

1 Corinthians choral reading

CHARACTERS: Paul (87), Sosthenes (62), ALL, VOG (Voice of God 1), Pricilla (4), Aquila: (7), Jesus (2), Gallio (1) Crowd 1 (2), Crowd 2 (1), Crowd 3 (1)

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: about 3 minutes/page

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 18: 1-17, 1 Corinthians 1-16

Founding the Corinthian Church

PRICILLA: Paul worked with my husband, a Jewish man named Aquila, when he arrived in Corinth.

AQUILA: My wife, Pricillia, and I fled Rome when Claudius ordered all the Jews to leave Rome.

PAUL: We tentmakers by trade.

PRICILLA: Paul reasoned and tried to persuade both Jews and Greeks in the synagogue every Sabbath.

AQUILA: Many of the Corinthians, when they heard, believed and were baptized.

PRICILLA: The Lord said to Paul in a night vision

VOG: Don't be afraid, but keep on speaking and don't be silent. For I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to hurt you, because I have many people in this city.

PAUL: I stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

AQUILA: While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack against Paul and brought him to the judge's bench.

CROWD 1: This man persuades people to worship God contrary to the law!

GALLIO: If it were a matter of a crime or of moral evil, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you Jews. But if these are questions about words, names, and your own law, see to it yourselves. I don't want to be a judge of such things.

PRICILLA: Gallio drove them from the judge's bench.

AQUILA: The crowd seized Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the judge's bench.

PRICILLA: But none of these things concerned Gallio.

PAUL: I, Paul, called as an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will,

SOSTHENES: and I, Sosthenes, write this letter to God's church at Corinth,

PAUL: to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus and called as saints,

SOSTHENES: with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord

PAUL & SOSTHENES: —both their Lord and ours.

SOSTHENES: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PAUL: I always thank my God for you

SOSTHENES: You Corinthians were enriched in everything by Jesus Christ.

PAUL: So that you do not lack any spiritual gift

ALL: as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

SOSTHENES: He will also strengthen you to the end,

ALL: so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PAUL: God is faithful;

ALL: you were called by Him into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Divisions at Corinth (Chapter 1 & 3)

PAUL: Now I urge you, brothers,

ALL: in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

PAUL: that all of you agree in what you say,

SOSTHENES: that there be no divisions among you,

ALL: and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction.

PAUL: It has been reported

CROWD 1: I'm with Paul.

CROWD 2: I'm with Apollos.

CROWD 3: I'm with Peter

PRICILLA: I'm with Christ.

SOSTHENES: Was it Paul who was crucified for you?

AQUILA: Or were you baptized in Paul's name?

PAUL: What then is Apollos?

SOSTHENES: And what is Paul?

ALL: They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given.

PAUL: I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

SOSTHENES: So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything,

ALL: but only God who gives the growth.

AQUILA: Now the one planting and the one watering are one in purpose,

PRICILLA: and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

ALL: For we are God's coworkers.

PRICILLA: You are God's field, God's building.

PAUL: According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it.

SOSTHENES: But each one must be careful how he builds on it.

PAUL: For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid down.

ALL: That foundation is Jesus Christ.

SOSTHENES: If anyone builds on that foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw,

ALL: each one's work will become obvious.

PAUL: It will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work.

PRICILLA: If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward.

AQUILA: If anyone's work is burned up, it will be lost, but he will be saved.

ALL: Yet it will be like an escape through fire.

Paul's Proclamation (Chapter 2 & 3)

PAUL: What eye did not see and ear did not hear,

SOSTHENES: and what never entered the human mind—

ALL: God prepared this for those who love Him.

PAUL: Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

SOSTHENES: No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

ALL: We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God.

PAUL: Thus we may understand what has been freely given to us by God.

ALL: Who has known the Lord's mind, that he may instruct Him?

SOSTHENES: But we have the mind of Christ.

PAUL: Don't you yourselves know that you are God's sanctuary

ALL: and that the Spirit of God lives in you?

SOSTHENES: If anyone destroys God's sanctuary, God will destroy him;

ALL: for God's sanctuary is holy, and that is what you are.

