



THE HOUSE AND KINGDOM OF DAVID

Twelve Stone Kingdom University · School of Biblical & Covenant Studies

THE SACRED TRUST

Stewardship and the Biblical Foundation

A TEN-CLASS CURRICULUM · A STUDY THROUGH I & II CORINTHIANS

This curriculum is drawn from the teaching notes of His Majesty King David Joel, composed for a ten-week class in Trusts and the Biblical application thereof, delivered in April 2009. The course studies the Apostle Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians through the lens of sacred trust — the stewardship of the mysteries of God, the body as a temple held in trust, spiritual gifts as trusts administered, the ministry of reconciliation as a fiduciary office, and the indwelling Word as the living grace of God.

The central text is 1 Corinthians 4:1-2: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." Every lesson that follows unfolds from this commission.

PART ONE — THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

Chapters 1 through 16 · Classes I-VI

CLASS I. SANCTIFICATION AND THE FOUNDATION OF TRUST

I Corinthians 1-3 — Christ the Only Foundation, and the Church as God's Temple Held in Sacred Trust.

I-A. The Salutation and the Trust Established

Paul opens his first letter to the Corinthians by addressing a people who are "sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints" (1:2) — language that establishes the framework of trust. The believers are enriched in all utterance and knowledge, coming behind in no gift (1:5-7). These gifts are not possessions; they are trusts — endowments given for a purpose, to be administered faithfully until the Lord's

return. “God is faithful, by whom ye were called” (1:9) — His faithfulness is the foundation of every trust.

I-B. Divisions and the Betrayal of Trust

The Corinthians fractured the trust through schisms: “I am of Paul,” “I am of Apollos,” “I am of Cephas” (1:12). Christ is not divided. A trust cannot serve two masters. Paul was sent to preach the gospel — not in the wisdom of words, lest the cross be made void. God chose the foolish things to confound the wise, so that no flesh should glory in His presence (1:27-29).

I-C. The Hidden Wisdom Entrusted to the Mature

Paul speaks of “God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the world” (2:7), revealed by the Spirit which searcheth all things, even the deep things of God (2:10). This hidden wisdom is a trust entrusted to those who are spiritual — those who have matured to receive the strong meat of revelation. “We have the mind of Christ” (2:16).

I-D. Christ the Foundation — The Trust That Cannot Be Replaced

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (3:11). Upon this foundation each man builds — with gold, silver, precious stones, or with wood, hay, stubble. The fire will test each work. And: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (3:16). The body and the gathered church are God’s temple — held in sacred trust.

CLASS II. STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD

I Corinthians 4-6 — The Trustee’s Office, the Body as Temple, and the Saints Who Judge the World.

II-A. The Steward’s Commission

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (4:1-2). The Greek *oikonomos* — household manager, trustee — defines Paul’s office. He holds what belongs to Another. The mysteries of God are a sacred trust; the single requirement is faithfulness.

II-B. The Accounting to Come

The Lord Himself will bring to light the hidden things and make manifest the counsels of the hearts (4:5). Paul, as steward, is a spectacle — hungry, thirsty, buffeted, defamed, “the offscouring of all things” (4:13). The true trustee expends himself for the beneficiaries. “In Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel” (4:15) — the incorruptible Word of God.

II-C. The Saints Shall Judge the World

“Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? ... Know ye not that we shall judge angels?” (6:2-3). The believer is entrusted with judicial authority for the age to come. This is the biblical foundation of the EECC. If the saints shall judge angels, they should settle disputes among themselves.

II-D. The Body as Temple — The Trust of the Flesh

“Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you ... and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price” (6:19-20). The body is not owned; it is held in trust. The Spirit within is a deposit — the earnest of a greater inheritance. “Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein ... this man shall be blessed” (James 1:25).

CLASS III. THE TRUST OF RELATIONSHIPS AND LIBERTY

I Corinthians 7-9 — Marriage, Celibacy, and the Apostolic Right Held in Trust.

III-A. Marriage as Sacred Trust

Each spouse is entrusted to the other and to God. “The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife” (7:4) — the language of mutual stewardship. Paul addresses divorce, mixed marriages, and celibacy as forms of faithful trust within one’s calling.

III-B. Liberty and Its Limits — The Trust of Conscience

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient” (cf. 6:12). Liberty is a trust exercised with care for the weaker brother (8:9). My freedom is held for the benefit of the body.

