

## **Bible Study for January 18-24**

*You are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the scripture and the questions provided either individually, or with members of your household.*

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

### **Notes:**

The city of Corinth was a very important place due to its location on trade routes. It was also a very wealthy city and, because excess was the norm, it developed a reputation for immorality and debauchery. You can imagine how difficult it must have been for Paul to begin a Christian church there, when the competition included many pagan shrines and temples including the temple of Aphrodite, complete with 1000 temple prostitutes. While the gospel message was indeed different from much of what was being offered, it also had to struggle against norms instilled in people who grew up in such a place as Corinth. The letters to the Corinthians then, are often arguments that lead us to Christ in spite of worldly temptations.

In this very short passage we find that Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### **Questions to Ponder:**

On a contentment with life scale, are you more like Garfield (I hate Mondays, getting up, and work), or like Odie (life is fun, fun, fun; let's play!) Why?

What hopes do you have for the future? Can you see any of those dreams beginning to show fruit?

What does Paul mean by his suggestions about how to live, in view of the "present crisis"? How might his suggestions be taken in light of our current pandemic?

What do you see as Paul's advice to married couples in this passage?

How has your marital status (single or married) helped you to serve Christ more effectively? How has it hindered your service?