

The 1st letter Paul wrote to the
Christians at Corinth
This page tells a bit more about Paul's
letter to the Christians at Corinth

Corinth was a big city in the country we now call Greece, where the Greek people come from. Corinth had 2 harbours for ships, and those ships brought a lot of things to Corinth. A lot of people bought things and sold those things to get money for themselves. There were also a lot of people there that did bad things to get money.

Paul was from the tribe called the Jews. He went to Corinth to tell the people about Jesus, and he stayed there teaching them for about a year and a half (see Acts 18:1-18.) Some of the Corinth people believed Paul's message and became Christians.

Then Paul went to other places. But then he heard some news about the Christians at Corinth. They were having some big problems. So they wrote a letter to Paul and asked him some questions. Then Paul wrote this letter to answer those questions, and he also told them the right way for Christians to live.

Paul wrote this letter about 20 years after Jesus went back to heaven. It teaches all of us Christians the right way to live.

¹ I am Paul, and this letter is from me. God wanted me to go and tell people about Jesus Christ, so he picked me to be his special messenger. And our Christian friend is here. He is helping me write this letter. His name is Sosthenes.

² I'm sending this letter to you Christians there in the city called Corinth. God picked you to be his own special

people and he joined you to Jesus Christ. You are in God's family now, along with everyone that says to Jesus, "You are my leader." He is their leader, and he is our leader too.

³ I'm asking God our father, and Jesus Christ our leader, to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.

God gives his people lots of good things

⁴ I always thank God for you mob. You belong to Jesus Christ now, and God is really good to you.

⁵ Yes, Jesus Christ has made you really rich people in every way. He lets you know a lot of things and he gives you the power to tell God's message to people. ⁶ This shows that the message we told you about Jesus Christ is true. ⁷ You really want our leader, Jesus Christ, to come back from heaven, and while you are waiting for him you have all the spiritual power that he gives us to do his work. ⁸ God will keep you believing properly in our leader Jesus Christ, and you will stay strong for him until the day when he will come back from heaven. At that time nobody will be able to say that you did anything wrong. ⁹ God picked you to be a friend of his son, our leader Jesus Christ. And you can trust God, he will keep you strong for Jesus.

Don't split up to follow different Christian leaders

¹⁰ My friends, our leader Jesus Christ wants me to say this to you. I really want all you Christians to agree with each other and stay together. Don't split up. I want you to think the same way as each other, and agree together about the right way to follow Jesus.

¹¹ You see, my friends, some of Chloe's mob told me what is going on there in Corinth. They reckon that you are arguing too much with each other and you are splitting up into different groups. ¹² They reckon some of

you say, “Paul is our leader,” and others say, “That other man called Apollos, he is our leader,” and others say, “No, not them. Our leader is Peter,” and others says, “Jesus Christ is our leader.”

¹³ Listen, that’s not right. Don’t split up into groups like that. If you do that it’s like you are splitting Jesus Christ up. Stop and think about it. Did I, Paul, die for you on a cross? No way. When Christian leaders baptised you, did they baptise you to show that you belonged to me, Paul? No way. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ I thank God that I only baptised a few of you, so, none of you can say, “Paul baptised me, so he is my leader.” I only baptised Crispus and Gaius. ¹⁶ Oh yes, I just remembered, I baptised Stephanas and his family too. But I can’t remember baptising anyone else. ¹⁷ You see, Jesus Christ didn’t send me to baptise people. He sent me to tell the good news to people. He didn’t want me to talk with clever words like smart people talk. That kind of talk is useless. People might just think about my smart words, and not listen to God. But I told them the good news, that Jesus died for them on the cross to save them. That message is powerful.

This is God’s power, “Jesus died on the cross”

¹⁸ We tell everybody the message that Jesus died on a cross to save them. Some people hear this message and think it is stupid. Those people are lost. They are on their way to hell. But other people hear this message and think it is good. You are like that mob, and so are we. We know this message is from God. It tells us he is using his power to save us. ¹⁹ It is like we read in God’s book, “People might think they are smart, and they reckon they know everything, but God will block what they are planning.”

²⁰ So what does this tell us about the smart people in this world? And what about those that reckon they properly know the Jewish law? And what about those that can talk really good and win arguments? None of them get to know God. They leave God out. They don't think about him, and in the end God shows us that they are all stupid. ²¹ You see, God is properly wise. He knows that most of the people in this world want to be smart and think up their own ideas about God, but he decided to block them, so they will never get to know him that way. Instead, God is happy to save everybody that believes his message. We tell you this message, even though other people think we are stupid.

²² You see, the Jewish people want to see God do something powerful, and then they reckon they will believe him. And other people that are not Jews, they just want to hear about smart ideas. ²³ But we are not like those people. We tell people about Jesus Christ, and we say he died for us on the cross. The Jewish people can't understand this. It isn't what they want, so they don't believe it. And the other people that are not Jews, they reckon it is stupid, so they don't believe it. ²⁴ But we are different. God has picked us to save us. Some of us are Jews and some of us are not Jews, but when we listen to that message about Jesus Christ it is a powerful message for us. We believe it and God saves us. And we know that God was really wise to send Jesus to save us. ²⁵ People might reckon that is a stupid thing for God to do, but God's way is better than the best idea any human has ever had. And people might reckon that God is weak. He just let his son die. But those people are wrong. God did that to show us that he is stronger than anyone else.

²⁶ My friends, remember what you were like before

God picked you. Most of you were not the smart kind of people. Most of you were not powerful people. Most of you didn't belong to important families. ²⁷ You see, people in this world reckon you are stupid, but God picked you anyway. He did this so that those smart people will be ashamed. Yes, God picked the weak people in this world so that the powerful people will be ashamed. ²⁸ And God picked people from this world that are not great, and people that are like nothing, so that in the end, those other people that reckon they are great, they will become like nothing. ²⁹ God does this so that nobody can ever get up in front of God and tell him, "I'm really good. I'm better than other people."

³⁰ But as for you, God joined you to Jesus Christ. And Jesus helps us to be wise, like God. And Jesus makes us friends with God, so God will tell us we are all right. And Jesus makes us God's own special people too. Jesus died to pay for us and set us free from everything that is wrong. ³¹ So we have to talk the way we read in God's Book, "If you want to talk about great things, don't talk about yourself, but talk about God, and tell everyone about the great things that he does."

2

Paul only said the words that the Holy Spirit gave him

¹ My friends, remember when I first came to you and told you God's message. I didn't use smart talk and clever words, like a man that thinks he knows everything. ² No. I decided to tell you only about Jesus Christ, and that he died on the cross for us. I didn't talk about other things. ³ I was feeling weak and frightened while I was with you. I was so frightened I was shaking. ⁴ I didn't think up clever

ideas or give smooth speeches to get you to believe my message. No. I trusted God's spirit to use his power to show everyone that my message is true. ⁵ I did this so you will not trust in a smart person, but you will trust in the power of God.

⁶ But when you trust in Jesus, and you become strong for him, that's when we can talk about things that are wise and good. I don't mean smart ideas that people in this world think up, like the way the bosses of this world plan things. Those bosses will finish up anyway. ⁷ No, the wise and good things that we talk about are the secret things that belong to God. Long ago, before he made the world, God decided to hide these secret things from the people, but he decided to tell these things to us. ⁸ None of the bosses of this world understood these things. So they killed Jesus. They nailed our very great and good leader, to a cross. ⁹ But, you know, all of this is in God's book. We can read this,
"God got good things ready for the people that love him. These things are better than anything anybody else can ever think up.
Nobody ever saw or heard anything like the good things God got ready for us."

¹⁰ But God's spirit shows these things to us. His spirit understands everything, even those things that God has not yet told to anybody. ¹¹ You see, nobody knows what another person is thinking. Only that person's own spirit knows, nobody else. Well, it is like that with God, too. Only God's spirit knows what God is thinking. ¹² And remember this, God didn't get us to think the way the people of this world think. No. God gave us his spirit, and his spirit helps us, so we can understand all the good things God gave us. ¹³ These are the things that we tell

you about. We don't use words that smart people taught us, but we use the words that God's spirit teaches us. And we explain God's message to people that have God's spirit living inside them.

¹⁴ You see, if God's spirit is not living inside people, they can't believe any message from God. They can't understand what God wants to teach them. They think it is all stupid. You see, the Holy Spirit is the only one that can help people understand the things of God. ¹⁵ People that have God's spirit can think about all these things and understand them. But people that haven't got God's spirit can never understand the people that have got his Spirit.

¹⁶ As we read in the God's book,
"Nobody can know what God is thinking.
Nobody can try to tell him the right way to think."

But the Holy Spirit is in us, so we can think the same way that Jesus Christ thinks.

3

You are God's house

¹ Now listen, my friends, when I was there with you, you started to believe in Jesus, but you didn't understand very much about him. You didn't live like Christians, so I couldn't teach you hard things about how to follow Jesus. You were Christians, but you were just like babies that don't understand things. ² You know, babies can't eat hard food. They can only drink milk. Well, that is a picture of you mob. I couldn't teach you hard things. You couldn't understand them. And even now you are not ready. ³ Even though you are Christians you still don't live like Christians. You see, you want things that other people have. And you argue with each other. This shows that you are not like God's people. You are still like people

that don't know God. ⁴ You see, some of you say, "Paul is our leader," and others say, "No, not Paul, Apollos is our leader." And you argue with each other. You are just like those people that don't know God.

⁵⁻⁸ Just think about Apollos and me, Paul. We are not important bosses. We are only workers for God. God gave each of us our jobs and we helped you believe in Jesus Christ.

