

READING THE BIBLE: With Tom Brewer

Winter Session, January 9 – April 17, 2017 (Mondays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.)

CHURCH IN CRISIS: The Corinthian Correspondence

Reader's Guide: The date, theme and scripture references for each session are provided to encourage you to do a careful pre-reading of the text before the class presentation. The New Testament historical narrative of Acts 18 offers some "backstory" for the Corinthian Correspondence. We will establish the context in Acts and read two of Paul's several letters to the church in Corinth.

January 9	THEME: "CHURCH BORN IN CRISIS"	(Acts 18:1-18; 1 Corinthians 1 & 2)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bi-vocational Ministry• Personality Cults• Wisdom & Power of God	Acts 18:1-18 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 1 Cor. 1:18-2:16
January 16	HOLIDAY: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.	(No Class)
January 23	THEME: "DIVISION & CONFUSION"	(1st Corinthians 3, 4 & 5)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be Careful How You Build• Spiritual Parenting• Church Discipline	1 st Corinthians 3:1-4:5 1 st Corinthians 4:6-21 1 st Corinthians 5:1-13
January 30	THEME: "CHURCH REPUTATION"	(1st Corinthians 6, 7 & 8)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embarrassing Quarrels• Marriage Matters• Build Up One Another	1 st Corinthians 6:1-20 1 st Corinthians 7:1-40 1 st Corinthians 8:1-13
February 6	THEME: "CHRISTIAN FREEDOM"	(1st Corinthians 9, 10 & 11)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using Rights Well• Liberty Leashed by Love• Conduct During Worship	1 st Corinthians 9:1-27 1 st Corinthians 10:1-11:1 1 st Corinthians 11:2-34
February 13	THEME: "USE & ABUSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS" (1st Corinthians 12, 13 & 14)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gifts of the Spirit• Excellence of Love• Order in Worship	1 st Corinthians 12:1-31 1 st Corinthians 13:1-13 1 st Corinthians 14:1-40
February 20	HOLIDAY: PRESIDENT'S DAY	(No Class)
February 27	THEME: "RESURRECTION LIFE"	(1st Corinthians 15 & 16)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core of the Gospel• Victory Over Death• Generous Giving	1 st Corinthians 15:1-11 1 st Corinthians 15:12-58 1 st Corinthians 16:1-24

March 6	THEME: "GLORY TO GLORY"	(2nd Corinthians 1, 2 & 3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary Change in Plans • New Covenant Ministry • Transformed to His Likeness 	<p>2nd Corinthians 1:1-2:4 2nd Corinthians 2:5-3:6 2nd Corinthians 3:7-18</p>
March 13	THEME: "CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS"	(2nd Corinthians 4 & 5)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jars of Clay • Heavenly Dwelling • New Creation 	<p>2nd Corinthians 4:1-18 2nd Corinthians 5:1-10 2nd Corinthians 5:11-6:2</p>
March 20	THEME: "WEAPONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"	(2nd Corinthians 6:3-7:16)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Hearts • Avoiding Dilution • Comfort & Godly Sorrow 	<p>2nd Corinthians 6:3-13 2nd Corinthians 6:14-18 2nd Corinthians 7:1-16</p>
March 27	THEME: "GENEROSITY & JOY"	(2nd Corinthians 8 & 9)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace of Giving • Sowing & Reaping • His Indescribable Gift 	<p>2nd Corinthians 8:1-15 2nd Corinthians 8:16-9:11 2nd Corinthians 9:12-15</p>
April 3	THEME: "HOLY BOLDNESS"	(2nd Corinthians 10 & 11)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolishing Strongholds • Holy Boasting • Pseudo-Apostles 	<p>2nd Corinthians 10:1-6 2nd Corinthians 10:7-18; 11:16-33 2nd Corinthians 11:1-15</p>
April 10	HOLY WEEK:	(No Class)
April 17	THEME: "VISIONS OF PARADISE"	(2nd Corinthians 12 & 13)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paradox of Strength • Coming Your Way Again • Fair Warning 	<p>2nd Corinthians 12:1-10 2nd Corinthians 12:11-21 2nd Corinthians 13:1-14</p>

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
(2 Corinthians 5:17-21)