

1 Corinthians Part One

Lesson #9, Chapter 3 Overview

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

I've included Chapter 3 at the end of this lesson so you can print it out and mark it up if you'd like. I find it helps me see items more easily if I'm marking and noting things as I go.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-4).
 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 5-9).
 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 10-15).
 - d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 16-17).
 - e. Summarize paragraph 5 (verses 18-23).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.

3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.

4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

5. List the things God did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer. Your answer might look like this: We fellow workers [Paul and Apollos] belong to God (verse 9).

6. List what you learn about Jesus Christ in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answer.

7. What kinds of men are discussed in verses 1-5?

8. What do you learn about *building, foundations, and work* in this chapter? Be sure to list the verse references with your answers.

9. What do you learn about *temples* in this chapter?

10. Write down *at least* one thing that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

1 Corinthians Chapter 3

1And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

2I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

3for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

4For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?

5What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one.

6I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

7So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

8Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

9For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

10According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

11For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones,
wood, hay, straw,

13each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to
be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

14If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

15If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved,
yet so as through fire.

16Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God
dwells in you?

17If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of
God is holy, and that is what you are.

18Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is
wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

19For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "He is
the one who catches the wise in their craftiness";

20and again, "The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless."

21So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,

22whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things
present or things to come; all things belong to you,

23and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.