I'll use picture talk now. Think about a garden. One worker plants seeds, and another worker puts water on the young plants to help them grow properly. But it is God that makes the seeds grow up to be big plants. The worker that plants the seeds is not important, and the worker that gives water to the plants is not important. The important one is God. He makes the plants grow. Well, that's the picture story about the garden. It is a picture of you mob. God is making you grow like he makes those plants grow, and Apollos and I work in God's team, just like those workers in that garden. I started telling you about Jesus, and Apollos taught you more about him. We both want you to have life, but we can't give you new life. God is the one that gives you new life. We are just his workers, and, you know, God will pay each of us for our work. ⁹ We work together for God, and you are like God's garden.

And I'll use another picture story. You are like God's house that he is building for himself. ¹⁰⁻¹¹ This is the picture story. A builder builds a house. First, he puts cement down on the ground for the building to stand on. This cement is called the foundation. Then other builders build the house on that cement foundation. This story is a picture of you getting into God's family. God was good to me and gave me the power to work for him. I told you

about Jesus, and it is like I put down a good foundation for you at that time. And now other Christian workers are teaching you more about Jesus. They are like the builders that build on that foundation. They have to do it properly. Jesus is the only strong foundation. Nobody can put down any other foundation for God's family.

¹² I'll tell you more of this picture story about the builders. Good builders build with really good things like gold, or silver or jewels. But other builders don't work properly, they don't care, they only use wood, or grass or leaves. If a fire comes, the houses made of wood, or grass or leaves will burn up, but the houses made of gold, or silver or jewels will stay good. So you can know which builders did a good job. Christian workers are like those builders in the picture story, some Christian workers do a good job and tell God's word properly and some don't do a good job. ¹³ One day Jesus Christ will come back and then God will test what the Christian workers did. God will show if the Christian workers did a good job, or maybe not, like the fire in the picture story shows if a house is good. ¹⁴ If they did a good job it will stay good a long time, like the good houses in the picture story, and God will pay those good workers. ¹⁵ But if it is no good it will finish up, like the rubbish houses in the picture story, and God will not pay those workers, but he will still save them.

¹⁶ You know this, don't you, that God's spirit lives in you Christian people. You are like a special house that God lives in. You are like the big building here on earth they call the temple. ¹⁷ Yes, you mob are God's special people, like his temple that is his special house here on earth. So if anyone makes a Christian mob split up, it is like they break up God's house, and God will punish that person properly.

¹⁸ Some of you mob think you are really smart, but you are thinking wrong, like the people of this world that don't know God. So stop tricking yourselves. You have to think God's way instead, and let other people think you are fools if they want to, but you will be truly wise. ¹⁹ The people of this world think they are very smart, but God knows they are fools. Like we read in God's book, "People reckon they are smart, but God uses their own smart ideas like a trap to catch them."

²⁰ In another place we read, "Smart people think up great ideas, but God knows those ideas are useless."

²¹ So, don't think that any man or woman is the important leader. You see, God is your leader and he gives you everything you need. ²² It's like this, he gave you all of us. He gave you me, Paul, and Apollos, and Peter. We are all here to help you. God uses everything to help you. If you live, or if you die, God will make it good for you. He will use things that happen now to help you, and he will use things that will happen later, to help you. ²³ You see, you belong to Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ belongs to God. And God is the most important one.

4

Respect those people that work for Jesus

¹ So when you think about us, remember that we just work for Jesus Christ. God gave us a special job. He told us his secret message and now we have to tell it to other people. ² And, you know, if a boss gives his worker an important job, the worker has to be careful to do it properly.

³ I reckon you mob are deciding about me, like maybe I'm doing a good job, or maybe not. Well, I don't care what you decide. I don't care what anybody decides about me. I don't even think that I can decide that about myself. ⁴ I don't think I have done anything wrong, but that doesn't make me right. You see, God is my judge, and I only care about what he decides about me.

⁵ So, I'm telling you, don't judge people before the right time comes. You have to wait until our leader Jesus comes back again from heaven. He knows every secret. He will show everyone the secret things that people plan to do. And at that time God will praise each of his good workers and say good things about them.

⁶ My friends, I've been talking about Apollos and me, to help you to understand things better. You know that wise people say this, "Don't do anything more than what God wrote in his book." We want to help you learn what that means. You see, nobody can say that one person is better than another person. ⁷ You yourselves are no better than other people. God gave you everything that you have. So you can't reckon you are so smart you got it for yourselves.

⁸ You think you know everything and don't need to learn anything more, but you are wrong. You think that you are spiritually rich, but you are not. You think you have a lot of power, like big bosses, and you think that we have no power at all, but you are wrong again. You know, I wish you could have God's power to be big bosses for him, so that Apollos and me can be bosses with you. ⁹ But I see it this way. God sent us special workers to tell people his message. But I reckon he makes us look weak. You know that soldiers take prisoners out and kill them, where everybody can watch them die. I reckon God makes

us look weak like those prisoners, and everyone, even the spirits, can look at us. ¹⁰ People see that we work for Jesus Christ, and they think we are fools. But you reckon you are different. You know Jesus Christ, so you reckon you are really smart. Yes, everyone thinks we are weak, but you reckon you are strong. You reckon everyone has to respect you, but you don't care if they respect us or not. ¹¹ You see, the bad people of this world always treated us special workers rough, and they are still doing it right up to now. We go hungry, and thirsty, and our clothes are old rags. We haven't got anywhere to live. ¹² We have to work hard all the time to get money for food. Some people swear at us and ask the devil to hurt us, but we just ask God to be good to them. If people are rough on us, we just put up with it. ¹³ If people say bad things about us, we answer with good words. People keep on treating us like we are the world's worst rubbish.

¹⁴ I'm telling you all this to help you see what you are doing wrong. I'm not trying to shame you. You see, I love you like you are my own kids, and I want you to live the right way. ¹⁵ I'm like a father to you. You see, I was the first one to tell you the good news about Jesus Christ, and he gave your spirits life, so I'm your spiritual father on this earth. And even if you have 10,000 other people teaching you about God, I was the first one to teach you, so I'm your only spiritual father. ¹⁶ So I ask you to live the way I live, and do the things I do.

¹⁷ Now I'm sending Timothy to help you do that. He is like a son to me, and I love him very much. He always keeps on working properly for Jesus. He will help you remember the way I live for Jesus Christ. He will teach you the same things that I teach in every church everywhere.

¹⁸ You see, some of you reckon you are really great, and

you say, “Paul is frightened to come back here.” ¹⁹ But you are wrong. I will come soon, if our leader Jesus wants me to, and then I will find out if you really have God’s power or if you are just talking. ²⁰ You see, if people are really in God’s family they have his power. They don’t just talk and do nothing.

²¹ So think about this. Will you keep on doing bad things, so that I will come and I will be angry with you, and I will punish you? Is that what you want? Or will you stop doing bad things, so that I will come and love you and I will be good to you?

5

Don’t have a bad person in your church family

¹ Now listen. I have to talk straight to you about something. Some people have told me there is something bad going on in your church family. One of you has his father’s wife as his girlfriend, and he is sleeping with her. Even people that don’t know God don’t do that. ² But you mob don’t seem to care. And you think you are great. But you really have to be ashamed and sad, not happy. That man is doing a very bad thing, so you can’t let him stay in your church family.

³ Listen, I’m not there with you mob, but my spirit is there with you, so it’s like I am with you now. And I’m thinking about this man that is doing that very bad thing, and I tell you this. ⁴ I know you will meet together as followers of our leader Jesus, and at that time my spirit will be there with you, and the powerful spirit of Jesus too will be there with you. ⁵ Then, at that meeting, you have ask God to let Satan hurt this man. Satan is the boss of the bad spirits. Satan will hurt that man’s body, but God can save that man’s spirit when our leader Jesus comes back.

⁶ So stop telling everyone that you are properly good. It's not true. Let me tell you a picture story about yeast. Yeast is like baking powder. We put a little bit of yeast into the flour when we make bread. And that little bit of yeast goes into all the flour in the bowl and makes the whole bowl of dough swell up. ⁷ This is a picture of that one person in your mob that does bad things. He is like that yeast in the picture story, he will get all of you mob to go wrong, like that yeast made all the dough swell up. So get rid of that bad person. Then you will be straight and clean, like new clean dough that hasn't got any yeast in it. And really, you are clean like that. And remember, Jesus Christ died for us to clean us from the wrong things we did, so we are like that clean dough. Jesus is like the young sheep that the Jews kill and eat at their ceremony called Passover. Well, just like that young sheep died, Jesus died for us. And think about this. Before that ceremony they have to get rid of all their yeast, and then they eat flat damper that hasn't got any yeast in it. ⁸ That is a picture of us church people. We have to get rid of everything that is bad, and we have to stop doing wrong, just like they got rid of that yeast. Instead, we have to be good and honest and true.

⁹ I wrote you a letter before, and I told you, "Don't be good friends with bad people. There are some that play around and sleep with people are not their own wives or husbands. Keep away from those people." ¹⁰ But I did not mean that you have to keep away from the people of this world that don't know God. Some of them sleep with somebody that is not their own wife or husband. Some of them are greedy. They want a lot of things and money. Some of them trick other people to get their money, and some of them respect bad spirits and make them their

gods. If you try to keep away from all those bad people, you will have to leave this world, and you can't do that.

¹¹ No. This is what I meant. Don't be good friends with people that reckon they are Christians but they do bad things all the time. If they sleep with people that are not their own wife or husband, as if they are married to them, don't be good friends with them. Or if they are greedy, don't be good friends with them. If they respect bad spirits and make them their gods, don't be good friends with them. If they yell and swear at other people, don't be good friends with them. If they always get drunk, don't be good friends with them. If they trick other people to get their money, don't be good friends with them. Don't even eat a meal with a Christian that does things like that. ¹²⁻¹³ You see, I can't be the judge of people that are not Christians. God will judge those people, and he will punish those people that do bad things. But if a Christian in your church group does bad things, you have to decide how to punish them. You have to do what we read in God's book, "Get rid of bad people from your group."

