

Psalm 49, I Corinthians 5-10 (#37) Revised 2022

Psalm 49— The ultimate end of mankind is discussed in this psalm. All men perish but the upright have a hope beyond the grave. *Considering verse 15, where does the author's confidence come from? See Genesis 5:24, Psalms 16:11; 17:15 & 73:24.*

I Corinthians 5 & 6— Chapter five deals with immorality in the church, and chapter six speaks of Christians taking other Christians to court. The church was proud of their allowing a man in their church to have a sexual relationship with his father's wife. Paul commanded that this man be excluded from the church and turned over to Satan's territory. Allowing sin in the church will cause sin to spread over the whole congregation (vv. 5:1-13). Paul states that legal disputes among Christians should be settled by wise people in the church and not taken to a heathen court. He talks of the previous immoral lifestyle of the Corinthians, but now they are washed, sanctified, and justified. Although we have freedom in Christ, we are not free to sin sexually since the Holy Spirit indwells in our bodies which were bought with the previous blood of Christ (vv. 6:1-20). *Explain what Paul meant by "you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord (5:5)."*

I Corinthians 7— Living in a city known throughout the world for its gross immorality, Paul discusses the important topic of sex and Christian marriage. After giving general principles on the obligations of marriage, he then addresses the unmarried and widows (vv. 1-9). The topics of separation and divorce are covered, giving the Lord's commands in the case of believing couples, as well as those who are married to an unbelieving spouse (vv. 10-16). Paul then addresses various situations in life including being Jew or Gentile, slave or free, married or single, and encourages them to remain in the situation they were in when God called them to be his children (vv. 17-24). The Apostle then states that there are advantages of remaining single since the single person can fully serve and please the Lord, where the married person is distracted because of the need of pleasing their mate. Finally, Paul declares that married couples are bound to each other until death. At death, the living partner is free to remarry, but only to another believer (vv. 25-40). *What are the Biblical grounds for a divorced Christian to remarry? See verses 10-16, Matthew 19:9-10.*

I Corinthians 8— This chapter touches the subject of eating meat sacrificed to idols which has no relevance to western culture today. The principle taught here that can be applied to all cultures at all times is that we must always walk in love towards others, and not allow our knowledge and participation of permissible things destroy a weaker brother or cause him to stumble. *What would be a relevant situation in which we can apply this principle today?*

I Corinthians 9— Paul shows in his own life how he was putting into practice what he was teaching in chapter eight. As an apostle, he had many rights, but he did not exercise those rights for the sake of proclaiming the gospel. He had the right of receiving hospitality and financial support, of marrying and taking a wife with him like some of the other apostles, but he chose rather to make himself a slave to everyone in order to win more people. For Paul to do this, it required strict self-control and discipline. He did this in order to win a crown that will never fade away, not like those runners who received a perishable wreath for all their grueling hours of effort. *In order to win our race for God, what areas in our lives do we need to practice self-discipline?*

I Corinthians 10— Continuing the theme of Christian liberty and the surrendering of our rights (chapters 8-10), Paul gives the example of the children of Israel in the wilderness who had great spiritual privileges like the church at Corinth, but still committed the sins of idolatry, immorality, complaining, and testing God. Each believer must understand that the punishment of the dying of the Israelites in the wilderness is a warning to each of us. On the encouraging side, we have the promise of God's faithfulness not to allow us to succumb to temptation, but to provide for us a morally right solution in every situation which provides for us a way of escape (vv. 1-13). Paul is stating that the new believers at Corinth must understand that when they are participating in the pagan idolatrous feasts, they are sacrificing to demons. They are provoking the Lord to jealousy when they drink both the cup of Lord (at Lord's Supper) and the cup of demons (vv. 14-22). Following Paul's example, we must set aside our own personal freedom and rights, and seek the good of other people (vv. 23-33, 11:1). *Reading verses 23 to 33, what are some questions we need to ask ourselves in making choices on sensitive issues that might offend a weaker brother or sister? #3 p. 1053*

