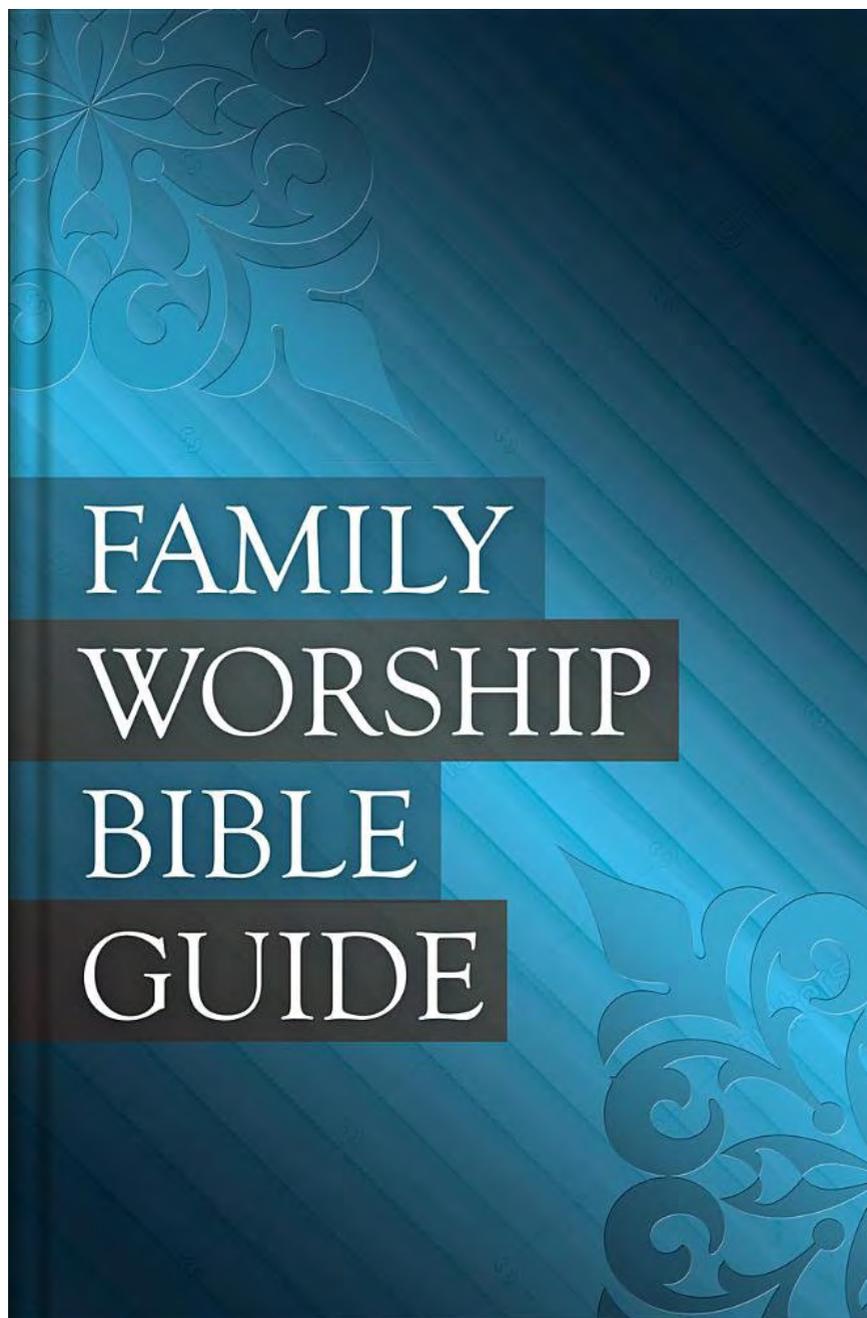


A CHAPTER A DAY

an Agape Bible Reading Plan

Year 1, Quarter 3
(Jul-Sep 2020)

*Looking for a devotional guide to supplement your reading?
Pick up Joel Beeke's 'Family Worship Bible Guide'!*



This booklet belongs to

WELCOME MESSAGE

by Pastor GL (Guoliang) Wong

Dear Agapian,

Greetings in Christ! As I write to you, I am feeling the same longing that the apostles in the Bible had for face to face communication with the saints. It was John who said (in 2 John 12):

Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink (in our context – type the words out!). Instead, I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

I believe, in this pandemic season, many of us have come to appreciate, more than ever before, the immense value of meeting one another. God created us as embodied souls, and it is clearly human to yearn for the joy of such embodied relationships with one another. Our inability to meet together as 1 church is thus one of our laments as a spiritual family.