The Faithful Manager (Chapter 4 & 5)

PAUL: We are servants of Christ and managers of God's mysteries.

ALL: It is expected that managers be found faithful.

SOSTHENES: Let no one be inflated with pride in favor of one person over another.

ALL: We are fools for Christ.

PAUL: Up to the present hour we are both hungry and thirsty; we are poorly clothed, roughly treated, homeless.

SOSTHENES: We labor, working with our own hands. When we are reviled,

ALL: we bless;

PAUL: when we are persecuted,

ALL: we endure it;

SOSTHENES: when we are slandered,

ALL: we respond graciously.

PAUL: Even now, we are like the world's garbage,

ALL: like the dirt everyone scrapes off their sandals.

SOSTHENES: Your boasting is not good.

ALL: Don't you know that a little yeast permeates the whole batch of dough? 7

PAUL: Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch.

ALL: For Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

Chapter 6-7

PAUL: Don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit God's kingdom?

ALL: Do not be deceived:

SOSTHENES: No sexually immoral people, idolaters, adulterers, or anyone practicing homosexuality,

ALL: no thieves, greedy people, drunkards, verbally abusive people, or swindlers

PAUL: will inherit God's kingdom.

ALL: Everything is permissible for me.

SOSTHENES: but not everything is helpful.

ALL: Everything is permissible for me.

PAUL: but I will not be brought under the control of anything.

ALL: God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

PAUL: Don't you know that your bodies are a part of Christ's body?

ALL: Anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

SOSTHENES: Don't you know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? ALL: You are not your own, for you were bought at a price.

PAUL: Therefore glorify God in your body.

SOSTHENES: Circumcision does not matter and uncircumcision does not matter,

ALL: but keeping God's commands does.

PAUL: You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

SOSTHENES: The time is limited,

ALL: for this world in its current form is passing away.

Chapters 8-9

PAUL: Knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up.

ALL: If anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

SOSTHENES: For us there is one God, the Father.

ALL: All things are from Him, and we exist for Him.

PAUL: And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ.

ALL: All things are through Him, and we exist through Him.

SOSTHENES: Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize?

ALL: Run in such a way to win the prize.

PAUL: Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything.

SOSTHENES: However, they do it to receive a crown that will fade away,

ALL: but we a crown that will never fade away.

PAUL: Therefore I do not run like one who runs aimlessly

ALL: or box like one beating the air.

SOSTHENES: Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control,

ALL: so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

Chapter 10 -11

PAUL: No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to humanity.

ALL: God is faithful, and He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,

PAUL: but with the temptation He will also provide a way of escape so that you are able to bear it.

ALL: Everything is permissible,

SOSTHENES: But not everything is helpful.

ALL: Everything is permissible.

SOSTHENES: But not everything builds up.

ALL: No one should seek his own good, but the good of the other person.

PAUL: Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,

ALL: do everything for God's glory.

PAUL: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said

XX: This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

SOSTHENES: In the same way, after supper He also took the cup and said

XX: This cup is the new covenant established by my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

ALL: For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Spiritual Gifts (Chapter 12)

PAUL: Now there are different gifts,

ALL: but the same Spirit.

SOSTHENES: There are different ministries,

ALL: but the same Lord.

PAUL: There are different activities,

ALL: but the same God activates each gift in each person.

SOSTHENES: A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial:

PAUL: To one is given a message of wisdom

ALL: through the Spirit,

SOSTHENES: To another, a message of knowledge

ALL: by the same Spirit,

PAUL: To another, faith

ALL: by the same Spirit,

SOSTHENES: To another, gifts of healing

ALL: by the one Spirit,

PAUL: To another, the performing of miracles,

ALL: to another, prophecy,

SOSTHENES: to another, distinguishing between spirits,

ALL: to another, different kinds of languages,

PAUL: to another, interpretation of languages.

ALL: But one and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as He wills.

SOSTHENES: For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body

ALL: so also is Christ.

PAUL: For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body

ALL: So the body is not one part but many.