Sources for summary and questions: 1. Serendipity Bible for Groups . c. 1988 Littleton, CO. 2. MacArthur Study Bible ESV. 1997 Thomas Nelson, Inc. 3. Life Application Bible HCSB c. 1988 Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 4. The Complete Bible Companion c.2014 Barbour Publishing, Inc. Uhrichsville, OH. 5. ESV Study Bible c. 2008 Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL. 6. The World Bible Handbook, Lawrence Richards, Word Inc. Waco, TX. 7. The Quest Study Bible NIV, c. 1994 Zondervan Publishing & Christianity Today, Grand Rapids, MI & Wheaton, IL. 8. The Transformation Study Bible, c. 2009, David C. Cook. 9. Halley's Bible Handbook, c. 2000, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI. 10. 500 Questions & Answers from the Bible, c. 2006, Barbour Publishing, Uhrichsville, OH. 11. Understanding the Bible c. 2000, Holman Publishers, Nashville, TN. 12. Homan Bible Handbook, c.1992, Homan Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN. 13. Moody Bible Commentary, c. 2014, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL.

Psalm 50, I Corinthians 11-16 (#38) Revised 2022

Psalm 50— This psalm starts with God’s issuing a judicial summons to the inhabitants of the earth (vv 1-6). He then proclaims His decree against Israel (vv 7-13), offering a remedy for the righteous (vv 14-15), and for those who repent of their wickedness (vv 22-23). *Why is thankfulness so important (see verse 23)?*

I Corinthians 11— At this point the Apostle gives instructions about head coverings that properly distinguish the women from the men as they pray and prophesy in the church. Although fully equal in worth and value, Paul speaks of the different roles women have in the church and in marriage (vv. 2-16). The next issue that Paul addresses was the disunity in the church because of the gluttony, discrimination, and even the drunkenness of some believers at the Love feast and the Lord’s Supper. He calls for the self-examination of each believer as to whether he or she is eating and drinking in an unworthy manner, and thus be guilty of sin against the body and blood of Christ (17-34). *Although most of today’s evangelical churches do not require a head covering for women, what biblical principles are seen in verses 2 to 16? Extra Question: There are three “looks” a believer should take while participating in the Lord’s Supper: the look back (vv. 23-26a), the look up (v. 26b), and the look within (vv. 27-28, 31-32). After reading the scripture that pertains to each, please explain the meaning of the three “looks.” #8, p. 1941.*

I Corinthians 12— Paul continues to address problems in the church. In this chapter he speaks about spiritual gifts which the Holy Spirit has given to each member of the body for the building up and unification of the church, but here in Corinth the use of the spiritual gifts had the opposite effect. The Holy Spirit distributes the various gifts as He sees best for the benefit of the whole body. With the different gifts, the Holy Spirit gives unique spheres of ministry to serve the body through the Spirit’s various expressions of power. The emphasis in this passage is the unity of the body expressed in a variety of individual parts all working in unison for the building up of the body. Each part of the body is interdependent, and what it contributes is necessary so that no one should feel inferior to the more spectacular parts (gifts). *What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and when does it take place in the life of the believer (v. 13)?*

I Corinthians 13— Love is tossed about today in songs and speech, but in verses 4 to 8 Paul reveals a clear definition of what real love is. The most spectacular gifts or actions that are not truly motivated by love are worthless, and sound like a noisy gong or clanging symbol. The object of our faith and hope will be completely realized when we see Christ in heaven, but love is greatest because it will endure for all eternity.

Read verses 4 to 8a out loud and insert your name instead of the word "love." How true is that to the way you live? Now read it again inserting the name "Jesus."

