

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2010-11
1 Corinthians #1: Overview, Salutation & Thanksgiving

TGQ = Tim Gray Study Set Questions
TGR = Tim Gray Study Set Responses
NJBC = New Jerome Biblical Commentary
CSB = Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
HO = Special Handout
SK = Sze Go Chinese Bible

A	<u>Overview of 1 Corinthians</u>	Research Team
B	<u>Introduction of Related Passages</u> "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."	1Cor 1:1-9 1Sam 3:9
C	<u>An Extremely Practical Epistle</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Epistle is extremely practical to all Christians, though its content focuses more on pastoral and theological questions, such as, division, fornication, eating of ritually unclean meat, the Eucharist, charismatic gifts and so on. Nonetheless, these issues are faced by all Christians. Two important questions are presented: how does one stay pure while living in the secular world? How much am I willing to give for Christ? 	TGQ - 6
D	<u>The 2nd Evangelization Journey that Builds the Church of Corinth (Approx. 49 A.D.)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul was met by a Jewish couple, Aquila and his wife Priscilla, in Corinth. He stayed with them as they're tentmakers by trade. Paul claimed that these two "work with [him] in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for [his] life" (Rom 16:3-4); their house becomes the church (1Cor 16:19); learning the way of God and giving instructions to Apollo (Acts 18: 26). Just as Aquila and Priscilla whose lives are completely immersed in their faith, so should the lives of Christians. Faith should direct one's speech and action and is part of everyday's life. It is not an item for decoration only. Faith is the treasure that prompts the individual to sell everything so that he could purchase the land that bears the pearl. Two years after the establishment of the Church of Corinth, Paul started his 3rd evangelization journey. He wrote this letter to the Corinthians from Ephesus around 56 A.D. 	Acts 18:1-18 TGR1 – 1 & 2 TGR 1 – 2a TGR 1 – 2b Mt 13:44 CSB p 13
E	<u>The Call</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the similarities between the call of Paul and Jeremiah? Paul's mission of evangelization does not come from humans but God. "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Everyone under God's covenant is called to be holy and must avoid contamination from the secular world (but not to be out of this world). In OT, the consecrated utensils are separated from other utensils. In addition, the consecration of the Leviticus priesthood is also unique. These are signs that point to the call to holiness of all God's people. "Call upon ... the name of our Lord Jesus Christ": this implies that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy, "For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations." (Ml 1:11) 	1Cor 1:1-2 TGR 1 – 3 CSB 1:1, Gal 1:12, Acts 9:15 Lv 19:2, 1Th 4:3, Mt 5:48, TCQ 8 CSB 1:2

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F	<p><u>The Salutation as an Introduction to the Teachings in the Letter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “For in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift” ⇒ in preparation for the teachings about gifts of prophecy and tongues in chapters 12-14. • “[God] will strengthen you to the end” ⇒ in order to stand firm at the Last Judgement, one must rely on God’s grace and compassion and not on one’s effort alone. “The day of the Lord Jesus Christ” is commonly referred to as “the day of the Lord” (Am 5:18, Ob 15) in the OT. It is also referred to as the day of Jerusalem’s destruction (Zc 14:1-5, Mt 24). All these point to the end time and Last Judgement. Paul called this day “The day of our Lord Jesus Christ” to recognized Christ as the Judge. • “... by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” “⇒ targets the divisions among the Church of Corinth. As written in the opening of Paul’s letter, “To the Church of God that is in Corinth”, Paul explains that one does not join a local church, but the mystical body of Christ, the universal Church of God. 	<p>1Cor 1:5, TGR 1-6</p> <p>1Cor 1:8, NJBC CBS 1:8</p> <p>1Cor 1:9, TGR 1-7, CSB 1:2</p>
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