

day 1: (I Corinthians 1: 1-3, Matthew 5:13-16) Corinth was a powerful city of trade. With it's power came evil. Yet, right in the midst of that city Paul started a church. He writes to them that they are "sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy..." He wants their light to shine, right in the midst of the city. What if your light shone today? What if right in the midst of your world, you let your light shine brighter than before? Jesus taught this in Matthew. Try praying the words of the Matthew passage and apply them to yourself.

day 2: (I Corinthians 1: 1-9) "Together" is a powerful word. Paul uses it here to encourage the Corinthian church that they are not alone. So much of our faith requires personal decision that we often forget that we make our journey with Christ "together" with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. It is God's design that we "do life together", not isolated and alone. Is it time for you to open your faith up to those around you?

day 3: (I Corinthians 1: 1-9, I Thessalonians 5: 12-28, Romans 1:8-9) "I always thank God for you..." Paul was always praying. Prayer for him involved concentrated times of purposeful prayer, but also maintaining a sort of ongoing conversation with the Lord all day long. Do you have both in your prayer life? Are you following Paul's example? It's also Jesus' example. What if you started today to ask the Lord to help you think of him all day long?

day 4: (I Corinthians 1: 6, II Thessalonians 1: 1-12) Paul teaches that the "proof" of the gospel message is the effect it has on those who accept it. There is real change in the lives of believers. He goes so far as to say that the testimony about Christ is "confirmed" in the Corinthian Christians. In Thessalonians, he declares that others will "marvel" at those who accept and believe. Think about your life and witness. What kind of testimony are you giving about Jesus? Talk with the Lord about this today as you pray.

day 5: (I Corinthians 1:7-9, I Thessalonians 4: 13-18) Are you "eagerly awaiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed"? Does the reality of Christ's return cause you to rejoice or to fear...or something in between? We have no fear of his return if our lives are his. Are you his? If the Lord returned today, are you ready to meet him? Is there anything that separates you from him today? Confess it to him and he will forgive (I John 1:8-9).

day 6: (I Corinthians 1:7) The word "Advent" means "coming". The church talks about "advent" because the scriptures teach us about the Lord Jesus who came first as a baby in a manger (1st Advent), and will someday return as judge and Lord of all (2nd Advent). These reminders teach us that we are waiting for God to fulfill his plans for his people. But it is important to remember that the Kingdom of the Lord has already begun. With that baby in the manger, God began his redemptive work in Jesus. And not only did Jesus come, and is he coming again, but HE IS HERE right now! A spirit of Advent means that we consciously know that the Lord is present and at work all the time, every day. Pay attention today, the Lord is here...live in a spirit of Advent.

The Spirit of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 2008

I Corinthians 1: 1-9