

**Week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 202**

*Prepared by Ken Sykes*

Corinth. A Roman colony built in 44BC now a major trading and cultural centre with many gods. Paul founded the church in AD50ish moving on to Ephesus after 18 months when Apollos took over. He wrote a letter about immoral people in the church which was misunderstood and 1 Corinthians is a follow up dealing with issues they asked about.

It is the longest pastoral document in the NT, gives clues as to how pastoral issues should be handled and crucial answers to critical problems we still have.

Chapters 1-4 Christian approach to Ministry:

### 1 Corinthian Chapter 1

1-9 What are the marks of the true church? Does our 'church visible' match up to it?

10-17 Following preachers/leaders - Why do we do it? Where should ministry originate?

18-31 (-2:5) Are our pulpits full of clever words, signs and wonders, Christ crucified, love or what? What do we boast about - buildings, people, church activities.....?

### Chapter 2 God's wisdom revealed by the Spirit

What is the wisdom Paul speaks of? Why was it a mystery?

What had no one seen, heard of, or imagined? How can we know about it?

If we don't really understand what God's gift to us is, what can we do about it?

What does 'having the mind of Christ' mean in everyday living?

### Chapter 3 – The Church and it's leaders

Is there ever any jealousy or quarreling in our church? In you? What does that say about us?

Do we need milk or solid food from the pulpit? Oh, hang on, what does Paul mean?

Are we a field that hasn't yet accepted the 'implanted word' (Jms 1:21) or a building where the Spirit lives (1 Cor 6:19). Is it our job to criticise what others are doing in the church? (Cf 1Cor 2:15)

Meditate on v21

### Chapter 4 – True apostleship

Did you get your answer re criticising preachers right yesterday? Who are we responsible to? What if 'they' are wrong? (see 1 Sam 24:6) How can we discern who is anointed and who isn't?

8-12 Irony! Which of the 2 models are we like, seek to be, respect most?

Would we like Paul to become our next Super? Do we demonstrate a kingdom of power or words?

### Chapter 5 - Incest

Can we apply anything in this chapter and use it as a blueprint for church discipline?

What does Paul see as the purpose of this? (vv5,7).

Does it apply to those outside the church?