immorally should be _____ of the church until he _____ of his sin.
4. How did Paul say Christians should settle disputes among themselves, rather than taking each other to court?
5. Fill in the blanks. Paul said that believers were not even to _____ with _____, unrepentant people who called themselves Christians.
6. Because Corinthian society was so morally corrupt, what did Paul teach Christians about marriage?
7. Paul said it was all right to eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols, because idols are not _____.
8. Why did Paul write his second letter to the Corinthians?
9. Cite two verses in 2 Corinthians in which Paul specifically states that he was an apostle.
10. What teaching of Paul's in 1 or 2 Corinthians is the most helpful to you?