



SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Such Were Some of You, Pt. 2

Pastor John Riggs

Key Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 6:9–11
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–20
- 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Key Points:

- The sermon emphasized that 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 is about how believers should understand their identity in Christ before discussing their conduct.
- Paul's warnings were presented as loving correction, not condemnation, because he was addressing people he deeply cared about.
- The church in Corinth was described as being surrounded by a highly immoral culture, especially in sexual behavior.
- The message stressed that believers have been set free from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of Christ.
- The sermon taught that Christians must know who they are in Christ so their conduct can align with their new identity.
- It explained that the church is the ekklesia, the called-out people of God, set apart as holy in Christ.
- The sermon highlighted the importance of sanctification, meaning believers are set apart by God as sacred and holy.
- It warned against being deceived by sin or false teaching, especially in a time when truth is often distorted.

Question and answer: (answers provided on page 18 of the study)

Q: What passage was the main focus of the sermon?

Q: Why did Paul give such strong warnings to the Corinthian church?

Q: What was unique about the culture in Corinth?

Q: What does Paul mean when he says, “Do not be deceived”?

Q: What is the main point of the phrase “such were some of you”?

Q: What did the sermon say about a believer’s identity in Christ?

Q: What does sanctification mean in the sermon’s explanation?

Sermon Transcript:

Some of you are thinking, surely we've moved past this section of scripture in 1 Corinthians chapter 6. Well, we have not yet. But we will eventually. One of the reasons we want to hang out here for a little while is because there's some things I believe that are very important for us as Christians to understand in regards to what the Apostle Paul is instructing these believers in Corinth as to their conduct. But not only that, in teaching them who they are in Christ Jesus and then how they are to live this new life out in Christ within the world that they have come out of. We know for all of us that have come to faith in Jesus Christ, we have been set free from the kingdom of darkness and we've been transferred into the kingdom of the glorious son. And this has all been done by a gracious work of God um in the atoning sacrifice that was offered through Christ Jesus, the eternal son of God, who laid down his life and took upon himself our sin, paying for the penalty of sin, which is death, appeasing the wrath of God, fulfilling the requirements of righteousness, in order that we who believe in him could be made right and be reconciled to God, set at peace with God and adopted into the family of God. These are incredible truths for what it means for those of us who are here this morning who by faith have trusted and believed in Jesus Christ who has made us now um not only adopted into the family of God but born again believers in Christ. And so Paul is going to teach uh many things through this letter as he does in all of his letters. And we know that all scripture is given by inspiration of God. It is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness so that the man and woman woman of God can be complete so that we're thoroughly equipped for every good work. And so what we're doing is we're going to come to the word of God, which is God breathed. That's what that word means. All scriptures given by inspiration. We know that there were many authors, but yet all of them were directed by the Holy Spirit. Um, and they were writing down these truths. This is the word of God. It is truth for us in our day and time. It's very difficult for us to find anything that we trust as being true. If you're not seeing that or figuring that out by now, I don't really know how I can help you and instruct you anymore in that. Most everything that we're seeing today is causing us to question whether or not it can be trusted, whether or not what we see is real. Learning and understanding more and more about things as time goes along. The fact that we have been indoctrinated and uh, we have been taught things through through uh, media and all of that. We have been taught things or sold things that we are to believe and that we are to think. And then now as we move along in time, we start finding out how very corrupt all of this system is. And you begin to ask questions. Can we really believe what we're being told? And the truth is, outside of scripture being the word of God, the standard of truth, you can't really put your hope and trust in anything else. And so, as I always say, read and study the word of God. You need to be men and women of the word. We are losing our ability to think for ourselves. Part of that is by design where you've been told what to believe, told what to think. We don't want to be those people. We've been given by God an incredible mind, the ability to reason, the ability to think, the ability to be critical and to assess what we see and what we hear and to proof text it to see whether or not we believe it or we reject it. But we have been programmed and conditioned to be people that simply just want to be told what we need to believe. But that is very dangerous. And the time we're living in, Christian, do not believe what a pastor tells you. First, take it to the word of God and let the word of God prove it to be so. It doesn't matter if it's me. Doesn't matter if it's another Bible teacher. It doesn't matter if it's a podcaster. It doesn't matter. All of the things that we hear and we see do not be people who just want to be told what to believe because you could be led to believe something that is an absolute lie even though it's taught as truth. That's why we go to the word of God here every week. Why? Because I want you to see with your own eyes the scriptures what God has said in his word.