As we cry out to God in prayerful trust to be fully reunited again, let us also never forget to approach God with a thankful heart. Our Lord calls us to give thanks

in all circumstances (c.f. 1 Thessalonians 5:18) – so let us be counting our manifold blessings even in a time like this! Among the million and one things that the Lord is doing in this COVID-19 season, we know for a certainty that He has the good of all of us in His church in mind (c.f. Romans 8:28).

Here is my exhortation to all of you in this 3rd quarter. Whether you were able to follow A Chapter A Day faithfully the past 2 quarters, start this quarter with a fresh commitment! Set aside time to read, to meditate on the text, and pray in relation to the text and your life. You will discover day by day that God's good for you is intricately bound with the Christian ordinaries – *where the real you meets the real God through His written Word.*

May you be one of those who will emerge from this COVID-19 season stronger through your daily walk with God!



GOD OF THE PASSING HOUR,

*Another quarter has gone and I have been
preserved
in my going out,
in my coming in.
Yours has been the vigilance that has turned
threatened evils aside;
Yours, the supplies that have nourished me;
Yours, the comforts that have indulged me;
Yours, the relations and friends that have
delighted me;
Yours, the means of grace which have edified me;
Yours, the Book, which, amidst all my enjoyments,
has told me that this is not my rest,
that in all successes one thing alone is needful,
to love my Saviour.
Nothing can equal the number of Your mercies
but my imperfections and sins.
These, O God, I will neither conceal nor palliate,
but confess with a broken heart.*

*In what condition would secret reviews
of my life leave me
were it not for the assurance that with You
there is plenteous redemption,
that You are a forgiving God,
that You may be feared!
While I hope for pardon through the blood
of the cross,
I pray to be clothed with humility,
to be quickened in Your way,
to be more devoted to You,
to keep the end of my life in view,
to be cured of the folly of delay and indecision,
to know how frail I am,
to number my days and apply my heart
unto wisdom.*



WELCOME TO 'A CHAPTER A DAY'

Join The Bible Reading Challenge!

Diligently keep up with the Bible reading plan for 365 days and get a special reward at the end of 2020!

Resources

And at the end of this booklet, there is a list of resources provided for you. These resources helped shape this booklet, and the materials found in it. If you found the booklet helpful, you might want to check out some of these books and articles. They will definitely enrich your reading even further!

Supplementary Tools

This booklet is not merely a tool to guide your Bible-reading – nor is it merely for journaling! This booklet comes with resources to deepen your journey of reading the Scriptures. You could:

- *join with Christians throughout this past century through praying a historic prayer*
- *prepare yourself to read a particular book of the Bible by understanding its context*
- *be inspired and encouraged by the Bible-reading journeys of your pastors and leaders*

Take heart! You are not alone on this journey of reading the word!



We're so glad you've got this booklet in your hands!
Here's a quick tour of its features.

It's Yours!