6

Don't go to the law courts to sort out trouble between Christians

¹ There is something else I have to talk to you about. If one of you Christians has a problem with another Christian, why do you go to the court house to sort it out? That is not right. Those court house people are not God's people. No. You have to get Christians to sort it out. Remember, we Christians are God's special people ² and one day God will get us Christians to decide about things for all the other people in the world. So, if you are going to decide things for all the other people in the world one

day, why can't you decide about your own little problems now? ³ You know, one day we Christians will even decide about things for God's angel messengers. So we have to know how to sort out our problems here on the earth.

⁴ Sometimes you don't agree with each other about some little thing, and then you go to other people, and you get them to be your judges. ⁵ I talk like this so that you will feel ashamed. I reckon there has to be somebody there in your church that is wise enough to help you sort out these problems between you. ⁶ But no, you don't do it that way. Instead, one of you Christians goes to the court house people to argue against another Christian. You stand up in front of judges that don't believe in Jesus Christ, and you get them to decide about it. That's not the right way to settle your problems.

⁷ You see, when you go to the court house to argue about these things you are letting the devil win. If people do bad things to you, just let them do it and don't worry about it. That's the better way. Even if they rob you, don't worry. ⁸ But you mob don't do it that way. Instead, you do bad things to other Christians, and you even rob them. That is wrong.

⁹ Listen. You know what will happen to bad people, don't you? They will not be in God's family. They will never get the good things that God will give to his people in heaven. Don't let anyone trick you about this. I'll tell you now about the kind of people that will not be in God's family. People that play around with somebody they are not married to, and sleep with them, they will not be in God's family. Or 2 men that sleep together and do what is wrong, they will not be in God's family. And people that respect other spirits more than they respect God, ¹⁰ and people that steal things, and greedy people that want a

lot of money and things, they will not be in God's family. And people that always get drunk, and people that yell at others and swear at them, and people that trick other people to get their money, none of these people will be in God's family in heaven.

¹¹ And I know that some of you used to be bad people like that before. You did that kind of bad thing, but now you believe in Jesus Christ and let him be your boss. And God's spirit came into you and washed you inside, and he made you God's own special people, so that God says you are all right now.

Use your bodies to show everyone that God is really great

¹² Some of you say, "I'm free from the Jewish law now, so I can do anything I want to." Yes, but not everything will be good for you.

You see, I can say that too. I can say, "I'm free from the Jewish law, so I can do anything I want to." But I don't want to do bad things. And if I think about doing bad things, I will start doing bad things, and I will not be able to stop myself. But I don't want that.

¹³ Some of you say, "God made our bellies for food, and he made food to fill our bellies." So you think that you can do what you want with your bodies, and it doesn't matter. You think you can sleep with somebody that is not your husband or wife, as if you are married to them. But you are wrong. Don't forget that, in the end, God will finish up your bellies, and he will finish up the food too. You see, God made your bodies for you to live his way. You can't just sleep with anyone. You have to use your bodies the way God wants you to use them. ¹⁴ You see, our bodies are important to God. Our leader, Jesus died, but then God made him alive again. And God will use his power to make

our bodies alive again, too. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Think about this. In God's book we read,
"The man and his wife will join with each other, and their bodies will be like one body."

So, if a man sleeps with a bad woman, one that sleeps with anyone that pays her money, he joins his own body to her body and becomes like one body with her. And you know, your bodies are parts of Jesus Christ's body. So don't let part of Jesus's body join up to the body of a bad woman. No way. ¹⁷ But, you know, if you join on to our leader, Jesus, you join your spirit to his spirit, and the 2 of you become like one spirit.

¹⁸ So, never sleep with anyone that is not your own wife or husband and do what married people do together. Get away from all that kind of wrong thing. You see, other bad things that you do are outside of your own body. But if you sleep with the wrong person, you hurt your own body. ¹⁹ And you know, God gave you his spirit and he lives in you. Your body is the home of the Holy Spirit. You don't belong to yourself any more, but you belong to God. ²⁰ Remember this, God bought you. He paid a lot for you. So, you have to use your body to live for him, to show everyone that God is really great and good.

7

Paul answered their questions about marriage

¹ You wrote a letter to me and asked me some questions, and now I will answer one of those questions. You asked me, "Is it good for a man if he stays single and never marries a woman?" My answer is, "Yes, but only if he can stay single without going wrong." ² You see, a lot of people can't do that. They try to stay single, but then they go wrong and they end up sleeping with somebody and

doing wrong with them. So, I reckon, every man has to have his own wife and only ever sleep with her, and every woman has to have her own husband and only ever sleep with him. ³ If the wife needs the husband to sleep with her and do what married people do together, he has to agree to it, to make her happy. And if the husband needs the wife to sleep with him that way, she has to agree to it, to make him happy. ⁴ You see, the wife's body does not only belong to her, it also belongs to her husband too. In the same way, the husband's body doesn't only belong to him, it also belongs his wife too. ⁵ So, if a husband and wife are together, and one of you wants to sleep with the other and do what married people do together, the other one can't say, "No." But both of you can agree to wait for a while without doing it, so you can use the time to pray. Then, soon after that, you have to sleep together, and do it together again. If you don't do it together again, Satan might trick you. He knows you can't control yourselves very well. If you go too long without sleeping together he will try to get one of you to sleep with somebody else. ⁶ I'm not saying that you have to stop doing it. I'm saying that it is all right, if you both agree, to stop for a while, so you can pray more. ⁷ You know, I reckon it is good for everyone to stay single, like me. But God helps people in different ways. He helps some people be a good husband or wife, and he helps other people stay single without going wrong.

⁸ Now I will talk to you people that are not married. Maybe your wife or husband has died, or maybe you never married anyone. This is what I reckon. Stay single, like me. ⁹ But you have to control yourself properly. If that is too hard for you, then marry somebody. Don't try to stay single if you are always wanting to sleep with somebody

and do what married people do together.

¹⁰ Now I will talk to you Christians that are married to Christians. I'm telling you a rule that comes from our leader Jesus, not just from me. Don't get divorced. A wife can't leave her husband. ¹¹ But if she does leave him, she has to stay single. Or she can go back to her husband. And a husband has to stay with his wife.

¹² Now I will talk to you people that are married, but your partners are not a Christians. This is not a rule that comes from our leader, Jesus, but this is what I reckon. If a Christian man has a wife and she doesn't believe in Jesus, but she agrees to stay with him, that man can't split up the marriage, he can't divorce her. ¹³ If a Christian woman has a husband and he doesn't believe in Jesus, but he agrees to stay with her, that woman can't split up the marriage, she can't divorce him. ¹⁴ You see, if a man doesn't believe in Jesus but his wife does, God says it's still good for them to be married. And in the same way, if a woman doesn't believe in Jesus but her husband does, God says it's still good for them to be married. And I'll tell you about their kids, too. If their mother or father believes in Jesus, God reckons those kids are special, not like kids whose mothers and fathers don't believe in him.

¹⁵ If you have a husband or wife that isn't Christian, and they want to leave you, then you can let them go. Christians don't have to try to make their partners stay with them if their partners are not Christians. God wants us to be quiet and happy. He doesn't want us to be arguing and fighting with each other. ¹⁶ So if your husband or wife isn't Christian, but they are happy to stay with you, don't leave them. Listen, Christian wife, maybe you can help your husband turn around and let God save him. And listen, Christian husband, maybe you can help your wife turn around and let God save her.

Stay the same as you were when you believed

¹⁷ You know, I've been talking to you about marriage. I've been saying that if you are married you have to stay married. This is the rule that I tell Christians in all the churches, everywhere I go. I tell them, "You don't have to try to change everything. You can just stay the same as you were when God picked you to be in his family, like if you're married or not, or if you're a prisoner or not. That is the way our leader wants you to live as his follower."

¹⁸ It's like this. Some of you were born in the Jewish tribe, so your Jewish family did a young man's operation on you. After that God picked you to be in his family. All right, don't try to get another operation to change it back again. And some of you are not born Jews, but God has picked you to be in his family. All right, don't try to be Jewish now. Don't get a young man's operation. ¹⁹ It doesn't matter if you get that Jewish operation, or not. This is what's important, you have to do what God tells you to do.

²⁰ You see, God picked each of you to be in his family, so don't try to change everything. Stay the same as you were at that time when God picked you. ²¹ If God picked you while you were like a prisoner in jail, and you had to work all the time for no pay, don't worry. Don't try to run away and get free. (But if your boss gives you a chance to go free, then take it.) ²² It's like this, maybe God picked you while you were like a prisoner in jail, but you are in God's family now, and you are free from the devil. In the same way, if God picked you while you were a free person, not in jail, well, now you work all the time for Jesus, like you are his prisoner. ²³ You see, God bought you and he paid a lot for you. So, don't let anyone else push you to do what they want, instead of what God wants. ²⁴ So I'm telling you, my friends, that each one of you should live

for God, and stay the same as you were when God picked you.

²⁵ I'm going to talk now about young people that are not married, and I will try to answer your question. Our leader Jesus didn't tell me what to say about this, but I will tell you what I think. God has been very good to me and he helps me think properly, so I reckon you can believe me. This is what I think. ²⁶ People everywhere are making trouble for God's people these days, so I reckon it is best for every man to stay the way he is. ²⁷ So I reckon, if you have a wife, don't try to leave her. Or if you don't have a wife, don't look for one. ²⁸ The bad people in this world will make a lot of trouble for God's people, and married couples will find it hard to live with this trouble. I want to save you from that trouble, so I'm telling you to stay single. But if you do marry somebody, you are not doing wrong.

