

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find new, interesting, confusing, or convicting in this week’s reading?

1. Sunday, Feb. 26; 2 Thess. 2:13-3:5; Stand Firm/Stay on Track. Why was Paul thankful for these believers (2:13)? What are two aspects of our salvation (13)? When did you or I personally believe in the Truth, and are you or I experiencing the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit? What benefit do we receive (14)? Why might you or I need to “stand firm and hold on to the teachings” of Jesus Christ (15)? What three or four gifts does God give us (16-17)? At what times do we forget we have these gift? For what two reasons did Paul want prayer (3:1-2)? How have you seen God protect you from evil intentions (2-3)? Whose responsibility is it to stay on track (4-5)? Why and how? **Personal Application:** Today, how do you need the good gifts we have been given by God and Jesus Christ (16-17)? OR In what situation are you encouraged to stand firm? OR How are you staying on track and not being swayed by evil intentions?

2. Monday, Feb. 27; 2 Thess. 3:6-18; Idleness vs. Productiveness. What were Paul’s thoughts on idleness and disruptiveness (6)? How did he set an example and why (7-9)? What was his rule to live by (10)? Share thoughts on being busy versus being a busy-body (11-12). How does our work produce “good” (13)? How are believers to respond to those who are idle (14-15)? Paraphrase these two verses in your own words. Do you have peace at all times (16)? Why or why not? **Personal Application:** Write about any idleness in your life or mine.

3. Tuesday, Feb. 28; Intro to 1 Corinthians, 1 Corin. 16:5-9, Acts 20:31; The Corinthians Need Encouragement! In reading your **Bible’s Introduction to 1 Corinthians**, what did you learn about the author, time of writing, culture of Corinth, religion of Corinth, and practices of the people of Corinth? What is the theme of 1 Corinthians? How is 1 Corinthians relevant for today? **1 Corin. 16:5-9:** Paul wrote this letter, but what was his true desire? Why was he unable to meet with them personally? **Acts 20:31:** What was Paul’s heart concerning the Corinthians? **Personal Application:** Do you or I personally struggle with our own faith or know someone who does? How will reading 1 Corinthians be of help?

4. Wednesday, March 1; 1 Corin. 1:1-9; Words of Encouragement. Read Bible notes on the authority of Paul and Sosthenes (1). According to verse 2, is 1 Corinthians written to you and to me as well? How have you and I accepted our grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ today (3)? Do you or I appropriate in our souls the fact that God the Father is thankful you are a believer, and why does that make a difference (4)? How has your own speech and knowledge been enriched in every way (5), and do you see this as confirmation that the Holy Spirit is working in you (6)? Have you or I become aware of God’s gift of a spiritual gift to us (7, see also 12:4-11)? Why should you or I stand firm in the call of Christ (8)? How have you seen God’s faithfulness (9)? What does it mean for you to be in fellowship with Jesus Christ our Lord (9)? **Personal Application:** How are you being encouraged in the Lord today?

5. Thursday, March 2; 1 Corin. 1:10-17; Divisions. Read the entire passage. What is the issue causing division? In what thought/belief did Paul want the Corinthians to be in agreement (10, 12)? How were the people following the messengers instead of the Redeemer (11-13)? How was Paul being held in high status (14-17a)? What did he think about that? What was Paul’s purpose (17)? In your life or mine, what petty divisions steal our focus away from the Cross of Christ? On what point (s) should all believers agree and “be perfectly united in mind and thought” (10)? **Personal Application:** White a basic statement of faith on which every believer may agree.

6. Friday, March 3; 1 Corin. 1:18-25; Message of the Cross is Foolishness to the World. What is the “message of the cross” (18)? Why is this foolishness to those who are not saved, but power to those who are? From what verse did Paul quote (19)? What does this verse mean? How/why does God make foolish the wisdom of the world (20)? How is saving faith seen as foolishness (21)? What did people want instead, both then and now (22-23)? What does it take to be a “called” person (24)? Why must my humility or yours always be in the forefront of our lives (25)? **Personal Application:** How do or don’t you or I give God His rightful place on the throne of our hearts?

7. Saturday, March 4; 1 Corin. 1:26-2:5; Don’t be Fooled: It’s Not Human Wisdom but God’s Power. Describe your circumstances and mindset at the time you were “called” to be a believer (26-27). Why does God choose a path of humility for salvation (28-29)? How was Jesus Christ Himself lowly and despised? How did He nullify human intellect?

How has God's kindness brought you to salvation (30)? How do you or I boast in the Lord, or do we instead boast in ourselves (31)? Why did Paul remain humble before the Corinthians (2:1-5)? What was his message (2)? Who was responsible for the power in Paul's preaching (4)? **Personal Application:** Describe the difference between faith which rests on God's power versus faith in human wisdom (5)?

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