That's what we do here. That's why we look at so many different passages. Not because I want you to be worn out from flipping and moving back through scripture. No. So that you can learn and that you can see that what is being taught here is being taught through scripture. Because scripture is the source of what we study. And the Holy Spirit is the spirit by which we are to test all things. I want you to know the word. You're going to have to know it, guys. With all that's come out even over the past week, we've already known all of these things to be absolutely wicked and evil. But I don't think Americans know how wicked and vile and evil our system really is. Surely you're starting to see what I've been telling you for several years that it doesn't matter if you're a Democrat or a Republican in regards to them being in opposition to one another. That is nothing more than a tool to keep you divided and to keep you opposing another view. But when you get behind the curtain of our political world, you'll find out they're all just chums and chumming it up together. Regardless if they're a donkey or they're an elephant, you are being led astray. They are wicked and they are vile. And you you can see this to be true. So I say these things to you because you need to be aware. And as a shepherd, my responsibility is to oversee your safety and protection as a shepherd under the great shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. And I do that because I care and I love the people of God. So that's why we're doing the things that we do here. I could give you some really super easy fluff messages as you'll find so prevalent today. But guys, we're not living in a time and never has there been where those types of sermons should have ever been preached. We need to understand the day in which we are living in. And whether you like it or not, we are here. These are the times. These are the days. You can stick your head in the sand if you want to. It's not going to change the reality of where we are. Do not be a person who shoves their head in the sand and says, "I just don't want to deal with this anymore." You need to just go to the word of God. You'll find comfort, strength, encouragement, exhortation, reproof, correction, and instruction in order that you know how to live in these days. And from that, you will be greatly encouraged to know and understand that things are not falling apart. They're moving to the day that God has established before the foundation of the world. And that is the day of the Lord Jesus Christ when he comes in the second coming.

That's what we are to be doing. You say, "Well, John, how are we to live?" We are to be about the Father's business. We are to be living for kingdom things in this fallen world. That doesn't mean we isolate ourselves on an island and we join a monastery and all become monks. That's not how we interact with this world. Our ministry according to scripture is the ministry of reconciliation. Every one of you here has a great calling and a mandate that has been given to you by God. And it applies to every person here listening at every place in your life, no matter how young or how old you are as a Christian. Your ministry, your calling, your purpose at your job, in your marriage, with your family, with your friends, in your hobbies. This is your calling by God. Your responsibility before God is not to get all flustered and freaked out by the world, but actually because you have been sent by God, saved by God from the world, he sends you back into the world to give the message of how mankind who is lost and living in this depraved world can actually be reconciled, saved, and redeemed unto God. This is our ministry. It's how God is reconciling the world to himself through his son Jesus Christ. And we are ambassadors sent by God into this world to represent him in this world. And our message is this: Be reconciled to God through Christ. We share the message of reconciliation. That's what we're here to do. So we have great purpose and it involves every aspect of our life as Christians. Yes, we do not need to isolate ourselves from the world. We are insulated from things in the world because we are in Christ. But we are to what? Interact in this world and to live in this world in

order that we might share the message about how mankind who are separated from God in their sin might be at peace with him and reconciled to him and offered the free gift of eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ, the eternal son of God in flesh. That is our ministry. All of you here, that is our message. Why is this so challenging? Because Jesus said these last days are going to be hard times and because of the increase in wickedness. Folks, if over the last week you haven't seen the unveiling or the opening up or something being revealed about how truly wicked and vile this world is. I don't know what else to tell you. And you're not even seeing even a percentage of how wicked and truly vile these people really are. So we need to be about the Father's business. And I do it when I go to work. I'm not telling you don't quit your job and go somewhere and isolate in a little commune somewhere. No. Why? Because that's not your ministry. That is not your responsibility before God. And you certainly won't fulfill your ministry if you stick your head in the sand and act like everything is hunky dory and going along as it always has. So I'm trying to encourage you in the Lord in these things because of all the questions that I know that you have. If we open the floor today and just said, would everybody like to take time and share the questions and concerns you all have about our modern time? I think we would probably be here until next week. It's a reality. And what's ironic is the apostles themselves thought that Christ would return in their day. But see, they didn't fully understand God's purpose in this whole time of bringing these Gentiles in and how God would fulfill and work his plan throughout time in humanity, which is this time of grace that we are all in right now. But this will come to an end.

So, let's look together at these passages of scripture this morning. Hopefully, this will be some more encouragement to you. Also, in here, we're finding that Paul is going to say as he teaches these believers some hard things, but they're important things because it matters in their life before Christ and before God. This is what we're learning about. And um, follow along in 1 Corinthians chapter 6. We're going to start in verse 9 and we're going to read through 11. We did this last week. And the title of our message is such were some of you part two. Such were some of you. That is a past tense phrase. Paul says, "Or do you not know?" He says this a lot in First Corinthians. Well, obviously it's a rhetorical question, but it's pretty obvious that they weren't living if they did know these truths to be evident. And if they did know it, then they were living in disobedience because their conduct was really not in life in style with what it meant to really be born again. As we're going to learn here in just a few moments, their conduct was far more worldly than it was a witness as to who they are in Christ. Now, we know this can be true. We see it today. It's prevalent in our time. It's where people in the world have come to faith in Christ and they seem to just drag the world into their new life in Christ Jesus. But that's not what we do if we've been born again. And so there is this process of learning and understanding and growing. And there's time in that. And that's what Paul is dealing with here. Not not not the reality of what has happened to them, but the reality now of how they now live and grow and live this truth out in their conduct in the city of Corinth. Why would this be so important? There's only one church in Corinth. Corinth was a huge city, much bigger than the city we have here in Wichita Falls. And in order that they would fulfill their calling and their mandate to be the light in this dark city of Corinth in which they've been rescued from, it mattered in which how they would live as a witness to this new life before all of those people that they knew in this community and that they indulged in all of these um, these sinful, wicked activities that were very accepted among the people of Corinth. As I mentioned to you several times, to be a Corinthian was to indulge yourself in complete and total gross immoral depravity. And most of that was geared around sexual impurity. They had a thousand priestesses that

