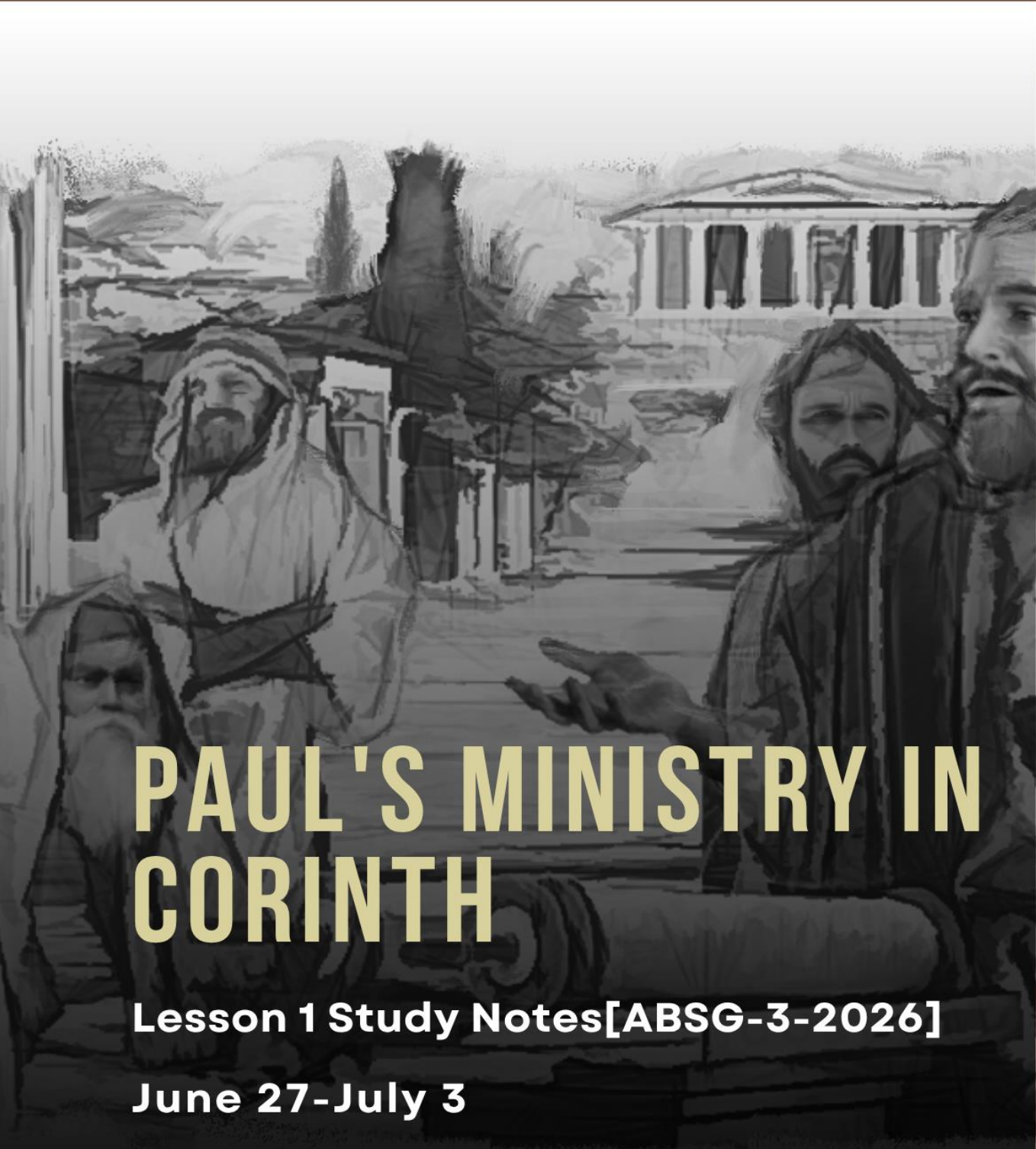


Adult
Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide
July | Aug | Sept 2026

FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS



PAUL'S MINISTRY IN CORINTH

Lesson 1 Study Notes[ABSG-3-2026]

June 27-July 3



Disclaimer

These notes are prepared to support personal and group Bible study. While written with care and in harmony with Scripture, the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide, and the Spirit of Prophecy, they are not an official publication of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Reader is encouraged to rely first on the Bible, together with the Sabbath School Quarterly Guide and the Spirit of Prophecy writings.