I Corinthians 14— This chapter begins with the words, "Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, and above all that you may prophesy (HCSB)." The church body was divided and not functioning correctly because of the improper exercise of the gifts of tongues. Because of its impressive nature, the gift of tongues was sought after by the church instead of the gift of prophecy, which was the one most needed in order to build up and mature the local church body. Paul gives specific guidelines for the church to follow in its gatherings. The guidelines that are included in this passage are that everything must be done for the building up of the body (v. 26), that only tongues that have an interpreter could be uttered (v. 27), and that everything must be done decently and in order (v. 40). *After your reading of chapters 12 to 14, discuss Paul's statements about the gift of tongues (or languages), speaking of its participation, purpose, and prohibitions. See vv. 12:30b, 13:1, 13:8b, 14:2, 4, 12, 27, 39, and 40.*

I Corinthians 15— Paul now takes the church back to the two pillars of Christianity, the clear explanation of the gospel, and the declaration of the bodily resurrection of Christ and believers. The widespread belief of the dualistic worldview that looked at the physical world as evil and the spiritual world as good, had also influenced some of the Corinthian believers. Paul forcefully proves the reality of the physical resurrection of Christ as well as our own physical resurrection in the future. He shows that the resurrection of Jesus was well attested by a multitude of witnesses, including 500 who saw Him in His resurrected body at one time. Christ's resurrection was the firstfruits of the harvest and gave us the guarantee that one day all those who believe in Christ will also be resurrected, and death will be the last enemy to be abolished. Paul describes the wonderful transformation of the resurrected body which will be incorruptible, glorious, powerful, and spiritual. What an awesome moment it will be when our mortal bodies will take on immortality, and we will be transformed into the likeness of the Heavenly Man, Jesus Christ, who gives us the victory! *Using verses 1-11 from this chapter and other places, what proofs do we have of the resurrection of Christ?*

I Corinthians 16— Paul finishes his letter with a plea to set aside money each first day of the week for the poor and needy Jewish believers in Jerusalem. Nearly a year later, he and messengers from all the supporting churches will take this gift for the purpose of helping the believers in famine, but will also be used to unite Jew and Gentile Christians. Paul speaks of his desire to stay in Ephesus because of the wide-open door of ministry and plans soon to send Timothy to Corinth but also has a desire to come to Corinth later. In a final exhortation, he encourages the believers to be on guard against the enemy, stay firm in holding to the apostolic faith, be courageous and strong, and be motivated by love in all they do. He closes his letter with customary greetings and final personal benediction. *Who were Aquila and Priscilla mentioned in verse 19?*

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Psalm 51, Deuteronomy 1-6 (#39) Revised 2022

Psalm 51— David pleads for forgiveness after his sins of adultery and murder are revealed by Nathan the prophet. *How does David request forgiveness and restoration?*

Deuteronomy— Deuteronomy means “second law,” and Moses reviews the laws he had given nearly forty years earlier at Mount Sinai. Now Moses teaches the law to a new generation who is poised to enter the Promised Land. Israel gathered on the plains just east of the Jordan River to hear Moses preach three sermons with an emphasis on loving the Lord their God with all their hearts and staying faithful to their covenant with Yahweh. This fifth book of the Law (Pentateuch) was quoted more than eighty times in the New Testament, including three times by Jesus when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Through Moses, “God reminds Israel on the verge of entering the Promised Land about His mighty acts, His covenant, and His many commands.” #11 p. 35

Deuteronomy 1— As the new generation prepares to cross the Jordan River, Moses reviews the history of the previous forty years (vv. 1:1 to 4:43). Moses recalls the Lord’s command at Mount Sinai to break camp and head towards the Promised Land, and the choosing of godly leaders to share the burden of leadership with him (vv. 1-18). Upon arriving at Kadesh-barnea, a group of 12 scouts were sent to spy out the land in preparation for the military campaign that would follow. Even though they were constantly shown God’s power and faithfulness, they still would not trust Him. Because of this, God swore with an oath that none of this evil generation would ever see the good land God had promised to their fathers, with the exception for Caleb and Joshua. *What were the important lessons Moses told the new generation they needed to learn, even though their fathers had not heeded them (vv. 19-40)?*