served in the temple. And they would go engage the priestesses in this sexual activity in order to be joined, listen to this, in union with Aphrodite, the chief goddess of Corinth. The union would happen to them in this sexual promiscuity among the worship of the pagan worship and culture in Corinth. They even understood in their mind, even though they were incorrect, that they were joining themselves in their minds, they believed in this sexual activity, they were being joined in union with the goddess. Isn't that interesting? There is a joining in union in sexual activity. There is a joining that happens and we as Christians, we have been joined to Jesus Christ by faith as we're going to learn.

So Paul says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?" Now for most of us reading this, we'd say, "Well, no duh, Paul. We understand that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God." We get it. We understand it. We know what unrighteousness is. But then he says this, "Do not be deceived." As if he's somehow hinting to the truth that these Corinthians, at least some of them, they're living deceived. Because now he's going to go on and explain to them explicitly a list of immoral activities that they were engulfing in or engaging in as if they didn't know that these were unrighteous. And look what Paul says. He says, "Don't be deceived." I don't think there's anything worse than being deceived. I hate deception, but the enemy, that's what he does. He's all about deception. And Jesus did tell us the last days would be defined by the key word deception. So if you don't want to be deceived, you need to know the truth in order that you might know what truth is. Therefore, you're not led astray in any type of deception. So here he says, don't be deceived. Neither. Now, he's going to outline for them these actual behaviors or activities that are actually unrighteous. And this is interesting that he would do this. This is not the only time Paul speaks this way, nor does or nor other parts of scripture. This is very important. And I want to get this in your mind. And if you miss last week, you're going to you're going to be a little frustrated probably, but you can go back and listen to that message um if you would from last week. But notice he says, "Neither the sexually immoral." In other words, they're included in the unrighteous. Paul says, "Neither the sexually immoral." That word is the word *porneia*, and it includes all and any type of sexual impurity, any kind. It's where we get the word pornography from. The same word there is used to bring the English word pornography to light. It's the description of all that, including all things that are in opposition to this incredible, wonderful gift that God has given for those who are in covenant. One man, one woman for a lifetime. It's the only time. It's the only purpose that is under what God would call pure um sexual um activity. Anything outside of any of that at all, whether it's fornication, adultery, homosexuality, all of that is a perversion and a twisting of what God has given in this gift of sex for the enjoyment of a husband and wife in covenant marriage. Number one is for the propagation or the the the the continuation of the human race. That's number one. So when people today tell you that it's not unnatural for them to be in same-sex relationships, you want to slap your forehead because logic tells you the human race cannot procreate without it being natural. But see, this is where we've come to in our time. Nothing makes sense anymore. It doesn't have to because we just make up our own ideas. Well, that's not what we do as Christians. We follow the standard which is the word of God and it never changes. Thank God God's goalpost does not keep moving. I don't want to chase a goalpost that's here today and I look down the field and it's 40 more yards that way. And just when you think you've got it figured out, nope, sorry. Going to pull this one out from underneath you. No, you got to go back that direction. No. The word of God never changes. It's always been the same. Why? Because God is eternal and so is his word. And it matters for us today as it much as it mattered for these Corinthian believers.