SOSTHENES: If the foot should say,

ALL: Because I'm not a hand, I don't belong to the body.

SOSTHENES: in spite of this it still belongs to the body.

PAUL: If the ear should say,

ALL: Because I'm not an eye, I don't belong to the body.

PAUL: in spite of this it still belongs to the body.

ALL: If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?

SOSTHENES: If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

ALL: But now God has placed each one of the parts in one body just as He wanted.

PAUL: And if they were all the same part, where would the body be?

ALL: Now there are many parts, yet one body.

SOSTHENES: So the eye cannot say to the hand,

ALL: I don't need you!

PAUL: Or again, the head can't say to the feet,

ALL: I don't need you!

SOSTHENES: But even more, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are necessary.

ALL: And those parts of the body that we think to be less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor,

PAUL: and our unpresentable parts have a better presentation.

ALL: But our presentable parts have no need of clothing.

SOSTHENES: Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable,

ALL: so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other.

PAUL: So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it;

ALL: if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

SOSTHENES: Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.

ALL: God has placed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets,

PAUL: third teachers, next miracles,

ALL: then gifts of healing, helping, managing, various kinds of languages.

SOSTHENES: Are all apostles? Are all prophets?

ALL: No.

PAUL: Are all teachers? Do all do miracles?

ALL: No

SOSTHENES: Do all have gifts of healing?

ALL: No.

PAUL: Do all speak in other languages? Do all interpret?

ALL: No.

SOSTHENES: But desire the greater gifts.

ALL: We will show you an even better way.

Love (Chapter 13)

PAUL: If I speak human or angelic languages but do not have love,

ALL: I am a sounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

SOSTHENES: If I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,

PAUL: and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains

ALL: but do not have love, I am nothing.

SOSTHENES: And if I donate all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body in order to boast

ALL: but do not have love, I gain nothing.

PAUL: Love is patient, love is kind.

ALL: Love does not envy,

SOSTHENES: Love is not boastful, is not conceited,

ALL: Love does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not easily provoked,

PAUL: and does not keep a record of wrongs.

ALL: Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth.

SOSTHENES: Love bears all things, believes all things,

PAUL: hopes all things, endures all things.

ALL: Love never ends.

SOSTHENES: But as for prophecies, they will come to an end;

ALL: as for languages, they will cease;

PAUL: as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

ALL: For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when the perfect comes, the partial will come to an end.

PAUL: When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

ALL: When I became a man, I put aside childish things.

SOSTHENES: For now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror,

ALL: but then face to face.

PAUL: Now I know in part,

ALL: but then I will know fully, as I am fully known.

SOSTHENES: Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love.

ALL: But the greatest of these is love.

Final words (Chapters 14-16)

PAUL: Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts.

SOSTHENES: Since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, seek to excel in building up the church.

ALL: God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

PAUL: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

ALL: He was buried, and He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

SOSTHENES: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

ALL: For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man.

PAUL: For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

ALL: Jesus will hand over the kingdom to God the Father,

SOSTHENES: He must reign until He puts all His enemies under His feet.

ALL: The last enemy to be abolished is death.

PAUL: Do not be deceived: bad company corrupts good morals.

ALL: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, and corruption cannot inherit incorruption.

SOSTHENES: Listen! I am telling you a mystery:

ALL: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,

PAUL: in a moment, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.

ALL: For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

SOSTHENES: Death will be swallowed up in victory.

ALL: Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?

PAUL: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

SOSTHENES: Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable,

ALL: always excelling in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

PAUL: Be alert, stand firm in the faith, act like a man, be strong.

ALL: Your every action must be done with love.

SOSTHENES: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

PAUL: My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1- 7 battleship

<http://www.quia.com/ba/526533.html>

1 Corinthians 11-16 matching

<http://www.quia.com/jg/2431357.html>

1 Corinthians 13 matching 2

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1668300.html>

Online review games

1 Corinthians 13 unscramble

<http://www.quia.com/jw/463724.html>

1 Corinthians 13-14 rags to riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/892519.html>

1 Corinthians 8 - 10 hangman

<http://www.quia.com/hm/798817.html>