III-C. Experiencing God as a Verb

From the King’s teaching: “We experience God as a NOUN — a person, place, or thing — but not as a VERB, vital and alive.” When God is merely a concept, the trust becomes a dead letter. The remedy is expectancy — the posture of a servant who watches for the Master’s return.

III-D. Paul’s Apostolic Rights — A Trust Surrendered

Paul asserts his rights as an apostle — and refuses to exercise them (9:15). He brings his body into subjection lest, having preached to others, he himself be disqualified (9:27). The faithful trustee surrenders his rights for the sake of the trust.

CLASS IV. THE CUP OF BLESSING AND THE BODY ENTRUSTED

I Corinthians 10-12 — The Four Cups of Passover, the Lord’s Supper, and Spiritual Gifts as Trusts.

IV-A. Israel’s Example — A Trust Forfeited

All the fathers ate spiritual meat and drank of that spiritual Rock — and that Rock was Christ (10:4). Yet they were overthrown because they lusted, committed fornication, and murmured. The trust can be forfeited. “Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (10:12).

IV-B. The Four Cups of Passover

In the Passover celebration four cups were drunk: (1) Kadesh — sanctification; (2) Haggadah — the telling of deliverance; (3) the Cup of Blessing — thanksgiving after the paschal lamb; (4) Hallel — the cup of praise (Psalms 113-118). Paul’s

“cup of blessing” (10:16) is most likely the third cup, drunk after eating the lamb. When we drink it, we drink our cup of redemption — sealed in the blood of Christ.

IV-C. One Body, Many Members — The Corporate Trust

“For as the body is one, and hath many members ... so also is Christ” (12:12). Each member holds a role, a gift, a function, entrusted by the Spirit for the benefit of the whole. “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” (12:27). No member is dispensable; no gift is superfluous.

IV-D. The Nine Manifestation Gifts

Word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation (12:8-10). And the offices: apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, healings, helps, governments, tongues (12:28). Each is a trust for the edification of the body. “Covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way” (12:31).

CLASS V. AGAPE LOVE — THE SUPREME TRUST

I Corinthians 13-14 — The Love That Fulfills Every Trust, and the Governance of Gifts.

V-A. The More Excellent Way

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass” (13:1). Every gift — every trust — is void without love. Faith without love is empty. Sacrifice without love profits nothing.

V-B. The Character of Agape

Love is patient, kind, not jealous, not boastful, does not seek its own, does not rejoice at iniquity, never fails (13:4-8). Each attribute describes the faithful trustee. “The greatest of these is charity” (13:13) — the trust that extends into eternity.

V-C. Prophecy and Tongues — The Ordered Trust

Paul prefers prophecy because it edifies the church (14:4). “Let all things be done unto edifying” (14:26). “Let all things be done decently and in order” (14:40). The gifts are instruments held in trust — not for private exaltation but for the building up of the body.

CLASS VI. THE RESURRECTION TRUST — FIRSTFRUITS AND VICTORY

I Corinthians 15-16 — The Trust of Eternal Life, the Resurrection Body, and the Collection for the Saints.

VI-A. The Gospel Entrusted

Paul received and delivered the gospel — “Christ died for our sins ... was buried ... rose again” (15:3-4). The verbs received and delivered are the language of trust. “By the grace of God I am what I am” (15:10). Grace — God’s WORD alive and working within — was a trust bestowed, and Paul labored abundantly in its stewardship.

VI-B. Christ the Firstfruits

“Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (15:20). “This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (15:53). The resurrection is the ultimate vindication of the sacred trust: the promise that extends beyond death.

VI-C. Victory Over Death

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ... Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (15:55-57). “Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain” (15:58).

VI-D. The Collection — A Fiduciary Trust in Practice

The collection for the saints in Jerusalem (16:1-4): proportional giving, accountability, approved carriers, faithful delivery. This is the model for every treasury of the Kingdom — apostolic practice rooted in the trust of the gospel.

PART TWO — THE SECOND EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

Chapters 1 through 13 · Classes VII-X

CLASS VII. THE NEW COVENANT — SPIRIT AND LIBERTY

II Corinthians 1-3 — The Trust of Comfort, the Promises Sealed in Christ, and the Ministry of the Spirit.

VII-A. The God of All Comfort

God “comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble” (1:3-4). Comfort is a trust: received in order to be given. “We should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead” (1:9).

VII-B. The Promises Sealed — Yea and Amen

“All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen” (1:20). He has anointed us, sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit (1:21-22). The arrabon — the deposit — guarantees the full inheritance. This is trust at its highest: God Himself makes the deposit.

