



Alpha-Omega Bible Study: The New Testament
Session 2: Acts, the Epistles, & the Apocalypse
Lesson 5: Plea for Unity in Christ

READ

- A. Review the list of theological themes and doctrines covered in Alpha-Omega.
- B. Choose one of the following two reading plans. For either, look for recurring themes and perhaps mark them in your Bible.
 1. Read Acts 18:1 – 20:1; 1 Corinthians; and 2 Corinthians
 2. Read only the following:
 - Acts 18:1-18
 - 1 Corinthians 1:1-18
 - 1 Corinthians 11:17-34
 - 1 Corinthians 12:1-31
 - 2 Corinthians 5:6 – 6:2
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 9:15
 - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

REACT

- A. Use the space below to write down key observations or questions that arose as you read the text. Note here the themes or doctrines you found in the passages.

- b. In what ways can you apply Paul's directives to your own participation in the Lord's Supper?
3. a. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul says that spiritual gifts or manifestations of the Spirit are given to members of the body of Christ or the church. According to Paul, what is the source and purpose of these spiritual gifts? How are the gifts to work together?
- b. What do you believe your spiritual gift(s) to be? How are you, or can you, use your gift(s) for the common good?
4. a. The end of 2 Corinthians 5 provides a great statement of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. Summarize 5:11-6:2 in your own words.

b. What is Paul's motivation for telling others about Christ?

c. What does God want to do through you as Christ's ambassador? What can you do to better fulfill this God-given role in your relationships with others?

5. a. In 2 Corinthians 8-9, Paul encourages the Corinthians to excel in the "grace of giving" (8:7). As Paul challenges them to follow the example of the Macedonian churches, what principles of giving do you find in his instructions (8:1-15)?

b. In his use of the sowing and reaping metaphor (9:6f.), is Paul saying that when we give money we will get in return more money or something else?

c. How are these chapters instructive to you in your own financial giving to the work of God's kingdom?

6. a. Paul was apparently afflicted with an unnamed physical ailment he refers to as a "thorn in my flesh" (2 Cor. 12:7). What reasons does Paul give for the presence of this "thorn" in his life? How does Paul react when God does not grant his request for relief?

b. How do you react when God says "No" to your requests? How does Paul's view of strength and weakness give you hope (12:9-10)?

REMEMBER

Commit the following verses to memory:

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NRSV)