

1 Corinthians - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 2, Life: 1 (9:24)

1CO 9:24

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

1 Cor. 9:24

There's only one first prize in a race. And it doesn't simply go to the fastest or the strongest. No, there's another condition. The winner must compete according to the rules. Any deviation and they are disqualified. It's the same in the spiritual race of life. There's a prize at the end, but only if you've played according to the rules - God's rules. Check your life-style with the Bible. Live according to the rules.

CareLines: Volume 3, Servants (7:23)

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

1 Corinthians 7:23

Some employers are not satisfied unless you put in 60 hours or more a week. And even then they may not be satisfied. Those of us who are saved have a commitment to the Lord. He is the One who bought us - it cost Him everything. So we need to be careful that we don't take away from the Lord's share of our lives and give too much to man. We belong to Jesus. He should have the FIRST part.

CareLines: Volume 3, New Life (6:11)

JULY 16

But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified . . .

1 Corinthians 6:11

WASHED: in the precious blood of Christ - all my sins are gone.

SANCTIFIED: I have Christ's name on me and I have been separated from the world and its evil ways.

JUSTIFIED: No one can point the finger at me - I cannot be condemned. It's as if I never had sinned at all.

. . . in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship (5:7-8)

1CO 5:7-8

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: therefore let us keep the feast . . . with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Cor. 5:7, 8

The Old Testament sacrifices were but a picture of the perfect sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross at Calvary. Just as the Jews kept their feast of the Passover to remember their deliverance from bondage in Egypt, so we should too. Only, rather than it being an empty formality, it is an enjoyable, thrilling experience as we spend some time out of our busy week thinking about the death of our Sacrifice, the Lord Jesus Christ.

CareLines: Volume 3, Faithful (4:17)

JULY 14

Timothy . . . faithful in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 4:17

That's a nice commendation, that one is faithful to the Lord. We are encouraged when we see younger Christians who are walking in a way that shows their faithfulness to the Lord. You are never too young to start down that path. Samuel started down it when he was a very young child and lived a life of faithfulness to God. We encourage each of our readers to do the same.

CareLines: Volume 2, Affliction (4:17)

2CO 4:17

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

2 Cor. 4:17

The Apostle Paul experienced more affliction than most of us ever imagine. However, he sums it up as "light affliction". He had eternity in view. This is the key! All problems and worries need to be re-focused in light of eternity.

CareLines: Volume 7, Reward (3:8)

Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

1 Corinthians 3:8

Each of us is responsible to the Lord for how we serve Him. He has some part for us to fill in service in His vineyard. One of the great comforts that we can get from Scripture is that the Lord keeps a record of what we do for Him and He will reward us in a coming day. It doesn't matter that no one else knows what we have done. If, in our labor, we are hidden and Christ is glorified, then there will be reward. And the reward is for what we have done - not what someone else did.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service (3:14)

APRIL 27

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:14

One of the tests that building (service) will undergo is, was it done on the foundation? If so, then my work will receive a reward - it was gold, silver, precious stones and passed the fire test. What a wonderful day to be rewarded for faithful service. Not that I'm doing it for a reward but that my work will glorify the Lord Jesus. He should be the motivating force and reason why I do everything. Are you building with the right materials?

CareLines: Volume 3, Service (3:12)

APRIL 20

If any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest.

1 Corinthians 3:12

There are two categories of service: that which is for myself, and that which is for the Lord. Service done with and for the Lord is gold, silver, precious stones which will pass the judgment-seat fire test as a rewardable service. Service done under the "guise" of Christian service but with the intent of self-gratification will not pass the fire test. Wood, hay, stubble all burn when lit. O that we may each fulfil our responsibility in the field of service in a way that is pleasing to Christ. Then it will be of gold, silver, precious stones.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service (3:9)

1CO 3:9

For ye are laborers together with God.

1 Cor. 3:9

This phrase is remarkable. Does God need us? He could speak and the whole world would shatter into a million pieces. And yet Christians, God's people today, walking in tune with Him and serving Him in His "field" are laborers together with God. We are working with God -He and us working together. Do you get the importance of this statement, young Christian friend? WE ARE WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD. He's our God, He gave His Son to save us, and now we can be laborers together with Him. I think that's great. I hope you do too.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service (3:14)

1CO 3:14

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1 Cor. 3:14

God is going to examine our service and see if it was done according to His will and in accordance with Scriptural teachings. If it was, then we will receive a reward. If not, our "works" will go up in flames. Take your Bible a minute and read 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. Do you see what standard God has set? It's the highest! And He's given you the power and ability to reach the standard so that He can reward you for your service. Keep serving!

CareLines: Volume 2, Service (3:8)

1CO 3:8

Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

1 Cor. 3:8

Service is a wonderful thing. The Lord expects us to serve Him. And each of us will receive our own reward from Him, according to our own labor. Am I willing to do what the Lord wants me to do? Sometimes we may have to really struggle with inner feelings of not wanting to let go of the comforts we have here and go out in service where things may not be so plush. But God will give us the faith and strength to go out for Him. And then He will reward us for going. He gives us the faith to serve - and then rewards us for using it. Pretty neat, isn't it?

