

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The Lord is my light & my salvation. (v1)

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us & follows after us. Summon us into your light, & direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers & sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement & that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind & the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers & sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus & Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, & not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. St. Paul repeats his point in *v11* later in *11:18* (cf. *11:17-34*); what purpose does he see coming from the division? How does Paul envision a resolution in *12:1--13:13*? See also *Philippians 2:1-11*
2. Every New Testament book speaks of conflict/division between believers & what to do to reconcile it (ranging from encouragement to stay true to the Gospel to ending fellowship & avoidance). Nowhere is conflict, or troublemaking, endorsed, excused, or allowed. Where does St. Paul locate our essential unity? See *Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-6; Ephesians 4:5; Small Catechism: Creed III, Baptism* available bookofconcord.org

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. It's been said that the reason academic disputes (say, between professors) are so bitter (& mean) is because the stakes are so small. First, what does that mean? Second, how is it also true for congregational disputes?
4. When have you found yourself caught up in congregational gossip & disputes? How would deliberate adherence to the 8th Commandment have helped you not only avoid the side-taking, but also bring reconciliation? See *Small Catechism: 8th Commandment*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. *v18* is the theme of the letter. Read *vv18-30*. How is this true today, that the world & our culture sees Bible-based, orthodox, traditional Christianity & "every-Sunday" Christians as foolishness?
6. Be honest- which of those traps or ways of thinking, etc. in #5 do you fall for? What do you need to repent of? How will your repentance help others do the same?

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Series: What's Up with Baptism?

01.22.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Conquers Discord

*The act of Gospel repentance overcomes the cacophony of
dissent, discord, disunity, & the like*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Now I appeal to you, brothers & sisters,
by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement
& that there be no divisions among you,
but that you be united in the same mind & the same purpose. (v10)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
& cured every sickness among the people. (*Matthew 4:23*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2022; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The Lord is my light & my salvation. (v1)

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us & follows after us. Summon us into your light, & direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers & sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement & that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind & the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers & sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus & Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, & not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. St. Paul repeats his point in *v11* later in *11:18* (cf. *11:17-34*); what purpose does he see coming from the division? How does Paul envision a resolution in *12:1-13:13*? See also *Philippians 2:1-11*
2. Every New Testament book speaks of conflict/division between believers & what to do to reconcile it (ranging from encouragement to stay true to the Gospel to ending fellowship & avoidance). Nowhere is conflict, or troublemaking, endorsed, excused, or allowed. Where does St. Paul locate our essential unity? See *Acts 2:38*; *Romans 6:3-6*; *Ephesians 4:5*; *Small Catechism: Creed III, Baptism* available bookofconcord.org

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. It's been said that the reason academic disputes (say, between professors) are so bitter (& mean) is because the stakes are so small. First, what does that mean? Second, how is it also true for congregational disputes?
4. When have you found yourself caught up in congregational gossip & disputes? How would deliberate adherence to the 8th Commandment have helped you not only avoid the side-taking, but also bring reconciliation? See *Small Catechism: 8th Commandment*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. *v18* is the theme of the letter. Read *vv18-30*. How is this true today, that the world & our culture sees Bible-based, orthodox, traditional Christianity & "every-Sunday" Christians as foolishness?
6. Be honest- which of those traps or ways of thinking, etc. in #5 do you fall for? What do you need to repent of? How will your repentance help others do the same?

Third Sunday after Epiphany
Series: What's Up with Baptism?

01.22.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Conquers Discord

*The act of Gospel repentance overcomes the cacophony of
dissent, discord, disunity, & the like*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Now I appeal to you, brothers & sisters,
by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement
& that there be no divisions among you,
but that you be united in the same mind & the same purpose. (v10)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom
& cured every sickness among the people. (*Matthew 4:23*)

Prayer of the Day from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies license SB140201. Scripture is reprinted from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Devotion prepared by Rev. Jared Stillions. Copyright 2022; may be reproduced & shared for personal, non-sale use, provided this copyright notice is included. Previous studies available stpeterhallettsville.org/blog