

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find that was interesting, convicting, confusing, or inspiring in the reading?

1. Sunday, March 26; 1Cor. 12:1-11; Gifts of the Spirit. What is the difference in a life of being led by your own self versus being led by the Spirit (1-3)? List the three areas of gifting we all receive (4-6). What is common to each believer? Why are spiritual gifts given (7)? List the nine gifts in verses 8-11. From Whom do we receive these gifts (11)? Do we get to choose which gifts we want? In your opinion, are these gifts valid for today? Why or why not? **Personal Application:** Which of these gifts do you feel you have?

2. Monday, March 27; 1Cor. 12:12-31; The Church = Body of Christ. How is the Church like the human body (12-14)? What does each believer have in common (13)? Which believers are unimportant or less important (15-17)? Who has arranged the placement and purpose of each believer (18-20)? How are each of us needed no matter what assignment we have (21-25)? Evaluate your own body of believers for “equal concern for each other.” Are any member feeling left out? If so, what can be done about this? How does verse 26 manifest itself in your church body? What part do you have in the church body (27)? Can that role/job be easily categorized in one of the areas of gifting (28-30)? How does a person do his/her job in the church most excellently (31 + 13:1)? **Personal Application:** How is God using you in the church body? Seek Him for His assignments for you.

3. Tuesday, March 28; 1Cor. 13:1-8a; Love Defined. How does Paul tie the gifts of the Spirit from chapter 12 into verses 1-3? What is he saying about employing our gifts? What is the most important and effective means of using our gifts? Without love, what may still be accomplished? Make a list of the 16 definitions of love found in 4-8a. For all of the negative definitions (is not, does not), write a positive counterpart (is not self-seeking = is others centered). **Personal Application:** How are you or I doing in demonstrating Godly LOVE on a daily basis? In which areas do you or I need work? In which areas are we strong? Post this definition of love on your refrigerator.

4. Wednesday, March 29; 1Cor. 13:8b-13; Part versus Whole. Read the entire passage. What is the result of the spiritual gifts of prophecy, tongues, and knowledge at the end of the age (8b-10)? Why do they disappear (10)? How does Paul liken our human existence on earth to “childhood” in comparison to eternity (11-12)? Do you or I consider that what we know now is only blurry and partial? Even as we seek greater knowledge and understanding (and are given it by the Lord!) why is verse 12 important to remember? What three gifts remain unto eternity (13)? **Personal Application:** Reflect with God how you are fully known by Him (12) and read Psalm 139 for confirmation of this fact. AND/OR Write a few sentences why love is the greatest gift of all.

5. Thursday, March 30; 1Cor. 14: 1-25; Speaking in Tongues. In verses 1-5, what gifts of the Spirit does Paul urge believers to employ? What exactly is the gift of prophecy today and is any believer who spends time in study and reflection with God able to employ this gift? In verses 6-12, how is the gift of tongues meaningless to most people? Whom does the gift of tongues edify (12)? What is missing and desired by Paul concerning the gift of tongues (13-15)? Why is the gift of tongues a more personal gift than the others (16-17)? Did Paul enjoy speaking in tongues to God (18)? What was his preference in terms of spiritual gifts that build each other up (19)? Read notes on verses 20-22 and give your thoughts that tongues are a sign for unbelievers. Why does Paul argue that the gift of prophecy (teaching about God) is better for unbelievers (23-25)? **Personal Application:** Share your thoughts about the gift of tongues with the Lord. What has been your personal experience, if any, with it?

6. Friday, March 31; 1Cor. 14:26-40; Order in Worship. How did the Corinthians participate in worship and what were they to bring to the corporate experience (26)? What were the guidelines for speaking in tongues (27-28)? What were the listeners to do while the teaching was given (29)? How were the insights of all encouraged (30-31)? How and why was order in worship maintained (32-33)? Are verses 34-35 cultural guidelines for the time, or necessary today as well? Why is order and thoughtfulness to be maintained in corporate worship of God (36-40)? **Personal Application:** Express your thoughts to God about your own corporate worship experience. How might it be improved upon? Are you His change agent if change is needed?

7. Saturday, April 1; 1Cor. 15:1-12; The Resurrection of Christ. Read the entire passage. Besides helping the Corinthians with their behavior issues, for what other reason did Paul write (1-2)? What exactly is the “gospel that saves” (2)? How could a person “believe in vain” (2)? What important Truth is Paul driving home with the Corinthians (3-8)? Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ a key belief and Truth? How did Paul personally experience the GRACE (God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense) of the resurrection (9-11)? How are believers unified through the grace of the gospel message no matter how or from whom we receive it (12)? **Personal Application:** Write a prayer of thanks for your own personal experience of God’s GRACE given to you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Cindy Oury. March 24, 2017.