So he says neither the sexually immoral. And then he moves to idolatry. And there's a these people might be saying, well, I don't know what you're talking about here. Idolatry would be anything that we set up as valued more than God. That's what an idol is. Now we can have lots of idols in our life, but idolatry is a sin and it's what the unrighteous do. So the only one in whom deserves our pre praise, our adoration and our true worship. It's not an idol that we set up, it is the Lord God Almighty. He is the only one who is worthy of that worship from us as those who have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb. But idolatry is a sneaky thing because it can sneak into your life and before long you've set up idols and didn't even know you had. It's those things that get in the way. This idolatry, it can happen to any of us. Paul says that's part of the list of the unrighteous. Just in case somebody has their own misunderstanding of what unrighteousness is, Paul's going to give a list here of some things that he wanted them to understand. And he says, "Don't be deceived. These here, they're not going to inherit the kingdom. You all shook your head yes when you said the unrighteous are not going to inherit the kingdom. Well, for sure, Paul, we get that. Now, Paul says, "Hey, don't be deceived because neither are the bank, bank bunk." He goes down the list and he's trying to help them see and understand to have a clear picture and mindset of what unrighteousness really looks like. And here we move on. He says, "Nor idolaters." We know what adultery is. Adultery would be having a relationship sexually outside of the covenant of marriage. In other words, we're married, but we have a relationship outside of that. That is called adultery. Paul says, "Listen, no. Can't be doing that. I know it's prevalent in the Corinthian culture. I know idolatry is what this culture is all about. I understand that it's full of sexual immorality," Paul says, "but that's not how we've come to know Christ." And that's what Paul is trying to help them see. Adultery, adultery would have been very prevalent in Paul's day in Corinth and it's very prevalent in our time as well. Nor men who practice homosexuality. This word in the homosexuality word actually is speaking of both the masculine and the feminine side of this relationship. And it also applies to any type of gay sex. This is what Paul is getting at here. And it's a further perversion of God's gift of sex. That's what it is. It's more of a twisting. And yet, it's included in the sins, as we're going to see elsewhere, of adultery and even fornication. It's like the church has become silent about fornication, as if fornication is just a lesser sin. No, it's not. Fornication is just as sinful before God as homosexuality is. But homosexuality is a further twisting of what God has designed for this gift in covenant marriage between a man and a woman for a lifetime. So or those who practice. Notice he uses the word practice here. I watched an interview this week and I'm going to get to this reality as we work through here because a lot of people have a misunderstanding I think to this. Let me say this as we begin. Those of you that truly study scripture, do you know that scripture when you study it seems to have these things that are um held together yet they're kind of pushing away from each other? Have you noticed that? You're going to find that in scripture because God wants for us to have a well-balanced understanding and life because what is man's natural tendency to go one way or the other? They go into extremes. That's what men do by nature. And we find that to be so very, very true. And so, we have this tension in scripture for a reason. But here's what's challenging for me as a pastor. Listen, I've I've been in the church a long time. I've known Christ for a long time. And so, as I study scripture, I find that there are things that I have been taught that I believed to be true. Not because someone was inherently trying to deceive me, but because what they believed was inherently not fully biblical. And I have to wrestle with the word of God. I've had to wrestle with the word of God here all week in preparation for this. Because as you study scripture, here's the problem with joining and latching on to an ism. When you join on an ism, if you follow the ism, let me tell you what you're going to do. You're going to rob yourself of the ability for the Holy Spirit to be able to teach you in all truth because you are going to be so focused on keeping the framework of the ism that you're going to use

the ism or the framework to look at scripture instead of allowing scripture to expose the framework or to establish the framework. And so when people fall into the isms, they begin to allow the framework of man developed in the ism to actually put its weight upon the scripture, instead of the scripture being above it, scripture comes below it. And then therefore now as they read scripture and they come to these other passages, they just check them off as saying, "Well, I evidently just don't understand what that means. It doesn't fit the framework of my ism." And they move right along. And those that teach the isms. The reason we have different isms out there is because of the tension in scripture. So you have one group that will teach part of the part of the true doctrinal theology of God's word because it fits the narrative of their ism and then over here they have the ism as well. But here's the thing, they don't want to expose the other scriptures. They just give you the ones that support their ism. But they're in scripture for a reason, to help us maintain the right balance that we need to have as those who are truly of the people of God. So that's why I try to tell you if you're a new believer, please hear, I'm not trying to to just if you're a new believer in Jesus Christ, I always tell people don't read one other book for one year outside of scripture. Don't do it. What people want to do is they come to faith in Christ. They're super excited. Absolutely they are. They have been born again. They've been regenerated by the spirit. They have this peace. They have this love. They have all this forgiveness. They have all of this incredible that things that God has given them in this new salvation. And then they they start searching for what people write about this salvation. And they go grab a book on an ism. And the ism will teach them things that scripture says according to their ism. And if you're not careful, you're going to be sucked into an ism before you've ever allowed the Holy Spirit of God to instruct you in the way of scripture. So dangerous. You know why? It's easier for us as people. Let me tell you why. Because of the way we've been formed to think in our mind. Our natural propensity is to let people tell us what we're supposed to think. Do you not see the control of that and how dangerous that is? Now, I'm not saying that people who write books are inherently evil or wrong. I'm not saying that. But we have been given a book. And let me just say this. I've been studying this thing like seriously for about 20 years. And you know what I have come to learn about the word of God that it is inexhaustible. It's it's like when I when I go to the ocean and we break over a reef and you're in there and you're about 15 feet deep and everything feels great and secure and then all of a sudden you go over the reef the reef and it all of a sudden starts to turn stinking dark and black and everything just disappears. This is what has happened to me as I've studied scripture for all these years. At first it was like swimming in the reef. God was revealing all these things that were right there close by. The beauty of it, all these incredible things, and you're just seeing this stuff, and God is revealing it to you. And the longer you stud it, study it, what you find is it just goes to more depth and to more depth, and it's just like it has no bottom to it. And the word of God is alive. So, what does that mean? I had an uncle that really gave me a a challenge when I was in my early teens. and he said, "I I want to challenge you to study the book of Ephesians." So, in my early teens, I began to read and study the book of Ephesians. But I'm telling you something, the way that that book ministered to me in my early teens, it still ministers to me in many other ways in my 50s. The depth of it, the life of it, how it impacts me, where I am right now in my life today. This is why when we preach the scriptures, you guys, many of you will come up and say, "I don't know how you knew what was going on in my life. I don't know. God must have had you read my mail this week." No, I didn't read anybody's mail this week, but I don't have to because see, the word of God is living and it's active. God already knows that he sends forth his word and it accomplishes a work in your life and in my life no matter where I am because that's the word of God. It's living and it's powerful. So that's the beauty of preaching the scripture. So as we think about the the reality of this guys this this this word here don't don't read a lot of other outside writings. If you look at my library I think it's hilarious. Nothing