Lesson 1 [June 27-July 3]: Understanding the Memory Text

"One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are My people.'" — Acts 18:9–10

- Paul had come to Corinth after facing rejection, opposition, and disappointment in other cities.
- Like many of us, he could easily have wondered whether it was worth continuing.
- Before Paul decided to leave, God came to encourage him with this special promise.

"Do not be afraid..."

- God knew Paul was discouraged.
- Fear often makes us want to give up when life or ministry becomes difficult.
- Jesus reminds us that we never face our struggles alone.

"...but speak and do not be silent..."

- God did not want Paul to stop sharing the good news.
- People may reject God's message, but they still need to hear it.
- Our responsibility is to be faithful and leave the results with God.

"For I am with you..."

- This is the heart of the promise.
- Paul's courage did not come from his own strength but from God's presence.
- The same promise belongs to every believer who chooses to follow Christ.

"...and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you..."

- God promised to protect Paul until his work in Corinth was finished.
- That did not mean Paul would never suffer again.
- It meant that nothing could stop God's purpose for his life.
- We, too, can trust God to lead us safely as we serve Him each day.

"...for there are many in this city who are My people."

- Paul could not see them, but God already knew those who would accept the gospel.
- This gave Paul a reason to keep working instead of giving up.
- God is still preparing hearts today, even before we meet the people He wants us to reach.

What This Means for You

- Maybe you feel tired, discouraged, or afraid to speak about your faith.
- Remember that God sees what you cannot see.
- He goes before you, stays beside you, and is already working in the lives of others.
- Like Paul, keep trusting, keep serving, and keep pointing people to Jesus.

A Closing Thought

- This text reminds us that God's work does not depend on our strength.
- When we trust His presence and obey His call, He will accomplish His purpose through us.

June 27: Sabbath Afternoon - Overview

Summary

- **God** calls ordinary **people** to accomplish extraordinary **work** for **His kingdom**.
- **Paul** worked as a tentmaker, but his **greatest mission** was **leading** people to **Jesus Christ**.
- **Corinth** was a wealthy and **influential** city, yet filled with **spiritual** and **moral challenges**.
- **God** sent **Paul** to Corinth because He already had **many people** there **ready** to **receive** the **gospel**.
- Paul chose to **preach Jesus Christ** and His **sacrifice** on the **cross** instead of relying on **human wisdom** or persuasive **arguments**.
- The **church** in Corinth faced **division**, **immorality**, and **worldly influences**, just as many **churches** do **today**.
- Through Paul's **letters**, God provided **practical counsel** to **strengthen** His church and keep **believers focused** on **Christ**.
- The **messages** of 1 and 2 Corinthians are still **relevant** because **Christians** today face similar **struggles**.
- **God** continues to strengthen His people so they can **remain faithful** even when **serving** in **difficult places**.
- **Christ** must remain at the **center** of our lives, churches, and **witness** to the **world**.

Main Points to Learn This Week

Sunday: We will **discover** why **Paul** was confident that **God** had **called** him to be an **apostle** and how **God** has a **purpose** for **every believer**.

Monday: We will **follow** Paul's journey from **Athens** to **Corinth** and **learn** how he **shared** the gospel despite **opposition** and **discouragement**.

Tuesday: We will **explore** the city of **Corinth** and **understand** why it was both **strategic** and **difficult** for **mission**.

Wednesday: We will **learn** how **God encouraged** Paul when he became **discouraged** and how **His promises** still **strengthen** us **today**.

Thursday: We will **discover** why Paul **wrote** his letters to the Corinthians and why their **messages** continue to **guide** and **strengthen** the **church**.

This week we will **discover** how **God** used **Paul** to **build** His **church** and how He can use **us** to **serve Him today**.

June 28: Sunday - Paul, a God-called Apostle of Jesus

Read: 1 Cor 1:1; Rom 1:1; Gal 1:1; Jer 1:5; Gal 1:15; 1 Cor 15:5–11; Titus 1:1; Gal 1:10; 1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11

Summary

- **Paul** introduced himself as an **apostle** because he was **certain** that **God** had **called** him.
- His **confidence** came from **God's calling**, not from **human approval**.
- **Paul's** meeting with the **risen Jesus** **changed** the whole **direction** of his **life**.
- From that **day**, his **greatest desire** was to **share Christ** with others.
- **Paul** saw himself as **Christ's servant** before **anything else**.
- Whether he **preached** or **taught**, his **work** always **pointed** people to **Jesus**.
- **Jesus** was the **center** of **Paul's thoughts**, **words**, and **daily life**.
- His **love** for **Christ** was so **deep** that he could hardly speak without **mentioning** Him.
- **God** has a **purpose** for **every believer**. Our **calling** may be **different** from **Paul's**, but each of us has a **place** in **God's work**.
- We **discover** our **calling** by **walking closely** with **Jesus** each day.
- As we **grow** in our **relationship** with Him, He **guides** us to **serve** others in the way He has **planned** for us.
- Like **Paul**, our **greatest goal** should **not** be to draw **attention** to ourselves. It should be to **help** others **know**, **love**, and **follow Jesus**.

