

THREE DIFFICULT PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE (#2)
First Passage: (1 Cor.6:9-11)

We are currently studying three Difficult Passages of Scriptures that we introduced last week: 1 Cor.6:9-11; Gal.5:19-21; and Eph.5:3-5.

One reason for the difficulty is because people don't read the context of the text for the background of information.

Another reason is because people tend to read into these passages:

Principle: False assumptions à false interpretations à false expectations à false applications.

[It is important to exegesis (to read out of) rather than eisegesis (to read into) the Scriptures]

(2 Tim.2:15) "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."

The context of today's lesson is 1 Cor.6:1-11. Paul is warning against civil litigations between believers on Matters of Life (biotikos) (1 Cor.6:3-4).

- At the end of last week's lesson, I assigned the home work of finding 10 questions in 1 Cor.6:1-11 (1 Cor.6:1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 7, and 9) and note the three rhetorical questions (1 Cor.6:2, 3, and 9).

This lesson will study six aspects of the first Difficult Passage of 1 Cor.6:9-11.

1. Paul was once again teaching Corinthian believers to not take fellow believers to civil court regarding Matters of Life (biotikos) (1 Cor.6:3-4).

Note the different names given to the Corinthian believers (1 Cor.6:1, 2, 5, 8, and 11).

Now look at the names given to the civil court (1 Cor.6:1, 4, 6, and 9).

2. Matters of life (biotikos) refer to matters of everyday life, For Believers, it refers to the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

Let me mention a few in the Corinthian Church through chapter 6 (1 Cor.1:10-12; 3:3-4; 4:11-12; 5:1-3; 6:15-20).

They were civil, not legal or criminal issues. Matters of life would be those things that cause anxieties of life (Luke 8:14; 10:41; 12:34; Matt.6:25-34; 1 Pet.5:7).

Principle: Believers should not be going to civil court to settle spiritual disputes that should be settled with the Word of God (1 Cor.6:7-8; 12:25; Phil.4:2-4).

3. The Roman government allowed organized religion to settle Matters of life in their own court system.

Jesus was taken to the Jewish court before the Roman court (John 18:28-19:16).

There were several discussions between the Jewish and Roman courts regarding Jesus. Pilate considered Jesus to be a Matter of Life issue. He believed it to the very end (John 19:19-22).

Read what Jesus forewarned His disciples regarding His death (Matt.20:17-19). Wouldn't you think that forewarned should be forearmed? But they weren't (danger of eisegesis).

4. In our lesson passage, Paul taught that Matters of life should be settled among believers and not among the world (1 Cor.6:5-8).

Paul used three rhetorical questions to explain doctrinally why Believers should settle their disputes among themselves (Acts 6:1-5).

(1 Cor.6:2) (2 parts) _____ and _____.

(1 Cor.6:3) _____.

(1 Cor.6:9) _____.

5. Paul reminded the Corinthian congregation about the Greek culture and its civil courts (1 Cor.6:9-11).

He warned them not to be deceived (planao). He listed 10 categories of cultural life styles (plural).

He divided the ten into two groups by the use of the Greek grammar (oute) and (ouk)).

- He used (oute) to list 7 religious (phallic cult type) life styles (1 Cor.6:9-10a).
- He used (ouk) to list 3 social type life styles.

They are listed as "unrighteous." By unrighteous, he means that they have not been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God (1 Cor.6:11).

6. The local community is the mission field of the local church (2 Cor.5:18-21).

(1 Cor.6:9) "Do you not know that unrighteous shall not on inherit the kingdom of God?"

This should motivate us to share the gospel with those in our own sphere of influence (Rom.1:14-16; Phil.1:20-21, 27).

Paul had previously warned them not to associate with immoral believer and then added:

(1 Cor.5:9-10) "I did not at all mean with the immoral people of the world, or with the covetous and swindler, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world."

The point Paul is making in our lesson's passage is that a believer should not take another believer before the court of unrighteous judges to settle Matters of Life.

(1 Cor.6:7) "Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. **Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?**"