



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Every Gift Is a Blessing

Tuesday, 3 June 2014

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CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

monthly (interim) schedule

*** 1st Tuesday of the month ***

TUESDAY, 3 JUNE 2014

12 NOON in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Studies are held the *first* Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon. The monthly Bible study is nonpartisan and nondenominational. We are currently studying First Corinthians, chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse. I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here *solely* to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as evidence of my desire to serve you.

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Study

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First Corinthians 12 – “Every Gift Is a Blessing”

Technology has changed drastically throughout the past several decades. One of the most significant changes has been the transformation from “bigger is better” to “smaller is better.” Historians typically agree that the precursor of today’s completely electronic digital computers is ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator), which was built between 1943-95. ENIAC was so large that it occupied a 30 by 50 foot room, weighed 30 tons, and required 10,000 capacitors, 70,000 resistors, and 17,468 vacuum tubes. The largeness of the first computers is reason why (in 1968) the moviemakers of “2001: A Space Odyssey” assumed computers of the future would be things in which one would walk.

Not many decades ago, the largest computer was still the best. Now, however, the exact opposite is true. Computers are now smaller, and consequently, more capable, faster, and more reliable. Whereas the earliest computers weighed many tons and occupied an entire room, now the microchips that control personal computers are held in the palm of one’s hand and weigh less than ounce. However, if the smallest pieces of a computer become defective, it can often cost more to fix than the price of the entire computer. Simply because something is small does not mean it is not vital for something to work; very often, the smallest pieces are absolutely essential.

First Corinthians 12 teaches that every spiritual gift is sovereignly given by God and is intensely valuable to his people. We have a tendency to examine things based upon appearance to determine whether certain gifts are more essential than others. Scripture declares even the smallest and least spectacular gifts are essential.

THE NEED AND VALUE OF ALL

Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4 teach that all spiritual gifts are divinely purposed for the edification of those who are believers. Much disagreement exists as to whether or not some of the gifts are still in usage today. The differences are normally with regard to the issue of special revelation.

General revelation is defined in Romans 1 as knowledge of God that is “evident” to all humanity, even if the Bible is not read.

Psalm 19:1 – The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

Romans 1:20 – For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Revelation that is “evident” through creation is sufficient to condemn those who refuse to acknowledge the existence of God. Our conscience is another source of knowledge. Romans 2:15 teaches that – as a result of being created in the “image of God” – the conscience is “the work of the Law written in their hearts.” All humanity has a moral sensibility (i.e. a cognitive awareness of right and wrong). However, only the knowledge of God that is derived from special revelation can actually provide the truth necessary for salvation.

Special revelation is the medium by which God revealed Himself directly and specifically. The record of this medium is the Bible. General revelation may be deduced from creation and conscience, albeit only special revelation is sufficient to provide truth necessary for salvation (redemption). General revelation is essential to comprehend special revelation for without knowledge of God’s existence one cannot adequately understand God’s self-disclosure in Jesus Christ.

With regard to the spiritual gifts, some Christians believe that special revelation continues today, whereas others deny that God provides special revelation today (other than the completed Scriptures). Many different viewpoints exist among Christians regarding these issues; nevertheless, three basic perspectives can be stated for the sake of convenience. Your responsibility will then be to apply the original meaning of 1 Corinthians 12 to your specific situations, according to your orientation to one of the three views.

<i>Cessation</i>	some gifts were temporary while believers lacked the completed Scripture
<i>Continuation</i>	all gifts, or at least most, are available as God continues to speak to his people through apostles and prophets (and other supernatural means)
<i>Modification</i>	offices of apostle and prophet have ceased; however, certain manifestations have been modified (though none provide infallible special revelation)



Enhancing Trust

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Study

1st Tuesdays (monthly) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP

Bible Study Luncheon is sponsored by Coastal Bible Fellowship (BMW), Rincon

Capitol Commission Georgia

Every Gift Is a Blessing

(1 Cor 12:1-31) As already stated, the primary difference among the three perspectives (cessation, continuation, modification) is the issue of special revelation. Any “revelation” that is additional to the 66 books of Scripture (eventually) almost always contradict the Word of God. Such alleged revelation causes tremendous confusion and often results in devastation to one’s spiritual life. How the Bible confronts misuse of divinely given gifts is crucial for God’s people to know.

THE POTENTIAL TO BE “LED ASTRAY” IS STILL POSSIBLE.