CareLines: Volume 2, Fire Test, The (3:13)

1CO 3:13

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1 Cor. 3:13

In that day (the judgment seat of Christ) there will be rewards for many "works" that were done unnoticed. Other great Christian projects, known by many around the world, may not stand the great Fire Test. They'll disappear in the flames. God will not forget that which is done purely for Him out of a heart of love: the help given to the ungrateful; the kindness that went unnoticed, or unthanked; the kind word spoken to one in trouble; or even the devotional meditation of a heart in love with Jesus.

CareLines: Volume 3, Stand Fast (16:13)

APRIL 22

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith.

1 Corinthians 16:13

We must be on constant guard watching for enemy attacks. Satan rarely attacks the same way twice. He knows our weaknesses and will hit us there every time but with a new twist. Don't fall asleep, young person, in spiritual things. That's when Satan is most likely to get you. Stand fast in the faith. Don't give up. The end of the path of faith is in sight. Watch ye!

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: 1CO 16:15 (16:15)

1CO 16:15

The house of Stephanas . . . they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints.

1 Cor. 16:15

This is a wonderful addiction to have - to minister to the saints. Here we have a whole family that spent their energy in serving other Christians. Don't feel that work for the Lord is always done by individuals. No, there's a special happiness and blessing when a family can all work together for the Lord - each doing his part and all working as a team. Perhaps your family can be like Stephanas'. A billboard near us reads, "The family that prays together stays together." There's also a special bond that holds a family together when they can work together in the Lord's work.

CareLines: Volume 3, Mystery (15:51)

OCTOBER 24

Behold, I show you a mystery.

1 Corinthians 15:51

One of the great mysteries of the Bible is the truth that we shall be changed, when we're taken to heaven, to have incorruptible bodies just like the Lord Jesus. No more sickness, pain or sorrow. No more need for food to keep the body going. (Some of you may be sorry about that one!) Everything will be different. I suppose, it still is a mystery in some respects - like how it will happen. But we know that it will.

CareLines: Volume 3, Witnessing (15:3)

AUGUST 31

Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:3

Carl, a mailman friend of mine, was having a problem at work. Often when he came to work in the morning his mailbag was missing. Sometimes part-time workers would grab just any bag and ignore the name on the strap. The problem was solved when Carl wrote, after his name, "Christ died for our sins." From then on men would pick up his bag and then put it right back down - but at least each time this occurred they would read a gospel message. Are you doing all you can to get the "good news" out?

Just a quick note to encourage you on in the path of faith. The news reports paint a dark picture of the world's political and financial situation. It surely cannot hang together much longer. Soon the Lord will come and call us away. Then, and only then, will there be peace, perfect peace. Amen, even so come, Lord Jesus!

Thanks this issue to Joe Smith for his help. Write to us - we enjoy hearing from you.

CareLines: Volume 2, Victory (15:57)

1CO 15:57

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 15:57

Which victory? Over death! Now we have heaven to look forward to because of Calvary. No more need to worry about meeting God in our sins. No more question or doubt - I hope I'm going to heaven. No, now we can say that we know that we are going to heaven - for sure. After death - an eternal home in heaven awaits those that have put their trust in Jesus. And our victory is only through Jesus. We can't do anything to make our salvation more sure. Don't let anyone ever talk you out of your confidence in Christ.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service (15:58)

1CO 15:58

Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

1 Cor. 15:58

For many of us it's hard to start a job and then stick to it. When Hudson Taylor, missionary to China, said good-bye to his wife as she died by his side, he knelt down and thanked the Lord for their many years together and for taking her home to be with Him in heaven. He then asked the Lord to help him carry on the work in China. His love for his wife was exceeded only by his love for, and devotion to, the Lord Jesus.

CareLines: Volume 3, Edifying (14:12)

SEPTEMBER 29

Seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

1 Corinthians 14:12

God's purpose for public ministry in the Church is for the edifying of those that hear. The Lord wants His Church built up in the Christian faith. The Corinthian saints were zealous of spiritual gifts which was a fine thing to be zealous over. But the underlying purpose of the gift is for the edification of others. If my words don't edify, then I'd be better off staying quiet.

CareLines: Volume 7, Love (13:13)

The greatest . . . is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13 N.K.J.V

There is nothing greater in God's viewpoint than love. He is love. That's His nature. And when we became Christians, we had God's nature and capacity to love built into our being. Now we can love as He does. His love shows no prejudice. His love has no limits. His love sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. Our love reflects how much we love Him. Let it show.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service (13:3)

OCTOBER 19

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor . . . and have not charity [love], it profiteth me nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:3

If God's love is not the indwelling, motivating force behind everything you do - no matter how benevolent your actions - you might just as well stay at home and do nothing. Love makes us act with the right motive - a godly care for others, for the glory of God. Nothing else matters or will bring a reward.

