

NEWLY DISCOVERED MANUSCRIPT!

In order to support some modern claims that are being heard among the preachers of our day, some will be happy to hear that the following letter has been discovered in the ancient ruins of Corinth:



Paul the Apostle Spring, 57 A.D.

Somewhere in Macedonia

Dear brother Paul,

We received the nice letter you wrote to us from Ephesus, and it was so good to hear from you. There is no doubt that we have problems here, but you know that changes do not take place overnight. While we fully intend to do what is right, we do not want to move too fast lest some might become discouraged.

In regard to your plans to return to Corinth this winter, we would like to make some requests of you. It is common knowledge that one of our good members is living in an unwholesome relationship with his stepmother. We are hoping that by continuing to have fellowship with them, rather than drawing any lines of fellowship, we will win them to the truth. For this reason we would appreciate it if you would refrain from preaching or teaching anything on the subject of sexual immorality when you are here the next time. We know that you will understand the awkward position you will put us in if you should happen to mention this in any of your lessons.

Yours for the sake of Love and Peace

I. M. Soft

for the church of God at Corinth

There can be no doubt that finding this letter will bring great comfort to many today who are not ready to "draw the line" when it comes to false teaching. BUT - we are sorry to say, that in going through the trash bins of Corinth, another letter was discovered! Its contents are found below:

I I/II {1½} CORINTHIANS

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ unto the church of God which is at Corinth. My brethren, it is apparent that you have not given careful attention to the fifth chapter of my last epistle [the one with I CORINTHIANS at the top of the first page!]. I told you that you are not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an

extortioner; in fact I said not even to EAT with such a person. I was SURE that you could understand from this that I was commanding you to CEASE from any familiar relationships with brethren who were endangering the purity of the church by their words and actions! I really didn't think that my words were that difficult to understand. But now, you tell me that you want to continue to have FELLOWSHIP with one whose soul is destined to be LOST, and who will encourage others to JOIN HIM!

Do you remember when I was there in Corinth back in 52 & 53 and I wrote to the church at Thessalonica? You will recall that I told them not to have any company with those who refused to obey what we commanded in the epistles! Now I have written to YOU and COMMANDED you to purge out the old leaven! Must I come in person to make this point any clearer? Just how do you expect to get a man to repent when you continue to have fellowship with him while he persists in such a SIN? It is time for you to wake up to the fact that SIN which is PERSISTED IN will of necessity draw the line between those who LOVE OUR LORD and those who REFUSE TO OBEY HIM!

It is your DUTY to deliver this one to Satan, that his spirit might be saved in the day of our Lord Jesus! Unless you are willing to carry this out, your soul may indeed be lost with his!

As for your request with regard to my preaching there in Corinth, I would like to remind you of a few important points. As a minister of the Gospel of Christ, it is my DUTY to declare the WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD to those whose souls may be in danger. I told the elders from Ephesus this in 52 before my last visit with you in Corinth. Now you are telling me NOT to preach on a subject that NEEDS to be dealt with! What would you think if brother Luke were to come to Corinth, and start bandaging the fingers of those whose heads were bleeding? Would you consider him to be a capable physician? Think about our blessed Lord - when He went into the temple and the synagogues, He preached the things that were NEEDED by those to whom he spoke. Remember what Matthew recorded in the 23rd chapter of his gospel? Jesus called the Scribes and the Pharisees HYPOCRITES! He didn't avoid dealing with the problem of SIN which afflicted them! Now how can you expect ME to come to Corinth and ignore preaching on a subject that will eventually cause every member of that congregation to lose their soul! I am sorry, but unless you do as I have commanded before this winter, I will find it necessary to come and expose the SIN that is being practiced and encouraged in the church there!

You may think that this seems harsh and that it would be much easier to continue in fellowship with people such as this, but somewhere in the next forty years, the Lord will inspire the beloved John to WARN you not to lend

encouragement to ANYONE who does not adhere to the doctrine of Christ! The reason is plain - if you encourage someone who is teaching false doctrine, or living in sin, you share in their guilt! Are you prepared to be held accountable for the actions of the immoral man in your midst?

May our God help you to stand boldly against all who would compromise His Word, that you might stand blameless before Him in judgement, and save the souls of those who may yet be captives of sin!

Your humble Servant in Christ,
Paul of Tarsus

Of course, this is only in jest - but it is intended to cause people to stop and think about what they are doing. Every concept contained in I/II { 1½ } Corinthians is in keeping with what Paul wrote by inspiration elsewhere. Those who would join with brother I. M. Soft, and sanction the teaching and practice of sexual immorality in the church today are not following the directions of the apostle Paul, and are thus not following the directions of God (Matthew 10:40).

Gailen E. Evans