wrong with books but I don't even hardly have a library. because I can't even come to the grips of all this. God is still challenging my theology every week of my life, challenging what I've been taught, what I believe to be true. I look back probably at some of the things I preached early on, and I would probably have to shake my head and say, "Dude, you were wrong." Was it because I was trying to be? No. But I had to grow and learn. And God is constantly causing me to have to wrestle with this thing. So don't be so quick to just reject some things. That's why I know I can preach the word and allow the Holy Spirit of God to work in my life and in yours. Because some of you have been taught a systematic and by golly, you are not going to move off that systematic. But that's a very dangerous thing because that is a construct of man. Now they use scriptures. They say, "I get that." But there's reasons that there's opposing constructs and system frameworks of study. There's a reason for that. It's because when you get to scripture, if you're truly going to be honest with scripture, you're going to have to wrestle. Do you not know that God wants us to have to wrestle over these things? How more intimate can you get than the sport of wrestling? There is none. It's not just hand-to-hand combat. It is flesh-to-flesh combat. And rarely in wrestling are you ever separated from the other person. The reason is because it's the most intimate type of true real I would call contact sport. And this is

What God wants for us to do is He wants for us to, by the Spirit of God, be teaching us to wrestle over these things. Why? Because that's how I really learn what God's word teaches. Wrestle. I have to weekly. And it's okay if you're wrestling over scripture. You should be. If you're not, then you're just one of those that's just saying, "Hey, sit back. Teach me what it, what I'm supposed to believe." But I've told you this many times. Don't you take what I share from the word as being the gospel truth. You do your work. Do your work. That's why we give you all these scriptures, guys. So you can go home and pray and study and go through these scriptures. Why? So you can allow the Holy Spirit to work in you and you can wrestle with these things so that you know what you believe and why you believe it. Many Christians don't know why they believe many things, but I promise you if you don't, it's easy to sway you from the foundation of which you think you stand.

And so this is what we're, we're really trying to do here. And that's what Paul is really, he is, he's, he's working through this whole thing. And so he gives this list. He moves on and he says, "Nor thieves." I mean, theft is kind of one of them things that's just common among people who don't know Christ. Paul says, "I want to let you know they're part of the unrighteous. That's what the unrighteous do." He's given them this ill. He's helping them see this. If we just say the word unrighteous, well, what does that mean? It can mean a litna of things. Paul says, "Now, I'm going to tell you definition-wise. I'm going to show you what unrighteousness looks like." And then he says this, "Nor greedy." It's interesting. We like to point out certain sins, but then we like to actually, um, not even mention certain ones. Greedy. So he says, "Nor the greedy." People that are greedy are demonstrating an unrighteous behavior. That's not what is representative of being in Christ Jesus.

Nor drunkards. Here's a big one for our time. It's become very popular in some circles for, uh, men to gather up and grab their alcohol and their cigars and sit back and study the scriptures

as if they're really rebelling. Boy, no. Here's the thing, guys. Drunkenness should have no part in the life of a Christian. Because when you become drunk or intoxicated, you no longer have the Holy Spirit having any control over your life. You've given yourself over to something else that actually has control over you. And we don't want to be controlled by anything other than the Lord Jesus Christ. So, this should never have any part in the life of a Christian. Here's the question. Some of you say, "Okay, I'm not getting drunk. How many beers does it take to get to that point? Where's the line?" And this is what Paul will get at more as we understand this. Drunkenness should not have any part in the life of a Christian. It shouldn't be something we promote or, or we think is great or it's cool. No. Paul says drunkenness is actually definitive of the unrighteous. Why? Because they love to go there. I mean, it's able to just let it take over and you have no conscience and you just do whatever you do, man. You, you don't have any control over your mind or very little. You just, you lose your ability to actually, you know, act correctly and think correctly and talk correctly and before long you put on the Superman outfit and you're doing all kinds of stuff or Wonder Woman for some of you ladies out there. I want to leave you out of the picture. And so Paul says, "Nor drunkards." He throws that in there. Well, wow. I'm sure the Corinthian believers are reading this going, "Well, I didn't know this was unrighteous. This is what I've done my whole life." Paul says, "N no, that's what unrighteous people do." And he moves on.