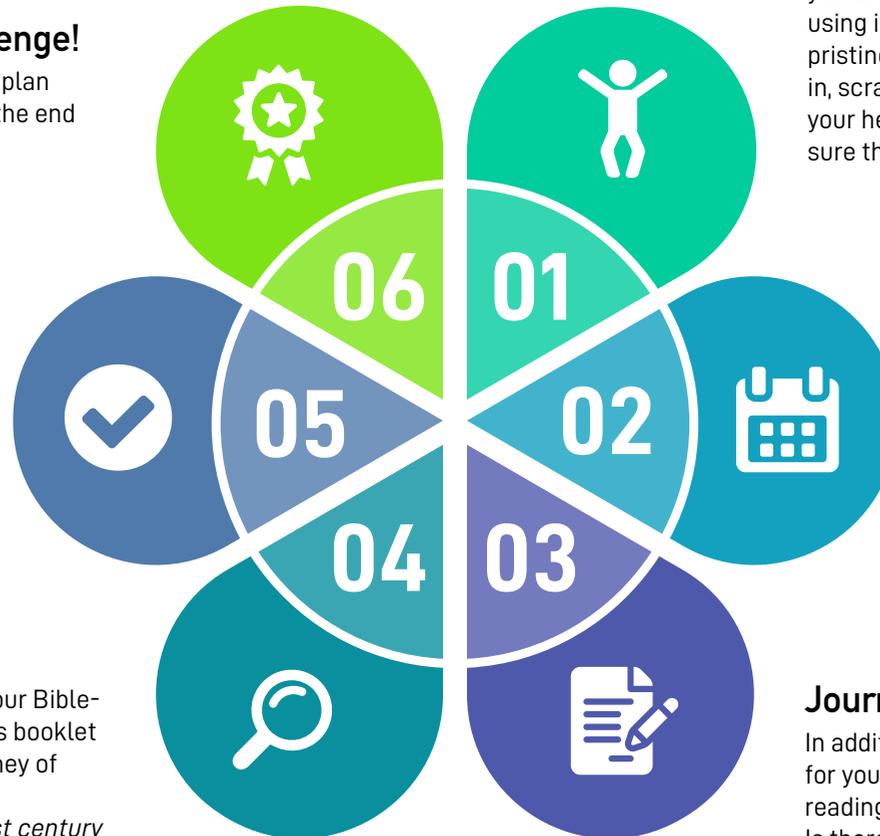
This booklet is entirely, completely, and unreservedly yours! Personalize it. Set up your own system of using it. You could treasure it and keep it in the most pristine condition possible. Or... you could scribble in, scrawl across, and scrounge up this booklet to your heart's delight. But however you use it, make sure that you do use it!

Calendar

The goal is to read through the entire Bible in 3 years. This may seem like a really long process – but here's the thing: it's actually a day-by-day project. And to help and guide you – both in the daily project, and the 3-year process – we've included calendars. These calendars help you track where you are, and what you've covered. So as you move through each day, cross it off on your calendar – and praise God for the grace He's granted you that day!

Journaling Space

In addition to the calendars, there is space provided for you to jot down a response to that day's reading(s). Is there a petition you want to make? Is there something you've learnt about God? Did God speak through His word into your situation in a particular way? Or do you have a question that arose out of that text? Capture these things – and later, share them with someone else too!



Now, you're ready to go!
May God bless the reading of His word!

TIPS ON HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

A good way to understand and apply the Bible, is by asking the right questions as we read through it.

4 QUESTIONS ON INTERPRETATION



3 What do I learn about relating to God?

"Loving God with our whole being expresses itself in a variety of ways. Start by looking for reasons to praise God. Consider what sin you need to confess and repent of. Identify any promises God calls us to believe."

1. What do I learn about God?
2. What do I learn about people?
3. What do I learn about relating to God?

4. *Look out for the fourth question that will be released with in the next booklet!*



4 QUESTIONS ON APPLICATION

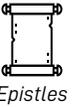
3 What does God want me to desire?

"This question targets the affections—the combination of desires, inclinations, feelings, and will that are the spring of our actions. God calls us to desire Him above all else, but apart from the work of the gospel we will desire what's evil. Reflect on how you see the sinful desires mentioned or implied in the passage show up in your own life, as well as the kind of godly desires you should be cultivating."

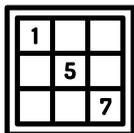
1. What does God want me to understand/think?
2. What does God want me to believe?
3. What does God want me to desire?