²⁹⁻³¹ My friends, listen to what I'm saying. There is not much time left before Jesus will come back, and he will change this world. So don't just think about the things of this world. That is why I'm telling you men that are married, it will not matter if you are married or single when Jesus comes back. And I'm telling you people that are sad, don't worry, that trouble that makes you sad will go away when Jesus comes back. And I'm telling you people that are happy, the things that make you happy will go away when Jesus comes back. And I'm telling you people that buy things for yourselves, you will not own those things when Jesus comes back. You see, those are things that we do in this world now, but soon, when Jesus comes back, all those things will finish up, so don't worry about them.

³² I don't want you to be worried about anything. You

see, a single man thinks a lot about Jesus, and he wants to make Jesus happy. ³³ But a married man wants to make his wife happy too, and he has kids to look after, so he also thinks a lot about the things that belong to this world. ³⁴ So he has a lot to think about. He doesn't just think about God but he thinks about his family too. And it is like that for women, too. A single woman thinks a lot about God and she wants to belong to him properly, to think about him and do what he wants. But a married woman wants to make her husband happy too, and she has kids to look after, so she also thinks a lot about the things that belong to this world. ³⁵ I'm saying this to help you. I'm not making rules for you, but I want you to listen to God, and think about him, and work properly for him. Don't let anything get in your way and stop you from doing that.

³⁶ Maybe a girl is promised to a man, but those 2 decide to work for God and not to get married yet. And maybe that girl is getting older now and soon she will not be a good age to marry, so that man thinks that it is best for him to marry her now. That's all right. He has to do what he thinks is good. It's all right for them to get married. He will not be doing anything wrong.

³⁷ But maybe another man and his promised girl, those 2 decide to work for God and not to get married, and maybe the man still wants to stay single and he can control himself. Well, he can stay single if he wants to. If he doesn't get married, that is good. ³⁸ This is what I reckon. The man that marries his promise does something good. But the man that stays single does something better.

³⁹ And now I will tell you about widows. A married woman has to stay with her husband while he is alive. She can't leave him and go away and marry another man. But

if her husband dies, then she can marry again. But she has to marry a Christian. ⁴⁰ But I think she will be more happy if she stays single. That is what I reckon. And I think God's spirit is leading me when I say this.

8

Some people give food to statues that they think are gods

¹ I will answer your next question now, about those statues that some people make. They think those statues are gods, and they give food to them, and they reckon the statues give that food power. Then those people eat that food, or they sell it to other people. And you Christians asked me, "Can we eat that food that they gave to those statues?" That's what you asked me.

Well, before I answer your question, I want you to remember this. All of us know something, but if we think we know more than other people, we start thinking wrong, like we reckon we are really smart. No, we can't try to be smart. Instead, we have to love people. If we love other people, it helps them to get strong. ² So if you reckon you know all about everything, you don't really know much at all. You've got to learn a lot more yet. ³ But if you love God, then God really knows you, like you are his good friend.

⁴ All right, now I will answer your question about the food that people give to those statues that they think are gods. We Christians know that a statue is not really a god at all. We know that there is only the one God. ⁵ But some people that are not Christians respect lots of spirits, spirits in the sky and spirits on the earth, and they think those spirits are gods, and they let those spirits be their bosses. And people make statues that they think look like those spirits, and they think those statues get power from

those spirits. ⁶ But we Christians know that those statues are nothing at all. We know there is only one God. He is our Father. He made everything, and we want to do whatever he wants, as long as we live. And there is only one true boss. He is Jesus Christ. He worked with God and they made everything, and he gives us Christians life.

⁷ But some Christians don't understand all that. They showed respect to those statues for a long time before they became Christians, and then they believed in Jesus, but they still think those statues have power. They can't work out what is right and what is wrong. They know that it is wrong to respect those statues, so they don't eat any of the food that people give to those statues. They think that if they do eat that food they are doing something wrong, and it makes them feel bad, like they are not clean. ⁸ But it doesn't matter if we eat that food or not. We will not get anything special if we eat it, and we will not miss out on anything if we don't eat it. You see, no food can help us be close friends with God.

⁹ But you have to be very careful. Even though you are free to eat anything, you have to think about those Christians that can't work out what is right and what is wrong. You don't want to make them go wrong. ¹⁰ It's like this. Some of you Christians know it's all right to eat food in that place where people show respect to those statues. But if you go and eat that food, another Christian might see you there. If that other Christian doesn't know what to think about that food, he might think that you are showing respect to that statue when you eat that food, so that Christian will think it's alright to show respect to that statue. And he will do that, he will show respect to that statue, and he will go wrong. ¹¹ So you will wreck that other Christian that is not so sure about these things.

You know that food has no power, but if you eat it, and that makes another Christian go wrong, you wreck that person, and you are doing wrong. Jesus Christ died for that person. ¹² You see, if other Christians are not sure what is right or wrong, and if they see what you do, and if this gets them to do something wrong, you are really bad. If you hurt them like this, you are really hurting Jesus Christ. Don't do that.

¹³ So this is what I have decided for myself. Every other Christian is like a brother or a sister to me, so I will not eat anything that gets them to go wrong. If something that I want to eat might get another Christian to do something wrong, I will not ever eat it, as long as I live.

9

Paul talked about himself as an example

¹ Some of you mob might ask me if it is all right for me to write to you and tell you all these things. Yes, it is all right. You see, God has picked me, Paul, to be his special messenger. I'm free to tell you these things. I have seen Jesus, our leader, with my own eyes. I work for him, and I told you mob about him, and now you belong to him.

² Maybe other people reckon I'm not a special messenger from Jesus, but you know that I am. You see, you believed what I told you, and now you are Christians. This shows that Jesus sent me to you.

³ Some people think that maybe Jesus didn't send me, and they ask me a lot of questions, so I tell them that I work for Jesus like this. ⁴ I never ask people for food and drink. I can ask for it, as pay for telling people about Jesus. That's all right. But I never do. If I need anything, I buy it for myself. ⁵ And it is all right for me to have a Christian wife and take her everywhere with me, but I don't do that.

The other special messengers of Jesus, and his brothers, and Peter, they all have wives, and they take their wives with them when they go to places. But not me. ⁶ And I think that it's only Barnabas and me that work hard to get money to pay for the things we need. I don't think the others do that.

⁷ You know, everyone that works gets some sort of pay for their work. You know about soldiers. They don't have to buy their own food or their gear. And you know about gardeners. They work, and they always eat some of the food they grow. And it is the same for people that look after cows. They work, and they can drink some of the milk they get. You see, it's right for people to work and then get something for it. So, if my work is to tell you about Jesus, it's right for you to give me something for my work. But I never ask you to give me anything.

⁸ And I'm not just saying what people reckon. God says the same thing in his laws. ⁹ You see, a long time ago God gave Moses this law,
"If you get an animal to work for you, you have to let that animal eat something when it works."

That is the law. And listen, God wasn't just thinking about animals when he gave Moses that law. ¹⁰ He was thinking about us people too. People have to get food, just like animals do.

Listen to this picture story about the gardeners that grow food. One man digs up the ground and puts seeds in the ground, then those seeds grow into food plants, and after that another man gets the food from those plants and brings it to their community. Those 2 men can both eat some of that food. ¹¹ That garden and those gardeners are a picture of all of us Christians. You see, when we told you God's good news, that good news was like spiritual

seed that we planted in you. So now it is only fair if you give us the things we need. But we never ask you to give us anything.

¹² Other people ask you to give them things, and that's all right for them, so it has to be all right for us, too. But we never ask you to give us anything. You see, if we ask for things when we tell people the good news about Jesus Christ, some of them will not listen to that good news. But we want people to listen to our message about Jesus, so we never ask anybody for anything. We reckon it's better to go short of things.

¹³ You know about the Jewish people that work all the time in God's ceremony house. They cook the meat that other people bring to give to God. They also get some of that meat for themselves, and that's good. You see, they get something for their work. ¹⁴ Just like that, our leader Jesus said that his messengers have to get something too. He said that the people that hear the good news and get new life, they have to give food and other things to the messengers.

¹⁵ Well, I am the one that told you this good news, but I haven't asked you for anything. And even now, while I write to you, I'm not asking you for anything. I reckon it is better for me to die than to ask you for something. You see, I can tell people that I gave you that good news, and I didn't ask for anything. You got it free, and that makes me happy.

¹⁶ You see, God told me to tell the good news to everyone, so I've got to do it. If I don't tell people that good news, God will give me big trouble. So I can't say, "I'm really good. I tell people that good news." No. I can't do that. ¹⁷ But suppose I got this job just because I like it, then I will want some pay for it. But it wasn't like that,

I'm just doing what God told me to do. ¹⁸ And I'm very happy when I can give everyone this good news free. That is like my pay. You see, it is all right for me to ask them for things. I know that. But I don't do it.

¹⁹ You know, I'm a free man and nobody can force me to work for them. But I work for everyone without pay, so that a lot of people will listen to me, and believe in Jesus Christ. ²⁰⁻²¹ I do it like this. If I'm with my own people, the Jews, I live like a Jew, so the Jews will listen to me and believe in Jesus. I follow the Jewish law like they do. I know that the Jewish law is not really for me any more, but I want the Jewish people to believe in Jesus. (I don't forget God's law. I always follow the law that Jesus Christ gave us.)