CareLines: Volume 3, Fake (13:1)

SEPTEMBER 18

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity [or, love], I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:1

Here we have a real fake in action. A man may indeed be able to give the most wonderful exposition on a scripture, but if in that person we see or feel no love for his audience, the effect of the discourse is lost. It really was pretty much a waste of time. When the Lord Jesus spoke, the crowds couldn't get enough. Why? Because the Lord showed in His manner that underneath was a large heart full of love for His people. And so His words had power. Giving a speech is one thing; living your speech is quite another.

CareLines: Volume 3, Love (13:4)

JUNE 29

Love . . . is kind.

1 Corinthians 13:4

Life is getting more rushed.

Other people live their lives for them.

Very often, I do the same for me.

Everyone is getting selfish.

Isn't it a shame that Christ doesn't

shine in my life as He should?

Kindness - an act that more and more

is disappearing in our daily life.

Nothing makes me feel sadder inside when others

don't show kindness to me - do I to them?

THE MIND

CareLines: Volume 3, Service (12:28)

OCTOBER 12

And God hath set some in the church . . . helps.

1 Corinthians 12:28

"Thanks, you've been a real help!" Ever heard that? (Was it said to you?) The helper had been filling one of the positions available in the Church. A help may not seem like much, nor very important, but what would life be like if Christians never helped each other? Be a help. You're doing God's work.

CareLines: Volume 3, Body, The (12:24-25)

SEPTEMBER 26

God hath tempered the body together . . . that there should be no schism in the body.

1 Corinthians 12:24,25

God made our physical bodies one complete unit, each part working together for the benefit of the whole. He has also made the spiritual body of Christ (the Church) one complete unit. Each member in the body should also work in harmony with the others for the benefit of the whole. The responsibility rests with YOU to see that that happens.

CareLines: Volume 3, Coveting (12:31)

1CO 12:31

But covet earnestly the best gifts.

1 Cor. 12:31

It's not wrong to covet, as long as you covet the right things. What are the right things? Those that pertain to God and a more Godly life. To covet the conveniences of this life is wrong. To covet a gift to use for the glory of God and in His service is encouraged. If you have a real desire to preach the gospel and ask the Lord to give you the gift so that you can preach, don't forget to use that gift in the gospel and for the Lord's glory when He grants your request. The vessel should never be seen. But what's inside should shine out.

CareLines: Volume 3, Worship (11:26)

MAY 3

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We can worship the Lord any time, any place. But there is a special time for collective worship. This is the highest level of worship that there is - a time when we remember what it cost the Lord Jesus to get us fit for heaven. That special time, the remembrance of the Lord in the breaking of bread, should be very meaningful to everyone who partakes. The remembrance of the cross should make our hearts burst with praise and adoration to Him who is so worthy - our Lord Jesus Christ.

CareLines: Volume 3, Giving Offense (10:32)

JULY 17

Give none offense.

1 Corinthians 10:32

Lord, help me today, In what I do and say, Should others pass my way, To not offend. Lord, control my tongue, When I meet anyone, No matter what they've done, I won't offend.

CareLines: Volume 3, Temptation (10:13)

APRIL 16

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Cor. 10:13

There are four words of comfort in this verse for one who is tempted: (1) We might feel that no one else could understand or endure what we are passing through, but God says that our temptation is common to man. (2) Sometimes we feel that we just can't bear our trial or temptation any longer; if we couldn't bear it, God wouldn't allow it. (3) "God is faithful"; doesn't that tell us that our difficulty is for our ultimate good? (4) We may feel trapped, but God says that He will make a way of escape.

CareLines: Volume 2, Thoughts: 1CO 10:5 (10:5)

1CO 10:5

Casting down imaginations.

2 Cor. 10:5

Sometimes when I cast my thoughts down they are like cats! They always land on their feet and come back to bother me! This word "casting down" really means "to demolish or to destroy". This goes a lot further! Do we have thoughts that are displeasing to the Lord Jesus Christ, and a hindrance to our spiritual growth? Destroy them! Now let us fill our thoughts with the Lord Jesus Christ and His precious Word.

CareLines: Volume 2, Testings (10:13)

1CO 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful.

1 Cor. 10:13

The word for temptation here is really trial or difficulty. That could be a variety of things, but remember - God is faithful. He will not allow you to be swamped by the trial so that you don't make it. He has allowed the difficulty for a reason. Ask Him why He has let this trial into your life. Even though it may seem that He doesn't hear your cry for help -He really does. And He's ready to help you. He'll provide a "way of escape." Take it!

CareLines: Volume 2, Pretenders: 1 (10:4-5)

1CO 10:4-5

They drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them. . . . But with many of them God was not well pleased.

1 Cor. 10:4, 5

All the Jews drank of God's provision, but God was not pleased with all of them. Why not? Some were pretenders. They faked their devotedness and on the inside were not right with God. Are you a pretender? You know the right answers, the right behavior, the right dress, etc. but your heart is not cleansed. You may pass as a Christian all your life but in the end you'll find that God is not well-pleased with you because you never really accepted Jesus as your own Savior. Get right with God today.

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