4. *Look out for the fourth question that will be released with in the next booklet!*

JULY



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Date Chapter for the day 01 Num 1	02 Num 2	03 Gal 1	04 Num 3
05 Num 4	06 Gal 2	07 Num 5	08 Num 6	09 Gal 3	10 Num 7	11 Num 8
12 Ps 32, Ps 33	13 Num 9	14 Num 10	15 Gal 4	16 Num 11	17 Num 12	18 Gal 5
19 Num 13	20 Num 14	21 Gal 6	22 Ps 34, Ps 35	23 Num 15	24 Num 16	25 Eph 1
26 Num 17	27 Num 18	28 Eph 2	29 Num 19	30 Num 20	31 Eph 3	



A TALE OF TWO GENERATIONS:

Factoring in Numbers

At the end of Leviticus, the people of Israel are still encamped at the foot of Mount Sinai. God has been giving them His Law. Would this newfound covenantal relationship work out between the LORD and the double-minded people of Israel? The story continues...

Tips for Graphing Along

Spot the patterns. Divide and conquer.

1 Remember the Abrahamic Covenant

God promised Abraham land, descendants, relationship with God, and blessing to the nations. How is God fulfilling these promises?

2 Move with the People

The book of Numbers alternates between lists and collections of laws, and the narrative of the Israelites' journey. Are you rushing ahead of the story?

3 Follow Moses

We are given a behind-the-scenes look at Moses' journey as a mediator. What kind of leader was he? What does it look like to mediate between God and people? How would Moses' journey end?

4 Compare the Generations

What do you learn about the patterns of the exodus generation? How does God raise up the newer generation? What warnings can you take to heart? What encouragements?

The Geek Corner

Here's a cheat-sheet to subtract your reading woes!

The Death of the Exodus Generation (Num. 1-25)

I *Preparing to Enter the Promised Land (1-10:10)*

II *The Rebellion and Death of the Exodus Generation (10:11-25)*

The Next Generation: A New Start (Num. 26-36)

I *The Second Census (26)*

II *Laws for the Land (27-30)*

III *Retribution on Midian (31)*

IV *The Transjordan Tribes (32)*

V *Summary of Israel's Journey (33)*

VI *Commands and Regulations for Life in the Promised Land (34-36)*

*Numbers shows how God remains faithful – to us and to His promises – even when His people are faithless.
Look closely – gospel truths are being multiplied!*



Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections!

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Prayer Items

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GUARDING THE GOSPEL:

Get behind Galatians!

Galatians is an epistle (or 'letter') written by the apostle Paul. As the title indicates, Galatians was written to the Galatian Christians.

What's an Epistle?

Easily ¾ of the books in the New Testament are epistles – but be warned: *Epistles do not read like storybooks!* Epistles are instructive: truths to believe (indicatives) and corresponding commands to fulfil (imperatives).

Crisis!

The Galatian Christians were being brought into slavery under the law. False teachers had infiltrated the church, and had deceived the Christians. They taught that believing in Jesus was only the first step. Instead, they taught that the true essence of the faith is found in circumcision and a commitment to follow the law of Moses.

Who was lying? What is the true Christian faith?

Guiding Questions

Paul is at a disadvantage. He's writing from far away but the false teachers can speak directly into the ears of the Galatians. As Paul writes, he anticipates the doubts and confusions that are on the hearts of the believers – and he addresses them! Here are the broad questions Paul addresses:

- 1 *Is Paul the false teacher (1:6–2:21)?*
- 2 *Does God respond to faith or to the keeping of the law (3-4)? What role does the law play with respect to sin (5:20; 7:1–25)?*
- 3 *How then do we live the Christian life (5:1–6:10)?*
- 4 *If not circumcision – then what (6:11–6:18)?*

Galatians is Paul's single-minded defense of the free gift of the gospel! Read on to see how he pits faith against works, law against grace, liberty against legalism, sonship against slavery, and the fruit of the Spirit against the desires of the flesh.

Grasp God's grace permeating all of Galatians!

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JULY



ELEVATING THE GOSPEL:

Eclipsed by Ephesians!

Ephesians is an epistle by Paul,
written to the believers in Ephesus.

No problem?

Paul's epistles are usually written to a particular people to address a particular issue. However, here in Ephesians, no specific problem is raised! Instead Paul goes deeper into the truths of the gospel – God's redemptive work in Christ, the unity of the church, and applying the gospel to everyday matters.

A letter of Two Halves

Ephesians is split almost perfectly in half! The first half is almost entirely an explanation of the gospel, while the second half is almost nothing but the application of the gospel!