Or if I'm with people that don't know the Jewish law, so they never worry about it, I live like they do. I don't worry about that law either. I live like they do so they will listen to me and believe in Jesus. ²² Or if I'm with weak people, I become weak too, so they will listen to me. I go to all kinds of people and live like they live. I do everything I can to get them to listen to me, so some of them will believe in Jesus, and God will save them. ²³ I do all these things so that everyone will hear the good news about Jesus Christ, so that all together we can get the things that God wants to give us.

²⁴ Listen. Think about the people that run in a race. They all run, but only one of them wins that race and gets the prize. That is a picture of us Christians. We have to try hard to do what God wants, like people in a race try hard to win, so that in the end God will give us a prize. ²⁵ Those people that run in races, they control themselves and train their bodies so they can win a prize, but that prize will only be good for a little while. But we control

ourselves to win a prize that will be good for ever. ²⁶ So, you see, I'm like a good runner that runs in a straight line to the end of the race. And I'm like a fighter that hits, and doesn't miss. ²⁷ You see, I control my body and I make it do what is right. I want God to give me a good prize. I don't want God to say to me, "Hey, you went wrong. You didn't do what you told other people to do. So you don't get a prize."

10

Don't join up with devils

¹ My friends, do you remember the story about my mob, the Israel people, a long time ago? They all followed Moses and walked out into the hot dry country, and God covered them all with a big cloud, and this cloud showed them where to go. Then they came to the Red Sea and God pushed the water back so that they all walked through the Red Sea on dry ground. ² It was like God baptised everyone that followed Moses, at first in the cloud, and then in the sea. ³ They all ate the food that God gave them, ⁴ and they all drank the water that God gave them. That water came from the rock that God put there for them, and that rock followed them all the time in that dry country. That rock was really Jesus Christ. He went along with them. ⁵ God helped the people like that, but later most of them went wrong, and he was not happy with them, so he killed them, and their bodies lay everywhere in that dry country. ⁶ All these things happened to the Israel people to show us that God will not be happy with us if we want to do bad, like they did. ⁷ Don't do what some of them did. They showed respect to statues that they thought were gods. We read this in God's book,

The people sat down to eat and to drink, to show respect to those statues, then they stood up to play.

⁸ And some of them slept with people who were not their own husband or wife, but they did what married people do together. So God killed 23,000 of them in one day. This story tells us, “If somebody is not your wife or husband, don’t sleep with them like that.” ⁹ And some of them tried to push God to do what they wanted, and snakes came and killed them. This story tells us we can’t try to push Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ And some of them complained about God and said he was not fair, and one of God’s angel messengers came and killed them. This story tells us we can’t complain about God and say he is not fair.

¹¹ All these things happened to that mob a long time ago, and God got somebody to write down what happened, and it’s in his book to show us that those things are wrong. We have to think about those stories and learn from them. You see, we’re living in the end time now, and soon Jesus will come back. ¹² So be careful. If you think you are standing strong for Jesus, look out. You might fall down and go wrong. ¹³ You see, the devil will always try to get you to go wrong, like he always tries to get everyone to go wrong. Other people have the same problems that you have. But remember this. God doesn’t want you to do anything bad. He wants to help you, so he will not let the devil push you too far. God will show you a way to stop yourself from going wrong, and he will help you to go the right way. You can stop yourself from doing bad things.

We remember the body and blood of Jesus together

¹⁴ Listen, my dear friends, I’m telling you this. Keep away from those statues that people think are gods. Don’t

respect them at all. ¹⁵ I know you people can think properly, so you yourselves work out what is right.

¹⁶ Think about when we get together to remember the body and blood of Jesus. We all drink from that cup, and we remember that Jesus Christ died for us and his blood came out, and we thank God for him. This joins us together with him and with each other. And when we break the bread and eat it, we all remember that Jesus Christ's body got broken for us, and this also joins us together with him and with each other. ¹⁷ You see, we are a lot of people, but all of us eat from one loaf of bread, so all of us are like one body when we eat from that same loaf.

¹⁸ Think about the Israel people. They give animals to God and cook their meat on that special table, and they show respect to God as they eat some of that meat, and this joins them together with God and with each other.

¹⁹ You see, this is what I'm saying. Those statues that people think are gods are really nothing. And if people give food to those statues, that food doesn't get any power at all. ²⁰ Really, those people are showing respect to devils, not God, and they are joining themselves to devils. Don't do that. I don't want you to join up with devils.

²¹ You can't go 2 ways at the same time. You can't drink from the cup of our leader, Jesus, and then drink from the cup of devils. You can't eat the bread from the table of Jesus, and then eat food from the table of devils. ²² If you do, you will make God jealous, and he will get angry with you. And he is a lot stronger than you.

Don't do anything that might give other people problems

²³ Some of you might say this, "We are free from that Jewish law. We can do anything we like. We can eat that food that they give to those statues and it will not hurt

us.” All right, but I’m telling you, not everything is good for us Christians to do. And you might reckon, “We are free, so we can do anything.” But I’m telling you, “No.” Not everything helps us be better Christians. ²⁴ Don’t just think about yourself, and what is good for you, but think about what is good for other people.

²⁵ So, all right, you can buy food from anyone that sells it, but don’t ask them if they first gave it to one of those statues. And don’t think to yourself, “Is it all right for me to eat this food, or not?” ²⁶ We read this in God’s book, “The earth, and everything in it, belongs to God.” You see, all food is from God, so it is all right for us to eat that food.

²⁷ Maybe there are some people there that don’t believe in Jesus, and they ask you to eat a meal with them. If you say, “Yes” and go to their place, then eat whatever food they give to you there. Don’t ask yourself, “Is this food all right or not?” Don’t think about it. Don’t ask them any questions about that food. ²⁸ But then if somebody there says to you, “Hey, they gave this food to those statues that they think are gods.” Then stop. Don’t eat that food. Think about the person that told you about it. That person might not know if it is all right to eat that food or not, and you don’t want to give that person a problem. ²⁹ It will not matter to you. You know it is all right to eat that food. But that other person doesn’t know, and he might think you are doing wrong.

Maybe you ask me, “Why can another person say what I can do and what I can’t do?” ³⁰ I thank God for my food. So, if I eat that food, nobody can blame me when I eat it.” ³¹ Don’t think like that. You have to think like this. We have to live in a way that shows everyone that God is great and God is good, so whatever you do, even if you eat or

drink, do it the way God wants. ³² Don't do anything that might give other people problems. Don't make problems for Jewish people, or for people that are not Jewish. And don't make problems for God's people. ³³ Be like me. I always try to do what makes everyone happy. I try to help other people. I don't just do things to help myself. You see, I want God to save those other people.

11

¹ So you try to be like me, just like I try to be like Jesus Christ, and live the way he lived.

Men and women in Christian meetings

² There is another thing I want to talk to you about now. I know you always remember me, and you do the things I taught you. This makes me very happy. ³ But I also want you to know this. Jesus Christ is the leader of every man, like he is the head one. And men are the leaders of women, like they are the head ones. And God is the head one of Jesus Christ.

⁴ So think about this when you meet together, and think about what other people might reckon when they see what you do. If a man prays, or if he tells a message from God in your meeting, he can't cover his head. If he covers his head, other people will reckon that he isn't following his leader, and this will shame his leader, Jesus. ⁵ But for women it is different. If a woman prays in your meeting, or if she tells a message from God, that woman has to cover her head. If she doesn't cover her head, other people will reckon she isn't following her leader, her husband, and this will shame him. You know, if somebody cuts all the hair off a woman's head, that will shame her. And like that, if a woman doesn't cover her head in your meetings, she shames her husband. ⁶ If she

will not cover her head, maybe she will cut off all her hair, right? No. If she does that she will shame herself. She can't do that. And she can't shame her husband either. So she has to cover her head in your meetings.

⁷ You see, God made the man like himself, to show everyone that God is great and good. So a man can't cover his head. He has to show that he respects God. And a man looks after his wife, and she shows how good her husband is, so she has to cover her head to show that she respects him. ⁸ Remember that God made the man first, then he made the woman. He took a part of that first man to make the first woman. God didn't take a part of that first woman to make the man. ⁹ And God didn't make the first man to help the woman, but he made the first woman to help the man. ¹⁰ So a woman has to cover her head to show that she respects her husband as her leader. And you know, God's angel messengers can see everything we do.

¹¹ You see, we all belong to Jesus, our leader. And in his family the women need the men and the men need the women. ¹² It's like this, God made the first woman by taking a part of the first man, but after that every man was born from a woman. But everything really comes from God.

¹³ So if a woman in your meeting doesn't cover her head when she prays to God, do you reckon that's all right? You work it out for yourselves. ¹⁴ It is usually like this. If a man has long hair, people will rubbish him. ¹⁵ But if a woman has long hair, it is beautiful and people will say she looks good. God gave her long hair to her to cover her.

¹⁶ I know some people might want to argue with me about all of this, but I'm telling you that this is our custom. This is what we Christians do. All of God's churches do this when they meet together.

The special meal we eat to remember that Jesus died for us

¹⁷ There is something else now that I have to talk to you about. I'm not happy about what happens at your meetings. They are not good, they are bad. ¹⁸ You see, some people told me what happens at your church meetings. They say that there are different groups among you, and each group argues with the others when you meet together. And I believe that some of this is true. ¹⁹ Look, you don't have to split up into different groups, but if you do, God will show which one of you is right.

²⁰ And when you meet together, you reckon you eat a meal to remember that Jesus died for us. But you don't really do that. You don't even share your food with each other at that meal, so you are not respecting Jesus. ²¹ You bring your own food and drink, but nobody shares their food with anybody else. And none of you waits for anyone else. So some of you go hungry, while others get drunk. ²² Listen. You each have your own home where you can eat and drink. But there are poor people that have no food at your meetings, and if you don't share your food with them, you shame them. That is bad. You are rubbishing God's people, his church. I'm not happy with you when you do that. I can't say anything good about you.