He says, revilers. Well, what's a reviler? That's a slanderer. That's someone who slanders you knowing it was a lie. So, they'll tell a falsehood about you, knowing full well it's a lie, and it brings slander against your name. That's just what the unrighteous do. And then he mentions swindlers. Swindlers are people who actually deceptively trick other people or keep from them what is due them. Man, I don't even know. You just might as well put the United States government stamp it right on there. >> It's unrighteous, man. It's unrighteous. And notice he says again now to reaffirm now that he's built a foundation so they understand in their minds, oh, this is unrighteous behavior. Paul says he repeats it one more time for them to get it and understand it because at first he said the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom. They're like, okay, roger that. And then Paul goes, let me tell you what the unrighteous behavior looks like. And now they're going, woe is me. And then look what Paul says then. And then he says this, that these will not inherit the kingdom of God. Just to clarify everything in their minds. And then look at this beautiful verse that he throws in next. And such were some of you. And then look at this. But you were washed. You were washed. You were sanctified. And you were justified. He says, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." That's amazing.

Notice the stark contrast of what Paul wants for these Corinthian believers to know. He says, "This is the unrighteous behavior of the unrighteous that will not inherit the kingdom." He says, "But this is where you were one time, but by God's grace, you're no longer this person anymore. You may struggle with some of those things, but you're not this person anymore. Why? Because you were washed. You were sanctified. And you were justified. This has been a work that God has done in your life. It's incredible. Now, we're going to get into that next week, but let's continue on where we are here. Now, last week, guys, did I say last week or next week? We'll get into that next week. But last week, okay, I'm not trying to confuse you here. We tried to lay a foundation as we get into this to help you understand. It's important as to the reality of who we are in Christ Jesus. And it's all by faith here, right? So being in Christ is by

faith. Um, and we, we want to look at some passages. Let's look here, um, at, uh, Romans chapter 5. Let's look at first Peter, first 3-9. I want to read something to you here. 1 Peter 1 3-9. It doesn't look like we're going to make it very far here this morning. First Peter chapter 1. We're going to look at 3 through 9 this morning, just in this particular verse. It's great to see so many of you bringing your Bibles with you because you show me and you demonstrate the reality that you don't want to just be told what to believe, but you want to prove. You want the scriptures to prove what it is that you believe or what I'm saying is to be true. So do that. We want to do it for sure. Romans, I mean, 1 Peter 1 3-9. Let me read it to you. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the Apostle Peter writing this. It's not just Paul who emphasizes these things. According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance. Remember Paul says the unrighteous won't inherit the kingdom. Peter says, "We have been born again to a living hope and to an inheritance." We have been born unto this inheritance. Notice about this inheritance. It is imperishable. In other words, it's never going to come to an end. It's not like your, your jar of, of bananas or your, your bowl of bananas that will rot before you shake your head twice. They make good banana bread, but they're rotten. Okay? This, what this word perishable means. It rots. It comes to an end. It becomes no good. It's useless. No, no. This inheritance, and we're going to get into this, guys, in, in, in a week or two as we get into the kingdom of God. And what is this inheritance? He says, "This inheritance, it's imperishable. It never ever ends. It doesn't wear out over time or become less valuable or, or none of that. Doesn't degrade. It is undefiled. It's pure. It's good. It's undefiled. And it's unfading. It is kept in heaven for you who by God's power are being guarded through what? What's the word? >> Faith. Absolutely. You might underline that word faith. This is going to become very important as we're going to see. It is being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed when in the last time. This salvation is going to be revealed and revealed here in the last time. In other words, the consummation of this salvation, this great salvation that we have not yet fully been consummated in reality is going to be one day. And it's going to happen here in the last time.

And then in verse six, in this you rejoice Christians. This should cause you to have great joy. You rejoice in a world that doesn't have a lot of joy these days. And people are going to say, "Well, why in the world would you have joy with all that's going on in this world and the upheaval and the uncertainty and everything that's happening? How in the world can you walk around like a light bulb with so much joy in your life?" Well, this is the reason. This is the beautiful truth of why we have this great joy within us. Though now for a little while, Peter says, "If necessary, you've been grieved by various trials." We know this to be true. So that the tested genuineness of your faith, this faith, guys, is key. It's very, very, very important. Your faith, your belief is so very important. And we're going to learn more about why this is. And notice that these trials have been for the purpose to test for a short season the genuine reality to the truth that your faith is real. It's real. That's why I say sometimes our tests that we encounter are actually a gift of grace. We don't look at them that way because we don't enjoy them. But God doesn't waste those things in our life. And some of you are going through some trials now. But they're not something that are going to bring you to an end. They're actually going to prove your faith in Jesus Christ. And if it does that, it has been worth the trial. >> Amen. >> So, you're not going to be free of trials, Christian. No, they're going to come. But they serve a purpose now that you're in Christ. They're going to reveal the truth of this. No, we

don't like them, but they bring about a great return. And that is they'll test the genuine nature of your faith.