Main Themes

Paul's letter is packed with various themes:

- 1 *Blessedness in Christ (1:3-14)*
- 2 *Prayer (1:15-23; 3:14-21)*
- 3 *Saved by faith through grace (2:1-10)*
- 4 *Unity (2:11-22; 4:1-16)*
- 5 *God's mysterious plan for the Gentiles (3:1-13)*
- 6 *New life (4:17-32)*
- 7 *Love (5:1-6:9)*
- 8 *The Armour of God (6:10-20)*

*There is more gospel per square inch in Ephesians
than in anywhere else in the Bible!*

Even so, go slow; savour every square inch!

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Prayer Items

JULY

AUGUST



Law



Wisdom and Poetry



Epistles

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Pr 9	31 Deut 3					01 Num 21
02 Num 22	03 Ps 36	04 Pr 8	05 Num 23	06 Num 24	07 Eph 4	08 Num 25
09 Num 26	10 Eph 5	11 Num 27	12 Num 28	13 Eph 6	14 Num 29	15 Num 30
16 Ps 37	17 Phil 1	18 Num 31	19 Num 32	20 Phil 2	21 Num 33	22 Num 34
23 Phil 3	24 Num 35	25 Num 36	26 Phil 4	27 Deut 1	28 Deut 2	29 Ps 38



Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections!

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Prayer Items

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Prayer Items

AUGUST



LET'S GET THE GOSPEL:

Filled by Philippians!

Philippians, an epistle written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Philippi.



An Unusual Letter

The Philippian believers held a special place in Paul's heart. He lavishes them with unusual love (4:1). He uses words like 'joy' and 'rejoice' some 16 times in this short letter. Rather than being a letter correcting or rebuking, Paul seems to have written a 'thank you' letter.



Christ-Filled

Paul unceasingly calls the focus to Christ:

Chapter 1

Christ is LIFE

Chapter 2

Christ is EXAMPLE

Chapter 3

Christ is HOPE

Chapter 4

Christ is the SOURCE



Power-Packed

Philippians is also jam-packed with famous, heart-gripping verses:

1:6 "...he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion..."

1:21 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

2:5-11 Christ's humility and exaltation

2:12 "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"

3:7 "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ."

3:14 "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

4:7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts..."

4:13 "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Philippians is indispensable to Christian maturity! Whether in plenty or in suffering, here Paul unveils the secret to rejoicing –
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!

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Prayer Items

Prayer Items

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AUGUST



DOUBLE-DOWN:

Durable Deuteronomy

The people of Israel are back at the edge of the promised land. The 40 years of wandering has ended. Very soon, Joshua would lead a new generation to take the land. Moses, the last of the previous generation, presents his final words...

It Endures!

The book of Deuteronomy is quoted throughout much of the Bible! It is the basis for the story from Joshua to Kings.

Often, the prophets would interpret the times based on the covenant blessings and curses found in Deuteronomy.

In the New Testament, Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy more than any other book. The Apostle Paul often features passages from Deuteronomy in his writing – especially in the book of Romans. *What an enduring book!*

The Demand of Total Obedience

More than any other book in the Old Testament, Deuteronomy demands total obedience to God's will! How are we to respond to such an intense call today?

1 See God's character revealed in His Law

God's commands are not random! They reflect who He is and what He values.

2 Apply the principles

The letter of the Law is no longer binding upon the Christian. Yet, the spirit of the Law provides guiding principles for the Christian life!

3 Not tomorrow – submit today!

The word "today" appears 48 times in this book. God is calling us to respond today!

Survival Pack

It's easy to be daunted by Deuteronomy – here's a lifeline!

I Prologue (1:1-5)

II Moses' First Speech: Keep the Law (1:6-4:43)

III Moses' Second Speech: Allegiance to the LORD is Top Priority (4:44-28:68)

IV Moses' Third Speech: Covenant confirmation, blessings and curses (29-30)

V Succession Plan (31-32)

VI Blessing and Burial (33-34)

Deuteronomy reveals that the greatest threat to God's project for the world is not the Egyptians or the Canaanites! It is the human heart.