²³ Listen. Our leader Jesus gave me this message, and I taught it to you. It is this.

One night Jesus, our leader, had a meal with his close followers, and on that same night one of those followers turned against him and helped his enemies get him. At that meal Jesus picked up some flat damper ²⁴ and thanked God for it, then he broke it into bits and said, "This damper is my body. You see, I will let bad people break my body. I will do that for you. So

whenever you have this ceremony and eat this special meal, remember what I did for you.”

²⁵ Then after they ate that meal, Jesus picked up a cup of wine and said, “Drink from this cup. God has agreed to save people, and I will die so he can do that. My blood will come out, and it is like I’m using my blood to sign God’s new agreement with everyone. So every time you have this special meal and drink from this cup, remember that my blood came out and I died for you.” That’s what Jesus said that night.

²⁶ You see, every time you eat that damper and drink from that cup you are saying that Jesus died for you. And you will keep on doing that until he comes back again.

²⁷ You see, we want to remember that Jesus died for us, so we eat this damper and we drink from this cup together. But if anyone does it in a bad way that doesn’t respect Jesus, they are guilty. They are just as guilty as those people that hurt Jesus’s body and spilled his blood.

²⁸ So, when we eat this meal together, first of all we each have to think very carefully about ourselves and the way we live our lives. We have to be friends again with God, and with other Christians, and we have to think the right way about that damper and that cup. Then, after we do that, we can eat that damper and we can drink from that cup. ²⁹ You see, if anyone doesn’t respect the body of Jesus when they eat that damper and drink from that cup, they are doing wrong, and God will judge them and punish them. ³⁰ That is why a lot of you are weak and sick now, and some of your mob have died. ³¹ But if we think carefully about ourselves and how we live, and if we are sorry for the wrong things we did, God will not punish us. ³² But if God does punish us, he does it to teach us to do good things, not bad things. So later, when God judges

everyone in the world, he will not punish us with the bad people.

³³ So, my friends, this is what I'm telling you. Whenever you meet together to eat that ceremony meal, to remember that Jesus died for you, wait for each other to be ready. ³⁴ And don't come to that meeting hungry. If you are hungry, eat something at home before you come to the meeting, so when you meet together, you will not do wrong and God will not punish you.

That's all I want to say about this matter right now. There are some other things that I want to talk to you about, but I will wait until I come and visit you, and then we can sort them out.

12

God's spirit gives Christians special power

¹ My friends, you know that the Holy Spirit gives special power to Christians. We want to tell you more about this, so that you will understand it properly. ² Remember this. Before you knew God you listened to other people that don't know God, and you did what they did. You used to respect those statues that you thought were gods, but you know, they are just dumb statues, they can't say anything. ³ Now listen, we want you to understand this. If God's spirit is inside somebody they can never say, "Jesus, get away from me." And the only people that can really say, "Jesus is my leader," are the people that have God's spirit inside them.

⁴ You know, the Holy Spirit gives us special powers to do things. These powers are gifts that he gives us. There are different kinds of gifts, but they all come from the same Holy Spirit. ⁵ We work for God in a lot of different ways, but all of us work for Jesus. ⁶ Different people can

do different things, but it is the same God that gives each person the power to work for him.

⁷ It's like this. The Holy Spirit works in each one of us. He gives us these gifts so we can help each other. ⁸ The Holy Spirit gives one person the power to say a wise message for somebody, and he gives another person the power to know something special. ⁹ The same Holy Spirit gives another person the power to believe God strongly for something. And he gives another person the power to make sick people better. ¹⁰ The same Holy Spirit gives another person the power to do great things. And he gives another person the power to tell messages straight from God. The same Holy Spirit gives another person the power to know if something comes from God's spirit, or from bad spirits. He gives another person the power to talk in special languages, and he gives another person the power to say what those special language words mean. ¹¹ It is the same Holy Spirit that does all these things. He decides which gifts he will give to each person.

One body has a lot of parts

¹² You know, a human body has a lot of parts. All those different parts make only one body. And it is like that with Jesus Christ too. We Christians are like his body. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, and the rest of us are not Jews. Some of us are free, and some of us are like prisoners that have to work for no pay. But no matter who we are, God's spirit baptised all of us to join us together into one body, and we all have that same Holy Spirit in us.

¹⁴ A human body doesn't have only one part. It has a lot of different parts. ¹⁵ Suppose a foot thinks to itself, "I'm not a hand, so I don't belong to this body." That doesn't change anything, it is still a part of the body. ¹⁶ Or suppose

an ear thinks to itself, “I’m not an eye, so I don’t belong to this body.” Hey, it is still a part of the body no matter what it thinks. ¹⁷ Suppose the whole body was an eye, it wouldn’t hear anything. Or suppose the whole body was an ear, it wouldn’t smell anything. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Suppose each part of the body was the same, it wouldn’t really be a body. But, you see, God put all the different parts in the body just like he wanted them. ²⁰ Yes, there are a lot of parts, but they make only one body. ²¹ And a body needs every part. Its eye can’t reckon, “I don’t need that hand.” And its head can’t reckon, “I don’t need those feet.” ²² A body needs every part, even the parts that we think are weak.

²³ And there are some parts of our bodies that we think are not very nice and we don’t want anyone to see them, so we carefully look after those parts and cover them up. ²⁴ But we don’t need to cover the beautiful parts of our bodies. God has joined all these parts together to make one body. We might think some parts are not important, but God has made them really important. ²⁵ So, all the parts of our bodies live quietly together and help each other. ²⁶ If one part of a body hurts, every other part hurts with it. Or if one part of a body is feeling good, every other part is happy with it.

²⁷ You see, you are all like Jesus Christ’s body. Each of you Christians is a part of his body. ²⁸ And God gives people different jobs in his church, and he gives them the power to do those jobs.

- First, there are those people that God sends to other places to be his special workers and leaders.
- Second, there are those that God uses to tell his special messages.
- Third, there are those that can teach people.

- After that, there are those that have the power to do great things.
- Then there are those that have the power to make sick people better.
- And there are those that can help people.
- And those that can lead people.
- And there are those that can talk in special languages.

²⁹ Did God send all of you out to other places to be his special workers and leaders? No, of course he didn't. Did he give all of you the power to tell his special messages? No. Did he give all of you the power to be teachers? No. Did he give all of you the power to do great things? No, he didn't. ³⁰ And he didn't give all of you the power to make sick people better. He didn't give all of you the power to talk in special languages, and he didn't give all of you the power to say what those special language words mean. ³¹ You see, God doesn't give every kind of power to every Christian. So you have to really want the best kind of power from God.

It is very important to love God and other people

But there is another really good way, so now I will tell you about that way. It is the best way.

13

¹ You see, we can have power from God, but if we don't love people, we are nothing. Suppose we talk in the languages of other people and even talk in the languages of angels, all that is useless if we don't love people. We will only be making a noise, like somebody banging a drum or hitting a bell. ² Suppose we tell people God's messages, and suppose we know God's secrets, and understand all about everything, and suppose we trust God so strongly that we can get him to shift mountains, but if we don't

love other people, we are nothing. ³ Suppose we give everything that we have to poor people, and suppose we stay strong for Jesus even if they burn our bodies so that we die, but if we don't love people, all of that is useless.

⁴ If we love people, we will be good to them, and we will be happy to wait for them. If we love people, we will not be jealous of them. If we love people, we will not reckon we are better than they are, and we will not think we are really good when we are not good. ⁵ If we love people, we will not be rude to them or shame them. If we love people, we will think about what they want, not just what we want for ourselves. If we love people, we will not get upset with them, and we will not keep remembering the bad things they did to us. ⁶ If we love people, we will not be happy if they do things that are wrong, but we will be happy if they do things that are right and true. ⁷ If we love people properly, we will keep on loving them, no matter what happens. If we love people, we will keep on believing good things about them, and we will keep on hoping good things for them, and we will not give up even if we are getting trouble.

⁸ You know, I talked to you already about the special power that God gives to his people, and now I'm telling you that one day we will stop using that special power. But we can't stop loving people. If you love somebody properly you will always love them. But the time will come when God will not need to give us special power any more. When that time comes God will not tell some people his special messages, and God will not get some people to talk in special languages, and God will not let some people know special things.

⁹ You see, at this time now we only know a little bit, and the special messages that we get from God only tell us a

little bit. ¹⁰ Right now we only have a little bit of what God wants to give to us. But the time will come when he will let us understand everything properly. Then we will not worry about the little bits any more.

¹¹ I'll use a picture story about myself to show you what I mean. When I was a little kid I talked like a little kid, and I thought about everything the way a little kid thinks about things. I only understood what a little kid can understand. But then I grew up, and now I'm a man, and I've stopped thinking like a little kid. ¹² This is the meaning of that story. Now, at this time, we only understand a little bit. It is like we are looking at things in a dark mirror now. But the time will come when everything will be clear to us, like we are looking straight at them, not in a mirror. Right now we only know a little bit, but at that time we will know everything properly, just like God knows us properly.

¹³ So I'm saying there are 3 important things for us to keep on doing.

- We have to keep on believing in God.
- We have to keep on knowing for sure that God will be good to us.
- We have to keep on loving God and people.

We have to keep on doing these 3 things, and the most important one is this,

We have to keep on loving God and people.

14

Tell God's messages in a language that people know

¹ So, always love other people. That is most important. And ask God's spirit to give you special powers too. Ask him for the power to tell special messages from God. This

is more important than the power to talk in a special language.