Question

- How can I **discover God's calling** for my **life**?

Answer

- **Stay close** to **Jesus** and **faithfully serve** Him each day. He will **guide** you to the **work** He has **prepared** for you.

Reflection

- Is **Jesus** the **center** of my **life**, and am I **faithfully serving** Him where He has **placed** me?

Takeaway

- **God** has a **purpose** for your **life**. **Walk closely** with **Jesus**, and let your **life lead** others to **Him**.

June 29: Monday - From Athens to Corinth

Read: Acts 17:16–34; Acts 18:1–11; Romans 1:16; Acts 13:46; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:2

Summary

- **Paul** did not plan to stay in **Athens**, but he used the **opportunity God** gave him to speak about **Jesus**.
- He shared the **gospel** wherever people were willing to **listen**.
- **Paul** spoke about **Jesus** in the **synagogue**, the **marketplace**, and before the leaders in the **Areopagus**.
- He looked for every **opportunity** to point people to **Christ**.
- **Paul** continued this same **mission** when he arrived in **Corinth**.
- He faithfully taught **God's Word** and spent many months helping people **know Jesus**.
- **Paul** usually shared the **gospel** with the **Jews** first, but he also reached anyone who was willing to hear the **good news**. His **mission** was to lead all people to **Christ**.
- The **message** never changed from one place to another. **Paul** remained **focused** on **Jesus Christ** and His **sacrifice** for our **salvation**.
- **Sharing the gospel** was not always easy. **Paul** faced **opposition**, **rejection**, and **hardship**, yet he did not **give up** because he knew **God** had **called** him.
- **God** also **places** us among people who need to **know Him**. Our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities are **opportunities** to share **Jesus** through our **words** and our **lives**.
- **God** does not ask us to **reach everyone** at once. He asks us to be **faithful** where we are and to speak about **Jesus** whenever He **opens the way**.

Question

- What can I **learn** from **Paul's ministry** in **Athens** and **Corinth**?

Answer

- Use every **opportunity God** gives you to share **Jesus**. **Stay faithful** even when the work is **difficult**.

Reflection

- Am I **making the most** of the **opportunities God** gives me to **point** others to **Jesus**?

Takeaway

- Wherever **God** places you, make **Jesus** the **center** of your **life** and your **witness**.

June 30: Tuesday - The City of Corinth

Read: Acts 18:1–3; 1 Corinthians 5:9–11; 1 Corinthians 8:4

Summary

- **Corinth** was a **busy** and **wealthy** city where people from many places came to **live**, **trade**, and **worship**. It was an **important place** for **spreading the gospel**.
- **Paul chose** Corinth because it gave him many **opportunities** to **reach** people.
- While **making tents** to **support** himself, he also **faithfully shared God's Word**.
- The city was **filled** with **idol worship** and **sexual immorality**.
- Many people lived **without knowing** the **true God** or **following** His ways.
- These **difficult conditions** did not **discourage** Paul.
- He **saw** them as a **reason** to **work harder** so that more people could **hear about Jesus**.
- Our communities today also have many **distractions** that **pull** people **away from God**.
- **Wrong beliefs**, **love of money**, **sinful lifestyles**, and **worldly pleasures** can **make it difficult** for people to **accept the gospel**.
- **God calls** us to be **faithful** even when our surroundings do not **honor** Him.
- We are to **live differently** and **let** our **words** and **actions point** others to **Christ**.
- **God** can **use** us **wherever** He **places** us. **No place** is too **sinful**, too **busy**, or too **difficult** for **the gospel** to **change lives**.

Question

- What can I **learn** from **Paul's ministry** in **Corinth**?

Answer

- **God** can **use** us to **share Jesus anywhere**. We should **remain faithful** even when we **live** among people who do not **follow God's ways**.

Reflection

- Am I **allowing** the world around me to **shape** my life, or am I **helping** others **see Jesus** through the way I **live**?

Takeaway

- **No matter** where **God places** you, **live faithfully** and **let** your life **point** others to **Jesus**.