Chapters 12—14 address difficulties in Christian gatherings, which were resulting in disorder. The discussion begins by reminding the original recipients of their idolatrous lifestyle from which the Lord Jesus delivered them. Prior to that relationship with the Lord, they were susceptible to falsehood and “were led astray” (1 Cor 12:2) Caution is needed so that the same does not occur with regard to spiritual gifts. The potential to be “led astray” is still possible.

Simply because something is asserted as Christian does not mean that it truly is. Not only does false doctrine (as with those who said, “Jesus is accursed,” 12:3) disrupt Christian assemblies, but also it causes disorder in homes and individual lives. “Sound [healthy] doctrine” does good to all who teach it and heed that teaching (2 Tim 4:3). Teaching (doctrine) is essential to our lives because “knowledge of the truth” assists us to live “according to godliness” (Tit 1:1).

First Corinthians 12 explains that God grants “varieties of gifts” (v. 4), and because their purposes differ (v. 5), the effects of their use likewise differ (v. 6). Nevertheless, the same Holy Spirit grants them all, and He is sovereign in how He disperses those gifts. God is the one who creates the differences, thus there is no reason to boast or complain regarding our abilities and accomplishments. God “works all things in all persons” to accomplish anything worthwhile (v. 6).

WE ALL NEED HELP FROM OTHERS AND OUGHT TO LIKEWISE CONTRIBUTE OUR OWN ASSISTANCE.

Moreover, all that God accomplishes is “for the common good” (v. 7); in other words, self-serving usage of God’s gifts is sinful. Christians do not live for self; rather, we are members of a body. We are each interdependent and should equally “have the same care for one another” (v. 25). Each member of the body (the metaphor that is developed extensively in verses 12-27) is “necessary,” including those who “seem to be weaker” (v. 22). We ought to regularly ask and receive help from fellow Christians, as opposed to being exhausted and overwhelmed from functioning on our own. We all need help from others and ought to likewise contribute our own assistance.

The spiritual gifts identified in verses 8-10 are indeed extraordinary, and, therefore, are foundational (Eph 2:20; 3:50). The Holy Spirit produced the gifts among the members of the body, “distributing to each one individually just as He wills” (1 Cor 12:11).

Although countless local churches exist, there is one (universal) church, which is “baptized [united] into one body, whether Jews or Greek, whether slaves or free” (v. 12). All partake of the same Spirit (v. 13; cf. 2 Cor 1:21-22).

Verses 4-27 emphasize that each member of the body needs the other. All parts of the body – even the “less honorable” – are essential. Consequently, there must “be no division in the body” and should be mutual caring “for one another” (v. 25). We ought not attempt to accomplish everything on our own; rather, it is important to seek opportunities to benefit from the help of others. Christians are all united already since when “one member suffers, all the members suffer with it” (v. 26).

PRIDE OFTEN IS THE REASON WHY WE DO NOT SEEK GUIDANCE FROM OTHERS, AND THIS ONLY WORSENS PROBLEMS IN THE MEANTIME.

Christians ought to readily accept the assistance of fellow believers, and seek to provide help in like manner. Pride often is the reason why we do not seek guidance from others, and this only worsens problems in the meantime. Ultimately, when challenges and difficulties progress because we do not seek help, they are much more difficult to resolve and often become a public embarrassment to everyone. As members of a body, Christians will always need help from other believers; thus, how much wiser to seek that assistance from the beginning. How foolish not to avail ourselves of each and every beneficial, necessary member of the body!

Unity among members of a body will increase as each willingly seeks and receives help from others. *How true for the body of Christ, and also how relevant is this message for each member of the General Assembly, in addition to the entire Capitol community.* We greatly ease our tasks and become more effective in our responsibilities by encouraging the practice of the initial and regular mutual ministry of all members of the body of Christ.

Christians have everyone needed for “life and godliness” because God has gifted his church with all manner of persons (vv. 28-30; cf. 2 Pet 1:3). Therefore, “earnestly desire the greater gifts” (v. 31), which does not mean the more important (so as to bestow “more abundant honor” upon yourself), but those which are a greater use to the body.

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state ministers teach ongoing verse-by-verse Bible studies for the entire Capitol community, and also meet personally with many government leaders (and their staff) to proclaim God’s grace in salvation, to encourage our leaders, pray with them, and provide biblical counsel. Capitol Commission is a charitable and religious nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Capitol Commission is supported by the generous gifts of businesses, churches, and individuals. Capitol Commission is not state-funded; rather, those with a heart for the Capitol community fund it.

Please join us in this ministry!

**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION (INTERIM) BIBLE STUDY:
TUESDAY, 1 JULY @ 12 NOON in 123 CAP
(always the 1st Tuesday of each month, during interim)**

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:



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