² If somebody talks in a special language they are only talking to God, not talking to people. Nobody can understand them. The Holy Spirit is getting them to talk about secret things, but nobody can understand what they are saying. ³ But if somebody tells messages from God, they are talking to other people, and helping them to understand things better and get strong. Those messages from God help people, and make them happy, even if they have trouble. ⁴ You see, a person that talks in a special language helps only himself. But a person that tells messages from God helps all the people in the church to get strong. ⁵ I'm happy for you all to talk in special languages, but I'm more happy if you all tell people messages from God. The person that can tell God's messages is greater than the person that talks in special languages. But if that person talking in a special language tells everyone what those words mean, then it is all right. He will help the church get strong.

⁶ My friends, if I come and talk to you in a special language that you don't understand, that will not help you. But if God shows me something and I tell you about it, that will help you. Or if he lets me know something new and I tell you about it, that will help you too. Or if he gives me a message for you and I come and tell you, or if I teach you something, that will help you too. ⁷ Think about things that make sounds, like guitars. If we don't play them the right way, nobody will think it is proper music. ⁸ And think about soldiers. Their leader gets one man to blow a trumpet to tell the other soldiers what to do, but if he doesn't blow it properly, they will not know what to do. ⁹ Well, it is like that for you. You have to

talk clearly and say words that people can understand. If they can't understand your words, you will be talking to nobody. ¹⁰ You know, there are a lot of different languages in this world, and all of them make sense to the people that know those languages. ¹¹ But if somebody talks to me in a language that I don't know, I will not understand him. I will be like a stranger to him, and he will be like a stranger to me. ¹² And it is the same for you too. I know you really want God's spirit to give you special powers, so ask God to give you the powers that will help the people in the church be strong.

¹³ So, in your meetings, if anyone talks in a special language, he has to ask God to show him what those words mean so he can tell everybody the message. ¹⁴ You see, it is like this. If I pray in a special language, I'm not using my mind. I'm not thinking about my words while I pray. Only my spirit is praying. ¹⁵ So what will I do? Sometimes I will pray with my spirit and sometimes I will pray with my mind. And sometimes I will sing with my spirit and sometimes I will sing with my mind. ¹⁶ You see, if you only thank God with your spirit, in a special language, other people in the meeting can't understand what you are saying, so they can't agree with you and say "That's right." ¹⁷ You might be thanking God, but your words don't help anyone else.

¹⁸ I thank God that I talk in special languages more than any of you. ¹⁹ But if I talk in a church meeting, I want to tell people more about God, and I want them to understand my words. So, I reckon, if I say 5 words that they can understand, that is better than if I say 10,000 words in a special language that they can't understand.

²⁰ My friends, don't be like little kids in the way you think. You know, little kids don't know much about

anything. They don't understand really bad things. So whenever you think about bad things, be like little kids. But whenever you think about anything else, be grown up people. Think properly and understand things properly.

²¹ You know, God told one of his men to write this in his book,

“God will get people from other tribes to talk to this mob.

They will talk to them in strange languages.

But even if God gets strangers to talk to this mob, they will not listen to him.”

That is what God said.

²²⁻²⁴ It is like this. If you talk in special languages, God will use that talk, but not the way you think. He will use it to show you that it is useless to do that when you are all together in a church meeting. Suppose a stranger comes into that meeting, a man that doesn't know very much and doesn't believe in God. He will hear you all talking in those strange languages and he will say, “You mob are all mad.” But if you tell God's special messages, God will use that to show you that it is right to do that in your church meetings. Suppose a stranger comes into the meeting and hears you are telling messages from God, he will listen to what you say and he will understand it. Then he will know that he is not a friend of God, and he has to turn around and stop doing wrong. ²⁵ Those messages from God will show him every secret thing that he thinks about, and he will get down on the ground and show respect to God. And he will say, “It's true, God is really here with you mob.”

Have good church meetings

²⁶ So, my friends, this is the way to have proper church meetings. Whenever you church people meet together, each of you can have something to help the others. One of you might have a song that all of you can sing

to God. Another one might have something that he can teach you. Somebody else might want to tell you about something that God has shown to him. Another person might talk in a special language, and then somebody else can tell everybody what those words in that special language mean. Do all these things to help each other in the church to be strong Christians.

²⁷ Only 2 or 3 people can talk aloud in special languages, and they have to take turns. Only one person can talk at a time, and then, each time, somebody has to tell everybody what those words in that special language mean. ²⁸ But if there is nobody there that can do that, then nobody can talk aloud in special languages. They have to be quiet. They can't talk aloud in a special language, but they can talk to themselves and to God.

²⁹ And if the Holy Spirit has given some of you the power to tell messages from God, well, 2 or 3 of you can tell those messages, and the others have to think carefully about each message and check them, to make sure each message is really from God. ³⁰ And if one person is telling a message and while he is talking somebody else gets a message from God, that first person has to stop talking, so that the next one can tell his new message from God. ³¹ Each of you can tell a message from God, but you have to wait for each other so that only one person talks at a time. Then everyone will learn something, and you will all feel strong for God. ³² You see, if you have power from the Holy Spirit to tell God's messages, you can control your own spirit, and you will wait for the right time to talk.

³³ God does not want people to be mixed up and messy. No, he wants them to be settled and quiet, and to respect each other.

And now I'll talk to you about another matter. This is the way it is with God's people in all the other churches. ³⁴ The women have to be quiet in the church meetings. They have to do what the leaders say. That's the law we follow. ³⁵ If a woman wants to ask about something, she can wait and ask her husband at home. If women talk aloud in a church meeting, they shame the church.

³⁶ Maybe you think I'm wrong, but remember this, you don't know everything in God's word. It didn't start with you, and you are not the only people that ever heard it.

³⁷ Somebody might reckon that the Holy Spirit gave him the power to tell God's messages, and that he listens to the Holy Spirit all the time. All right, but he has to understand that this letter I'm writing comes from our leader himself, and his people have to do what he says. ³⁸ So if that person will not take any notice of this letter, then you mob can't believe his messages. Don't take any notice of anything he says.

³⁹ So, my friends, this is what I'm telling you about your meetings. Be ready and happy to tell messages from God, and don't stop people from talking in special languages.

⁴⁰ Do everything properly. Do everything the right way.

15

Jesus Christ died, then he came alive again

¹ My friends, I want you to remember the good news that I taught you. You were happy to believe that message, and you still strongly believe it. ² And if you keep on believing that good news God will save you. If you don't keep on believing, I reckon you didn't believe properly in the first place.

³ You know, God told me that message, and then I taught it to you. This is the important part of that

message. Everybody did bad things. We are all bad, but Jesus Christ died instead of us. A long time ago, God got his men to write about this and now we can read it in God's book. ⁴ Then people buried Jesus, then 3 days later, God made him alive again. We can read about this in God's book, too. ⁵ After that, Jesus showed himself to Peter. Then later he showed himself to his 12 close followers. ⁶ After that, he showed himself to more than 500 of his followers at the same time. Most of those 500 people are still alive, but some of them have died. ⁷ Then he showed himself to James, and later he showed himself to all of his close followers.

⁸ All these people saw Jesus. But I was different from the other close followers of Jesus. He didn't show himself to me till some time later.

⁹ But before I ever saw Jesus, he sent out his other special workers. They were the first ones to go out and tell his message, and they are all more important than me. You see, I used to make a lot of trouble for God's own people, so I'm not really good enough for anyone to call me one of the special workers of Jesus. ¹⁰ But God was very good to me. He changed me and made me what I am now. And so more people heard the good news about Jesus. You see, I've worked harder than any of his other special workers. But it wasn't really me that did that work. No. It was God that gave me the power to do his work, so he is the one that did it. ¹¹ So it doesn't really matter who told you God's message. Maybe it was me, or maybe it was one of his other special workers. We all tell people the same good news about Jesus Christ, and that is the good news that you believed. That is the important thing.

God will make dead people come alive again

¹² This is our message. Jesus Christ died, and then God made him alive again. But some of you reckon that God

never makes dead people alive again. But you are wrong. ¹³ You see, if you reckon that God never makes dead people alive again, you are also saying that God didn't make Jesus Christ alive again. ¹⁴ And if you reckon that God didn't make Jesus Christ alive again, you are saying that our message is useless, and that you believed something that was wrong. ¹⁵ If that's what you reckon, you are saying that we lied to you about God when we told you that he made Jesus Christ alive again. But you are not right. ¹⁶ You see, if you reckon that God never makes dead people alive again, you are saying that he didn't make Jesus Christ alive again. ¹⁷ And if God didn't make Jesus Christ alive again, like you reckon, then you believed in Jesus for nothing, and it means that you are still guilty of the bad things you did. ¹⁸ And if you reckon that God never makes dead people alive again, you are saying that the Christians that died are now lost and gone for ever. ¹⁹ You reckon that we can only be sure that Jesus Christ will look after us here in this life. But we Christians get trouble in this life and other people in the world are happier than us. So if God will not make us alive again after we die, they can feel sorry for us. But that is not true.

²⁰ Listen, this is the true story. Jesus Christ died, and God made him alive again. Jesus was the first person to die and then come back to life again, and to live for ever.

²¹ You see, it's like this. The first man was Adam, and he did something bad, and from that we all do bad things, so God said that everyone has to die. But then another man did something good. That man was Jesus Christ. So now God will make people alive again. ²² We all come from Adam, so we are all in his family. We all do wrong, so we all have to die. But everyone that believes in Jesus Christ is in his family now, so after they die, God will make them

alive again. ²³ But we each have to wait for our turn. The first one was Jesus Christ. He died and then God made him alive again. He is the first one to live again. After he comes back, all his people will live again too. ²⁴ Then Jesus will finish up all the bad spirits. Some of them are bosses, and some of them have power. He will take away their power, and he will finish them all up. Then the end will come, and Jesus will give everything to God, the Father, and God will be the biggest boss for everybody.