Be humbled – and let your heart ache for the Saviour!

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Prayer Items

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER



Law



Wisdom and Poetry



Epistles

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01 Deut 4	02 Col 1	03 Deut 5	04 Deut 6	05 Col 2
06 Deut 7	07 Deut 8	08 Col 3	09 Deut 9	10 Deut 10	11 Col 4	12 Deut 11
13 Deut 12	14 Ps 39, Ps 40	15 Deut 13	16 Deut 14	17 1 Cor 1	18 Deut 15	19 Deut 16
20 1 Cor 2	21 Deut 17	22 Deut 18	23 1 Cor 3	24 Deut 19	25 Deut 20	26 Ps 41
27 Pr 10	28 Deut 21	29 Deut 22	30 1 Cor 4			

Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections!

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Prayer Items

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CHRIST IS LORD:

Incomparable Colossians!

Paul wrote Colossians as an epistle to the Christians in Colossae.



Big Problem

The church in Colossae was not facing obvious problems. In fact, they appeared to be doing well! But a crisis was brewing – it wasn't an obvious problem, but it was a *big* one. False teaching was leading people to doubt Christ's supremacy and His sufficiency to grant salvation.



Letter Outline

Colossians is a deceptively short letter – here's an outline to help you pay closer attention!

- 1 Greetings, Thanksgiving, Prayer (1:1-14)
- 2 Praise to Christ (1:15-23)
- 3 Paul's Labour (1:24-2:3)
- 4 Dangerous Teachings (2:4-23)
- 5 Christ: The True Focus (3:1-4)
- 6 Christian Living (3:5-4:6)
- 7 Personal Greetings and Closing (4:7-18)

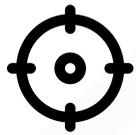


Christ, Christ, Christ!

This word occurs numerous times in the book of Colossians. Here are some questions worth asking as we consider the importance of Christ to the book of Colossians:

-  *Who is Christ?*
-  *What is His relationship with heavenly beings?*
-  *What is His relationship with creation?*
-  *What role does He play in salvation?*
-  *What is His relationship with His church?*
-  *What is His role in us becoming spiritually mature?*

With over 70 references to Christ, you cannot help but meet Christ – He is Supreme! He is Sufficient!



CRISISPOINT:

1 Body, 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians is actually Paul's second letter (7:1) to the church in Corinth. It would not be his last...

A Troubled Church

The Corinthian church was rife with conflicts:

- 1 Division over leadership (1:10-4:21)
- 2 Lawsuits among believers (6:1-11)
- 3 Taking of the Lord's Supper (11:17-34)
- 4 Ranking of spiritual gifts (12-14)

A Flickering Light

Corinthian believers were also destroying their witness through cultural compromise:

- 1 Incest (5)
- 2 Sexual immorality (6:12-20)
- 3 Marital issues (7:1-24)
- 4 Regarding singleness (7:25-40)
- 5 Dining in pagan temples (8:1-11:1)
- 6 Head coverings (11:2-16)
- 7 Rejecting the resurrection (15)

Jesus Christ and Him Crucified!

But when dealing with each issue, Paul almost always turns the focus back on Christ:

- 1 Divisions & Rivalry? *Christ crucified is the stumbling block - and the Church's one foundation*
- 2 Incest? *Christ is the Passover Lamb whom we celebrate without the old leaven*
- 3 Lawsuits? *We are all washed in the Name of Jesus and His Spirit*
- 4 Sexual immorality? *We were bought at the price of the crucified Christ*
- 5 Stumbling other believers? *Christ died for them*
- 6 Dining in pagan temples? *Ours is the supper of Christ's body and blood*
- 7 Inequality at the Lord's Supper? *We proclaim the Lord's death*

Christ is truly a Saviour – *our* Saviour!

Big problems, small problems, multiple problems, practical problems, doctrinal problems – in all these things, 1 Corinthians declares, "Christ is always the answer!"

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Prayer Items

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RESOURCES

*Here are the resources that shaped this booklet –
be encouraged to use them for yourself!*

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Agape



BAPTIST CHURCH