Notice that Peter goes on and he says, "This faith that you have, I know you hold a lot of things valuable in this world." And he uses what is the most valuable thing in his day, which would have been gold. Gold would have been very valuable in Paul's day, in Peter's day, excuse me. And notice he says that it's actually more precious. It's more valuable than gold. More valuable than gold. Why is that? Because gold will perish. It's coming to an end. Though it is tested by fire, gold, that is, may be found to result, what? Like gold being tested by fire to bring about the true impurity, cleansing of it to demonstrate that it's not fool's gold but it's real gold and it's pure gold. Same way the testing of our faith, we don't want a fool's faith, Christian. Lots of people unfortunately in these churches who are having their ears patted with all of this social gospel and how great they are and how God is the genie in a bottle and it's all about social stuff and all these things that they're just preaching these people. Listen to me. That is going to leave many of them with a fool's faith. Not genuine faith, but a fool's faith. And we don't want a fool's faith. Because if you have fool's faith, when you come to the end, your fool's faith will be exposed as being what it truly is. When God comes in that day, you want to know that you know that you know that you know that your faith is genuine faith in Christ. That's what you want to know because I don't care how much gold you got put back on that day. It ain't going to do you an ounce of good. The only thing that's going to do us good is if our faith endures to the end. That's it. So Peter's trying to make them, help them understand that it's speaking of our faith may be found, I'm in verse, uh, seven, I believe, may be found to result in what? Not fool's gold. No. But may be found to be what? To the, to result in praise and glory and honor. Well done, thou good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with little. Now I'm giving you much. Enter into the joy that God has prepared for you. That is the result of your faith. Not mere gold that people hold so tight today to think this is the whole purpose of life is materialism and materialistic things. They will do them no good when they stand before Christ. But your faith, it will bring praise, glory, and honor. Think of that. Praise, glory, and honor when at the revelation of Jesus Christ. What is the revelation of Jesus Christ? It is when He comes again in glory. This is what Peter's trying to help us understand.

Though you have not seen Him, who? Christ. This is the beauty of our faith. We haven't seen Christ. What do we do? You love Him. You love Him. By the way, just because you haven't seen Christ doesn't mean you don't know Christ. We haven't seen Him like the apostles. They saw Him. We haven't seen Him physically with our eyes. We've experienced Him. We've come to know Him. We've been born again of the Spirit. We, we have these truths. They are reality. And then He moves on and says, "Though you do not now see Him, you believe." There's that belief, that faith. You still do. You believe in Christ. Even though you've not seen Him, you still believe in Him. And you rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and is filled with glory. Listen to this. You can underline this verse. You can underline that whole section if you want to do what you want. It's your Bible. [snorts] Here's the thing. Obtaining that is to take hold of in the finality of it all. That means to achieve it, to receive it, to come to the end. This is what Peter's saying. Obtaining the outcome of your attendance in church. Obtaining the outcome of a cultural Christianity. None of that will do you any good. Obtaining the outcome of your faith. Your faith.

That is what it's about. Isn't that incredible? What is the outcome that we obtain of our faith? What is it? Here it is. The salvation of your soul. This, this is it.

Now, we're almost out of time today. Well, we are out of time today. And I don't like to leave you here, but I want you to see and understand. Let me just do a couple more verses just to kind of throw it out there for you. Just a few. And I promise if you go see the teachers back there, would you please hug their neck? And let me say this, too. We need you to serve Christ in His body. Are you serving Jesus Christ in His body? We are the body of Christ. We're going to learn about that in first Corinthians. We have a great need for more people to come and be part of the exciting serving in the children's ministry. And when we do that, we allow people to come in here and to be taught and to be informed of the things of God. And, and, and if we have enough people doing it, no one has to do it very often. And so out front there's a signup sheet. I'm telling you, we need your help. We need your help. Yes, you're going to have to go through, uh, a background check and you're going to have to go through the Ministry Safe. Doesn't take that long. But we go to great lengths to make sure that your precious kids are watched by people that we have checked and tested to make sure that they're safe. We need your help back there. We need your help in a lot of teams. If you're not serving Christ here in this church ministry, you're missing out on serving Jesus in the local body.

Now, back to where we were. Romans chapter 5:es 1-2. I'm just going to give you what I said is give them a hug. Tell them thank you that they were back there dealing with what they were dealing with in order that you could be in here today. And many of them never get to come in here because there's nobody to take their place. And then you know what happens to them? They get tired. They get burned out. And then sometimes they just leave the church because they need to be also fed this way too corporately. Let's move on here. Romans 5 1-2. And then I'm going to have to wrap this up because of time today. Just going to demonstrate this. Therefore, in Romans chapter 5 1-2, I can't, can't make this more clear for you than therefore Paul says, since we have been justified by church attendance, we, we, we kind of laugh at that, but you might be surprised how many people, unfortunately, do feel like that they're somehow earning credit to God by actually giving an hour or two of their week. And in their own mind, they're, they're doing that thinking that that makes God approve of them more if they were to simply do something like that. But that's not how we're justified. We're glad that they come. We want people to come. I wish we did four services on every Sunday, but it's going to take you all going out there, bringing them here in order for them to actually do that. Sharing Christ through the week, telling people about the reconciliation message of the gospel, things like that. If your church is growing, it's growing because your people are growing. If your church is dying, it's because your people are dying. If your church is stagnant, it's because the people in the church who make up the church are stagnant in their walk with Christ. What you see is a direct reflection of the actual body of Christ on any given Sunday. So, we want to be those that are passionate about for these things. Why? Because people are really going to die and go to a real hell and ultimately stand before God in the great white throne judgment and they'll ultimately go to a place called the lake of fire forever and ever and ever. This is all real and we're not here for a long time.