²⁵ You see, Jesus Christ will come back, and he will keep on being the big boss, and he will fight against his enemies until he wins, then God will make all those enemies do what Jesus says. ²⁶ In the end he will stop us from dying. He will keep everything alive and nobody will die any more. ²⁷ You know, in God's book we read, "God will win and make everything do what he says."

Of course, God is the one that will make everything do what Jesus says, so Jesus will not be the boss of God himself, but he will be the boss of everything else. ²⁸ When God makes everything do what Jesus Christ says, then Jesus, God's son, will let God be his boss. After that God will be the only big boss, and he will control everything everywhere.

²⁹ You know, sometimes a Christian dies before anyone baptised him, so you mob try to help him and you baptise another Christian instead of him. But think about it, if dead people will never live again, that is a useless thing for you to do.

³⁰ And think about me and the others that work with me. We tell everyone God's message, and some people get angry with us and they want to kill us. ³¹ Every day I worry that somebody might kill me. My friends, I'm very happy that you are trusting our leader Jesus Christ, so I'm telling you this. ³² At that city called Ephesus I got trouble for

telling people about Jesus. Some men there tried to kill me, and I had to fight back. I was like a man fighting wild animals. But, if God will not make me alive again after I die, it means I got all that trouble for nothing. You mob reckon that dead people will never live again. If that is true we can be like the people that say this,

We are going to die tomorrow, so today we will have fun. We will eat and drink as much as we like, and we will not worry about tomorrow.

That is what they say, but it is not true.

³³ Listen, don't let anyone trick you with that kind of talk. Remember that wise people say this, "Don't have friends that do bad things, or they will get you to do bad things too."

³⁴ So start thinking properly and do what is right. Stop doing wrong things. I think that some of you don't really know God. I'm saying this to make you feel ashamed.

We will get new bodies

³⁵ Somebody might hear me say that dead people will come alive again, and they might ask me, "How can that happen? What kind of bodies will they have?" ³⁶ That's a stupid question. You know, all kinds of things die and then they get new bodies. Think about seeds and plants. If you plant a seed in the ground, that seed dies. But that is not the end. A new plant grows up. That seed comes alive again, and grows up into a new plant. ³⁷ The thing you put into the ground was just a seed (maybe a wheat seed, or whatever). You don't put the body of the plant in the ground, but just the seed. ³⁸ Then God makes it grow up and become a new plant, with its own kind of body. God gives every kind of seed its own kind of body.

³⁹ Every kind of thing that is alive has a different kind of body from every other kind of thing. People have one kind of body. Animals have a different kind of body. Birds have another kind of body, and fish have another kind of body. ⁴⁰ And other things have different kinds of bodies too. There are bodies in the sky and there are bodies here on the earth. They are all beautiful in their own way. The bodies in the sky are beautiful in a different way from the bodies on the earth. ⁴¹ The sun is bright and beautiful. And the moon is beautiful too, in a different way from the sun. The stars are bright and beautiful too, but they are different again, and some stars are brighter than other stars.

⁴² Well, it will be like that for us when God makes us alive again. The bodies we have now will die, but after that God will make them alive again, and they will never die.

⁴³ The bodies we have now are weak and not very good. But after God makes us alive again, our new bodies will be beautiful and strong. ⁴⁴ The bodies we have when we die are normal human bodies. But after God makes us alive again, we will have spiritual bodies. You see, there are normal human bodies, and there are spiritual bodies too.

⁴⁵ This is what we read in God's book, The first man, Adam, became a living person.

But we can think of Jesus, that he is the last Adam. You see, he is the spirit that makes people alive. ⁴⁶ It is like this. Right now each of us has a normal human body. That's the way it is at first. But later we will each get a spiritual body. ⁴⁷ And think about Adam. He was the first man, that came from the ground. But Jesus, the 2nd man, came from heaven. ⁴⁸ We are like the first man, Adam, that came from the ground. We belong to the ground. But people that belong to heaven are different. They are like Jesus, the man that came from heaven. ⁴⁹ You see, our

normal human bodies are like Adam, the first man. God made him out of the ground. But our spiritual bodies will be different. They will be like Jesus, the man that came from heaven.

⁵⁰ My friends, this is what I'm telling you. We can't go to God and live for ever in his family in our normal bodies, made of meat, blood, bones, skin and all that. Our normal human bodies have to die. They can't go on for ever.

⁵¹ Listen, I'm telling you something new. God didn't tell other people this message before, but it is important. He will change all of us. Some of us will still be alive at that time, but maybe some of us will be dead. It doesn't matter, God will change all of us. ⁵² It will happen like this. We will hear the sound of somebody blowing the last trumpet, then straight away God will change us. It will be quick, as quick as you can blink your eyes. You see, as soon as that trumpet makes its sound, God will make his dead people alive again. At that time he will give us new bodies that will never die. God will change all of us, those of us that are alive and those of us that are dead at that time. ⁵³ You see, our dying bodies will get new life. God will change our normal bodies into bodies that can never die.

⁵⁴⁻⁵⁶ You know, whenever we do bad things we break God's law, and God's law says we have to die for doing those bad things. There is a power that gets us to go wrong and die like that. It is like a cheeky scorpion that stings us and kills us. But when God changes our bodies into bodies that will never die, at the same time God will beat that power that makes us go wrong. Then these words will be true, they are in God's book, "God has beaten that power that makes everything die. It's gone. It can't sting us any more, and people will not die any more."

⁵⁷ You see, our leader Jesus Christ has won the fight. So, with Jesus we win too. And we say, “Thank you God.”

⁵⁸ So always remember that, my dear friends, and stay strong for God. Don’t let anything take you away from him. Keep on working hard for our leader, Jesus. Remember, he will help you, so that everything you do with him will be good. It will not be useless.

16

The money for God’s people in Jerusalem

¹ All right. Now I want to talk to you about something else. I will answer the question you asked me about the money that you want to give to God’s people in Jerusalem. You know, I talked to the people in the churches in Galatia country, and I told them how to give money to God’s people in Jerusalem, and I want you to do it the same way.

² Do it like this. On the 1st day of every week, each of you can pick out some of the money that you got that week, and keep it in a separate place. I will come to you soon, and you will have this money ready for me. You will not have to quickly look around and try to find it when I get there. ³ And you can pick a few of your men to take that money to Jerusalem and give it to God’s people there. But wait for me to get to you at Corinth. Then I will write some letters to tell the Jerusalem mob that each of these men is a good man. They can take those letters with them. ⁴ And I might go with them, too, if I think it is the right thing for me to do.

Paul made plans

⁵ But before I get to Corinth I have to go through Macedonia country, and after that I will visit you. ⁶ Maybe I will stay with you for a while. I might even stay till the

end of the cold weather time, and then you can give me the things I will need for my trip to the next place. ⁷ You see, I want to stay here in Ephesus city for a little while, and then I can come to you. And when I come, I don't want to stay a short time then go to another place, but I want to stay with you for some time. If our leader, Jesus, agrees with this plan, I hope I can stay with you for a little longer time. ⁸ But right now I will stay here till that day called Pentecost comes. ⁹ You see, God has given me the chance to do great and powerful things for him here. But there are a lot of people here that are trying to stop me.

Paul talked about Timothy and Apollos

¹⁰ I want to talk to you now about Timothy. He is doing God's work, the same as me. So if he comes to visit you, make him feel good with you there. Don't let anyone make trouble for him, ¹¹ and don't let anyone rubbish him. And when he gets up to come here to me, you mob help him and give him what he needs for his trip. I'm waiting for him here, and I'm waiting for the other Christians that are coming with him.

¹² And now I want to tell you about our friend Apollos. When those other Christians got up to go and visit you, I really wanted Apollos to go with them and visit you, too. I kept telling him to go, but he reckoned that it was not the right time. He will visit you later, when he gets the chance.

The good way to live

¹³ Now I want to tell you this. Stay awake, and keep watching what is going on, so you will be ready for anything. Never stop believing in God. Always be brave and strong in your spirits. ¹⁴ And keep on loving God and other people all the time, and do things to help them.

Paul talked about Stephanas

¹⁵ You know about Stephanas and his family. They were the first people in Achaia country to believe in Jesus. And they have decided to always help God's people. So, my friends, I strongly ask you this. ¹⁶ I want you to agree with them, and do what they want. And do the same for anyone that works hard for God, like they do.

¹⁷ I was very happy when Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus came to me here. You see, you mob were too far away, and you couldn't help me, but instead, they came and helped me. ¹⁸ They made my spirit happy, just like they made your spirits happy. Let them know, and let anyone like them know, that you are happy with them for the good things they do.

The last things Paul wrote in this letter

¹⁹ The people in the churches here in Asia country say hello to you. And so do Aquila, and his wife Priscilla, and the Christians that meet in their house. They know that you belong to Jesus, and they love you, and they say hello to you. ²⁰ All the Christians here say hello to you. And you, too, whenever you meet each other, show that you love each other in a special way.

²¹ Look, I'm now writing this part of this letter with my own hand, so that you can know for sure that it is me, Paul, sending this letter to you.

²² And I want to say this to anyone that doesn't love our leader, Jesus, "God will punish you."

And I'm telling Jesus, "Please come back soon."

²³ I'm asking our leader, Jesus, to be good to all of you.

²⁴ I love all of you that belong to Jesus Christ.

From Paul

Plain English Version
Portions of the Holy Bible in the Plain English Version translation
for Australian Aboriginal people who speak English as a second
language

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