July 1: Wednesday - Many in This City

Read: Acts 18:4–10; Isaiah 55:11; 1 Corinthians 2:3; Isaiah 41:10

Summary

- Paul faithfully preached the gospel, but many people rejected him and spoke against him. Even so, he did not stop sharing Jesus.
- Not everyone rejected the message. Crispus, the synagogue leader, believed in Jesus, and many other Corinthians also believed and were baptized.
- This reminds us that God's Word never fails.
- Even when we do not see immediate results, He continues working in people's hearts.
- Paul faced fear, discouragement, and strong opposition. Like us, he sometimes felt weak and uncertain.
- Jesus encouraged Paul in a vision and told him not to be afraid.
- He promised to be with him because many people in Corinth were ready to accept the gospel.
- God knows the hearts of people better than we do. He often prepares others before we ever meet them.
- We may become discouraged when people reject our witness or when we do not see quick results.
- God asks us to remain faithful and trust Him with the outcome.
- God's promise to be with His people still stands today.
- His presence gives us courage to keep serving Him even when the work is difficult.

Question

- How should I respond when sharing Jesus becomes difficult?

Answer

- Do not give up. Trust God's promises, remain faithful, and believe that He is still working in people's lives.

Reflection

- When I become discouraged, do I focus on the opposition around me or on God's promise to be with me?

Takeaway

- God is always with those who faithfully serve Him. Keep sharing Jesus and trust Him to change hearts in His own time.

July 2: Thursday - Paul's Letters to the Corinthians

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:11–13; 4:14; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 7:1; 14:37, 40; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 2:4, 9; 11:3; 13:10

Summary

- Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth because he loved them and wanted them to grow in their relationship with Jesus.
- His letters were written to guide, correct, and encourage them.
- The church faced many problems, including division, sexual immorality, wrong worship practices, and false ideas about Christian living.
- Paul did not ignore these problems but addressed them with truth and love.
- Paul answered the questions the believers asked and showed them how to live according to God's Word.
- He wanted every part of their lives to reflect Christ.
- The believers were strongly influenced by the culture around them.
- Paul reminded them that followers of Jesus should allow the gospel, not the world, to shape their thoughts and actions.
- Many churches today face similar struggles.
- Paul's counsel still teaches us how to remain faithful and keep Christ at the center of our lives.
- Paul corrected the church because he cared deeply for its members.
- Even his difficult words came from a heart filled with love and a desire to see them saved.
- God also calls us to speak the truth with love.
- Our goal should never be to condemn others but to help them grow closer to Jesus.

Question

- Why did Paul write to the Corinthians?

Answer

- He wanted to help them overcome their problems, grow in faith, and keep Jesus at the center of their lives.

Reflection

- When I correct or encourage others, do my words show the same love and care that Paul showed?

Takeaway

- Love speaks the truth with kindness. Let your words help others grow closer to Jesus.

July 3: Friday - Further Thought

Read: The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 243–254; Sketches From the Life of Paul, pp. 106–109

Summary

- **Paul chose** to make **Jesus Christ** and His **sacrifice** the **center** of his preaching. He knew that only **Christ** could **change** people's **hearts**.
- At one point, **Paul** became **discouraged** and thought about **leaving** Corinth.
- **God encouraged** him to **stay** because many people there were still **ready** to **accept the gospel**.
- **Paul trusted God's promise** and **continued working** faithfully.
- As a result, many people **accepted Jesus** and a **strong church** was **established**.
- **Paul** did not stop **caring** for the believers after leaving Corinth.
- He **continued teaching, encouraging,** and **correcting** them through his letters.
- **God** also **calls** us to **remain faithful** when the work becomes **difficult**.
- We should not **give up** simply because we do not see **immediate results**.
- The world around us will always try to **shape** our **thoughts** and **values**.
- **God** calls us to **live in the world** without **allowing** the world to **pull** us **away from Him**.
- A **close relationship** with **Jesus** and a **daily study** of His **Word** help us **remain faithful** and **stand firm** in our **Christian walk**.

Question

- What can I **learn** from **Paul's experience** in **Corinth**?

Answer

- **Keep Jesus** at the **center** of your life. **Trust God** when you feel **discouraged**, and **remain faithful** because He is **still working**.

Reflection

- When I feel like **giving up**, do I **trust God's promises** and **continue serving** Him?

Takeaway

- **Do not give up** when the work becomes **hard**. **Stay close** to **Jesus**, and let Him **strengthen** you to **finish** the work He has **given** you.