VII-C. The Epistle Written on the Heart

“Ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ... written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart” (3:3). The letter kills; the Spirit gives life (3:6).

VII-D. Liberty and Transformation

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (3:17). “We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory” (3:18). The trustee is being transformed into the likeness of the One who entrusted him.

CLASS VIII. TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS — THE TRUST OF THE MINISTRY

II Corinthians 4-7 — The Gospel in Fragile Hands, the Ministry of Reconciliation, and Separation Unto God.

VIII-A. Treasure in Earthen Vessels

“We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (4:7). Troubled, perplexed, persecuted, cast down — yet not destroyed. The life of Jesus made manifest in mortal flesh (4:10-11). The weaker the vessel, the more clearly the power is seen.

VIII-B. The Unseen and Eternal

“The things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (4:18). The judgment seat of Christ awaits every trustee (5:10). “We walk by faith, not by sight” (5:7).

VIII-C. The Ministry of Reconciliation

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature ... God hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation” (5:17-18). “We are ambassadors for Christ” (5:20) — trustees of the highest order.

VIII-D. Separation and the Temple of the Living God

“Ye are the temple of the living God ... I will dwell in them, and walk in them” (6:16). “Come out from among them, and be ye separate ... and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you” (6:17-18). The trust demands separation unto holiness.

VIII-E. Godly Sorrow and Repentance

“Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation” (7:10). When the trustee fails, the path of restoration is godly sorrow and return to faithfulness. The Kingdom’s courts exist for this restoration.

CLASS IX. THE ADMINISTRATION OF GIVING — FIDUCIARY TRUST IN PRACTICE

II Corinthians 8-10 — The Macedonian Model, the Grace of Generosity, and Grace as the WORD Alive Within.

IX-A. The Macedonian Churches — Giving Beyond Their Power

In deep poverty and great affliction, the Macedonian churches gave “beyond their power” — willingly, joyfully — begging for the privilege. “They first gave their own selves to the Lord” (8:5). This is the model of Kingdom economics: the outward trust follows the inward trust.

IX-B. The Principle of Equality

“By an equality ... your abundance may be a supply for their want” (8:13-14). The manna pattern: he who gathered much had nothing over; he who gathered little had no lack (Exodus 16:18). This is covenant equity — the Royal Treasury in embryo.

IX-C. The Administration of the Collection

Paul sends approved brethren to manage the funds: “Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us: providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men” (8:20-21). Fiduciary trust demands transparency, accountability, and oversight.

IX-D. The Cheerful Giver

“God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you” (9:7-8). “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” (9:15). Every act of giving reflects God’s original, unspeakable gift.

IX-E. Grace Defined — God’s WORD Alive and Working Within

From the King’s teaching: Grace is God’s WORD alive and working within us. The Greek charis — the divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life. “I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them” (Hebrews 10:16). The trust of grace is the trust of the indwelling Word.

CLASS X. THE AUTHORITY AND SUFFICIENCY OF THE TRUSTEE

II Corinthians 11-13 — Paul’s Sufferings, the Thorn and the Grace, and the Completion of the Trust.

X-A. The Defense of the Trustee’s Authority

False apostles and deceitful workers transform themselves into ministers of righteousness (11:13-14). But the trustee’s authority is conferred by the One who grants the trust: “the Lord hath given us authority for edification, and not for your destruction” (10:8). True authority builds.

X-B. The Sufferings of the Trustee

Paul’s credentials are scars: stripes, imprisonments, shipwrecks, perils, weariness, hunger, nakedness (11:23-27). And beyond all: “the care of all the churches” (11:28). “Who is weak, and I am not weak?” (11:29). The trustee feels what those under his trust feel.

X-C. Visions and the Thorn — The Trustee’s Humility

Caught up to the third heaven, Paul received unspeakable revelations — and a thorn in the flesh to keep him humble (12:7). The Lord answered: “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (12:9). “When I am weak, then am I strong” (12:10). The trustee’s weakness is the venue of God’s strength.

X-D. The Final Accounting

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith” (13:5). “We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (13:8). Self-examination is the steward’s discipline — testing whether the trust is faithfully kept.

X-E. Complete in Christ — The Trust Fulfilled

“Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you” (13:11). The trust is fulfilled when the trustee is made

complete in Christ — by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

SOVEREIGN APPROVAL AND RATIFICATION

So ordered and approved for the curriculum of Twelve Stone Kingdom University.



His Majesty King David Joel

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