Deuteronomy 2— Moses continues to recount God’s amazing presence, protection, and provision of the two to three million Israelites during their forty years in the wilderness with the words, “You have lacked nothing (vv. 1-7).” He then recalls Israel’s peaceful journey around their distant cousins, Edom, Moab, and Ammon (vv. 8-23). Finally, the story of their victory over King Sihon and the Amorites is retold with the strong declaration that “the Lord gave everything to us.” With this first victory in their campaign to conquer Canaan, God began to put the fear and dread of them on all the surrounding nations (vv. 24-37). *Why did God protect the lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammon from Israel’s attacks? Extra Question: Verse 30b says, “For the Lord your God hardened his (Sihon) spirit and made his heart obstinate.” If God hardened his spirit, was Sihon responsible for actions? #7 p. 250*

Deuteronomy 3— The next enemy Israel faced was the Amorite army of King Og of Bashan. Although a powerful foe, the Lord told them not to be afraid and then assures them of complete victory. Israel’s army completely annihilates the enemy, capturing all sixty cities and leaving no survivors (vv. 1-11). Moses specifies how the land east of Jordan will be divided among Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh. He then reminds them of their promise to continue to fight with the other tribes until the other tribes had entered into their inheritance (vv. 12-20). Moses strongly desired to cross over the Jordan River into Canaan, but is forbidden by God to do so. He was commanded by God to prepare Joshua to take his place (vv. 23-29). *Og, the king of Bashan, had a well-trained army and cities that were fortified with high walls. Inexperienced Israel hardly had a chance for victory. What accounted for their victory? How does this apply to our lives?*

Deuteronomy 4— Moses pleads, “Now, Israel, listen to the statutes and ordinances I am teaching you to follow, so that you may live, enter, and take possession of the land Yahweh, the God of your fathers, is giving you (v. 1:1).” With these opening words, Moses gives an impassioned message to his people to be faithful to, love, fear, and obey the Lord (vv. 1-14). This complete allegiance to the Lord will be demonstrated by a rejection of idolatry. If Israel succumbs to idolatry, they will suffer the same destruction as the nations that they were now beginning to conquer (vv. 15-31). Moses tells Israel of their uniqueness and the amazing privilege they have to be a part of something that has never happened since the creation of the world (vv. 32-40). The chapter ends listing three cities of Refuge and an introduction to the law that is given in the chapters that follow (vv. 41-49 *Read verses 29-31. When Moses mentioned seeking the Lord with all your heart in the “latter days,” what future time do you think he was talking about? See Jeremiah 29:10-14, Hosea 3:4-5, Zechariah 12:10, 13:1, 14:3-4, Matthew 23:37-39.*

Deuteronomy 5— The Ten Commandments are reviewed and restated for a new generation and function as a summary of God’s requirements. They were the foundational and basic principles of the law showing the Israelites how to live their lives in covenant with Yahweh (vv. 1-21). Moses retells the original scenario of hearing God’s voice with fire, cloud, and thick darkness and seeing His glory and greatness. The chapter finishes with the promise that if God’s people obey the whole instruction of the Lord, they will live long and prosperous lives in new land (vv. 22-33). *How do we break the First Commandment today? What steps can we take to reverse this and put God first? Extra Question: Restate any three of the commands as positive behaviors and indicate the freedom we receive by following them.*

Deuteronomy 6— This is a major chapter in the Old Testament because it contains the “Shema” (Hebrew word for “hear”) in verse 4, which is the Jewish confession of faith. The first important command of this chapter is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” The second command is to teach and model these commands to your children at every possible time throughout the day (vv. 1-2, 6-9, 20-25). *In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus repeated verse 5 as the first and greatest commandment. What are some actions or steps we can take to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind? Extra Question: Verse 4 says, “Listen, Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one.” Do the words, “the Lord is one” exclude the possibility of the Trinity?*

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