Therefore, since we've been justified by faith, see that word again, by faith, we have peace with God. Who through, see when people say there's all these roads going to get you to heaven. This universalism that is taught in America today and around the world that really the Buddhist and the Hindu and the, the Muslim and all of these different faiths and interfaiths and all of this stuff. Listen, as long as you have the belief in God, you're good. You cannot be at peace with God unless you go through the peacemaker who is the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. That's what this verse says right here so clearly. It says that we have peace with God through Allah. No. This is what should break your heart, Christian. We have, we have peace with God through religious activity like keeping certain things that the church tells me to do, whether it's the sacraments or, or confession or whatever it could be. We have peace with God through that, don't we? No. We have peace with God through reincarnation or go down the list of all the religions of the world. They all will tell you something. And most of them don't even know how to have peace with God because they got to have their works and stuff figured out on the scales of God and they hope their works will out. See what I'm saying here? No. Scripture tells us, Christian, there's only one way for any man, woman, boy, or girl to have peace with God. And that is by faith through our Lord Jesus the Christ. That is it. That's it. Through who? Jesus Christ. Through Him. Notice things are in Him. Things are through Him. Our faith is in Him. We have been united to Him. These are all the realities of our faith and what it's done to us. And it's all through Christ. And the reason we get to have the finished work of our salvation is because our faith in Christ has endured to the very end, who is the very means by which we are set right before God. Because He is righteous, holy, and He has provided the way in which we could be reconciled to God. Don't unplug from Jesus, Christian. Don't unplug from Christ.

Then He says this, through Him we have also obtained access. Access to who? God the Father. This is like the open door, you know, like your kids. There's a lot of people in the world, but then there's your kids. And who has access to you? Your children do. It's like they have an open door. When your little child needs something and they're young, they don't know that they need to make an appointment with you. They don't need to make an appointment with you when they've been hurt or something's wrong or whatever. They run straight to you. And the reason they can is because, because they're your child, they have an open access policy. You don't have to set an appointment to come see me. It's that way with my kids. Some people have to set an appointment for me to set aside time to see them. But if my kids need something, there's never an appointment needed because they have access to me. Here's what's happened by faith in Christ. Notice, we've obtained something through faith, and that is that we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand. We stand in this place. An open door has been made in Christ Jesus. We've entered through, through Christ, and now we have access and we stand in this obtained place before God. Think of that. And then lastly, we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Your faith, Christian, is so important. It's not a cavalier thing. It's not a word we say around here. No, it is, it is the most important thing you have in this world. And what does Satan want to do to your faith? Destroy it because of how important it is. So he sends flaming arrows and all kinds of things your way, discouragement. He does all of these things in order that he might somehow unsettle, unravel, and destroy your faith. We're going to get into some more great stuff next week, but for now, I better close as I promised I would. I hope, Christian, that you are so encouraged by these things, and we'll learn more about why Paul was doing this and what he was trying to establish. I think you understand it clearly. But see, today unfortunately it's become very normalized within Christianity that many people who profess Christianity simply live unrighteous lives. As if that doesn't have any

Answers to the Study Questions:

Q: What passage was the main focus of the sermon?

A: The main focus was 1 Corinthians 6:9–11.

Q: Why did Paul give such strong warnings to the Corinthian church?

A: He was giving loving correction to believers he cared deeply about, not trying to condemn them.

Q: What was unique about the culture in Corinth?

A: Corinth was described as a city marked by widespread sexual immorality and idolatry.

Q: What does Paul mean when he says, “Do not be deceived”?

A: He is warning believers not to accept lies about sin, righteousness, or inheritance in God’s kingdom.

Q: What is the main point of the phrase “such were some of you”?

A: It shows that some believers had once lived in sin, but their identity had changed in Christ.

Q: What did the sermon say about a believer’s identity in Christ?

A: Believers have been set apart, forgiven, and made holy through faith in Jesus Christ.

Q: What does sanctification mean in the sermon’s explanation?

A: It means God has set believers apart as sacred and holy for Himself.

Q: Why is Scripture so important in the sermon?

A: Scripture is the standard of truth and must guide belief and conduct, not culture or opinion.

Q: What role do Christians have in the world?

A: Christians are ambassadors of reconciliation, called to represent Christ and share the gospel.

Q: What was the sermon’s challenge to believers living in a sinful world?

A: Stay grounded in God’s Word, resist deception, and live in a way that matches your new life in Christ.