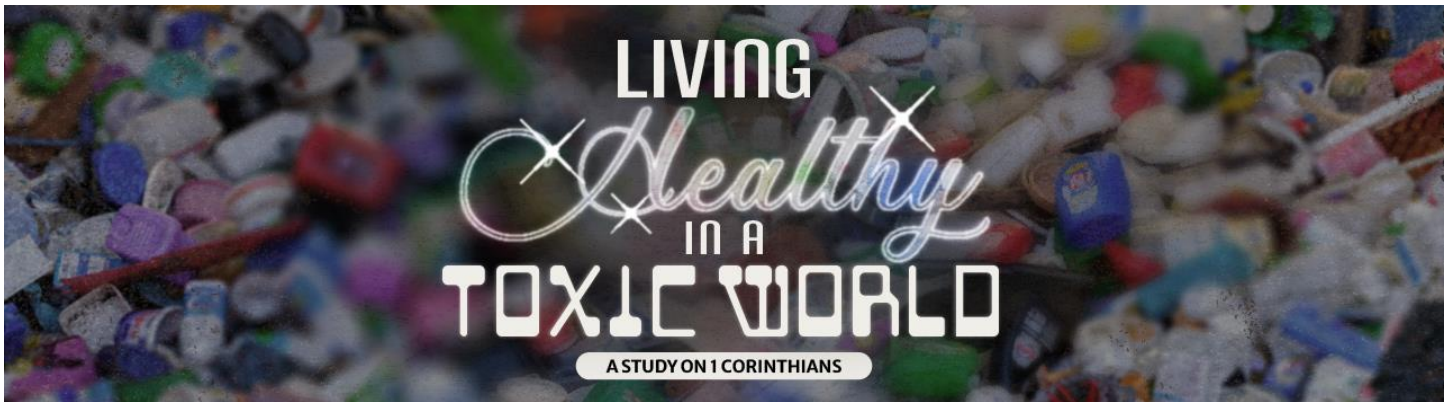




STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Teaching: *More Than a Moment*

Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:1–11

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 4:1-13

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

Friday: 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What's your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

In 1 Corinthians 3:1–11, Paul reminds us that when we surrender our lives to Jesus, it is not the finish line—it is the starting line. Although the Corinthians had genuinely come to Christ, they had failed to grow beyond spiritual infancy, allowing jealousy, division, and worldly thinking to shape their lives instead of the Gospel. Healthy Christians continue to grow, and true spiritual maturity is measured not simply by what we know about Jesus but by how much our lives are becoming like His. The foundation of that growth is the Gospel itself: Christ crucified. This is not something we move beyond but something upon which we build our entire lives. As we surrender more of ourselves to Jesus each day, the cross reshapes our attitudes, relationships, priorities, and character, making us more like Jesus. God never intended your faith to stop where it started.

Questions: Icebreaker: What's something you've started with a lot of excitement but never finished? Why do you think it's so much easier to start something than to stick with it?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1–11 together as a group. Paul describes the Corinthians as "infants in Christ." What do you think he means by that? What evidence did Paul point to that show they weren't growing spiritually?
2. What are some signs of spiritual growth you've seen in your own life or in people around you? (See Notes for examples Pastor Neal gave)
3. In 1 Cor. 3:5–9, how does Paul's explanation reveal the role of God, leaders, and the church?

CEDAR VALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

4. This passage exposes how we could be building our lives on the wrong foundation. What does it look like to "build on the foundation" of Jesus every day?
5. Pastor Neal ended by asking, "Are you more like Jesus today than you were a year ago?" In what area of your life have you seen growth? Where is God inviting you to continue growing? Challenge for the week: Spend a few minutes each day asking yourself one simple question—What does the cross teach me about this situation?" Ask each other next week how it's going when you meet again!

NOTES

Question 2—

Pastor Neal gave some examples of what a Gospel-shaped life looks like. "The cross isn't merely the event that saved me. It becomes the pattern that shapes me."

- When someone hurts me...the cross says: FORGIVE
- When I want recognition...the cross says: SERVE
- When my pride rises...the cross says: HUMBLE YOURSELF
- When I want revenge...the cross says: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
- When I want to control everything...the cross says: TRUST GOD

DIGGING DEEPER

Throughout 1 Corinthians, Paul addresses the Corinthians' belief that they are "spiritual," while pointing out that their jealousy, division, and self-centeredness reveal that they are living in a worldly way. In passages like 1 Corinthians 3 and Romans 8, Paul draws a sharp contrast between the "flesh" (or "sinful nature" in some translations) and the "Spirit." Here is an explanation from Dr. Craig Keener:

"When Paul contrasts Spirit and flesh, he is not contrasting two parts or aspects of the human personality; rather, he is contrasting dependence on God's Spirit (and on Christ's justification that provides the Spirit) with humanity left to its own devices... Ancient writers often contrasted groups with ideal types: thus, Stoics and the book of Proverbs contrasted the wise and the foolish, even though few would be considered infallibly wise. Likewise, Proverbs and the Dead Sea Scrolls contrast the righteous and the wicked, even though no one was assumed virtuous in every respect without exception. The point is that one either belongs to the people who have the Spirit, and therefore their hearts are being transformed by God, or to those who are left to merely the best (or worst) of human effort without dependence on God's gift of the Spirit through faith in Christ."

—Dr. Craig Keener, *The NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids: 2016.