



Study Guide

Love the church

1 Corinthians 13



Talk About Him

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Opening Letter

At *Talk About Him*, our mission is to help women know, live, and share God's word. We believe that God's calling for all believers, no matter the season of life, is to know Him, understand His word and admonish others in the Word- creating fruitful and sound disciples. We can do this from any job or life situation. This call is described in Colossians 1:9-12 which states:

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light (Colossians 1:9-12).

Therefore, we want to bear fruit, increase in knowledge of God, be strengthened for patient endurance with thanksgiving. And at the pinnacle of the call on our lives, we are to use our knowledge of God, the fruits we bear, and the spirit of thanksgiving to make disciples of others.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus left the command for us to make disciples when he stated:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20).

In order to follow the ultimate call left by Christ Himself, we want to increase in the knowledge of God. We do this by understanding God's word with the proper hermeneutic- or interpretation. We want to understand the Word in light of the time period in which the passage was written, who it was written to, what was going on in culture and within the church, and various sins and struggles the culture and church were facing. Furthermore, we want to observe our own culture with these same questions in order to make the correct sense of the author's intention and not wrongly apply the words to our lives by inaccurate interpretation.

We also do this by understanding descriptive text versus prescriptive text. Descriptive text is used to describe something told to a certain group of people, at a certain time, that applied only to that group or person(s), yet still has underlying implications today of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Prescriptive text is intended to shape the life and walk for all believers of all time. Ultimately, we want to understand God's truth in a way that causes us to bear fruit, gain endurance, give thanks to God our Father, who has granted us a royal inheritance with Him- 1 Peter 2:9, and ultimately make true and sound disciples of all believers.

This study is intended to be completed using the Holy Bible and by following along with the corresponding blog series on *Talk About Him*.

Talk About Him

Read more about us by following our blog at
<https://talkabouthim.wixsite.com/talkabouthim/blog> and on instagram & pinterest.



Talk about Him

1 Corinthians

Context Study

Context Overview

Culture of Corinth

The people of Corinth were well educated, prideful, and self-seeking. The culture of Corinth was flamboyant and prosperous, from our understanding. The people of Corinth were well educated, prideful, and self-seeking. They were busy people constantly on the move to fulfill their personal agendas. The culture was filled with idols, various religions and gods, and many cultures. The "gods" were "fully integrated into governmental affairs, civic festivals, trade guilds, and social clubs" (The Holy Bible, ESV, 2016). The people of Corinth were very concerned with advancing socially. Speakers came to town to teach the society how to advance on the social ladder. The city was a seaport and is known to be very similar to the mix of Chicago and some other cities. The population was around 100,000-600,000- we don't have an exact number.

Right outside of the city of Corinth, the Isthmian Games took place. Athletes were very attracted to these games and came to compete (Munn, 1960).

Church of Corinth

Culture of the Church of Corinth It is important to note that the ways of society so often trickle into the ways of the church, as we see in the self-seeking patterns of Corinth. Paul was responsible for bringing the gospel and establishing the Church of Corinth. Issues that plagued the Church of Corinth

Context Overview

included, theological confusions about marriage, divorce, pagan religions, order of worship, and the bodily resurrection of Christ (Crossway ESV Study Bible, 2016). The Church was very arrogant. This was a root problem of the dysfunction with the church. They were concerned with making an image of greatness in themselves through various religious acts.

Furthermore, they insisted on their own rights at the expense of the weak and marginalized, revealing that they were more worried about their social advancement than the gospel's social advancement (Crossway ESV Study Bible, 2016). It is important to note that the ways of society so often trickle into the ways of the church, as we see in the self-seeking patterns of Corinth.

The church also lacked a reverence for God and an appreciation for His holiness. They did not act on the command to be a people set apart from culture and consecrated for God Himself. Paul deeply loved the Church of Corinth and wanted to see them thrive as a healthy humble body for the sake of the Gospel of Christ, so he continued his steadfast work with them until leaving for Ephesus.

Author of 1 Corinthians

The Apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians. Paul stayed with a Jewish couple in Corinth, Aquila and Priscilla, who were recently expelled from Rome by Emperor Claudius (Munn, 1960). He worked as a tent maker in Corinth and after long hard weeks of tent making, he attended the Jewish synagogues (Munn, 1960).

Context Overview

It is believed that Paul wrote the first letter to Corinthians during the last year of his missionary journey in Ephesus. This occurred after his mission with the Church of Corinth ended, and possibly one year prior to Pentecost. It is believed that the year was A.D. 55 or 56.

Purpose of 1 Corinthians 13

Specifically in 1 Corinthians 13, Paul was addressing the issue of love within the church. As described earlier, Corinth was full of pride, self-centeredness, and idols. These ideals spilled over into the Church of Corinth, as these people were self-seeking and wanted to use religion to make revered images of themselves. They were more concerned with performing acts of prophecy, healing, and speaking in tongues to boast their spiritual image, rather than loving the church and performing selfless acts that build up the entire body. Therefore, Paul was addressing the issue of loving each other, for it is more powerful to love than to perform the greatest and most flamboyant spiritual acts.

Paul discusses the vice and vanity of simply using spiritual gifts to edify oneself, and that it is more edifying to love than to flaunt our gifts. Yet, Paul still encourages spiritual gifts (in chapter 14) in ways that are loving and that edify the entire body- not one individual person.

Their Context

Time Period of the passage



Author(s) of the book



Who was the passage specifically written to instruct?



Use a study Bible or another tool to research the overall culture of this time period and give a brief overview summary.



Their Context

Give a breif summary of the church culture during this time and place.

Three horizontal red brushstroke lines, each with a rough, textured edge, intended for writing a summary of church culture.

Other notes on the culture of the church and society during this time and place.

Four horizontal red brushstroke lines, each with a rough, textured edge, intended for additional notes on church and society culture.

Their Context

List struggles and sins of this society based on the overall cultural study.

List important historical facts of this society based on the overall cultural study.

List struggles and sins of the church of this place and day based on the overall cultural study.

List important historical facts of the church of this place and day based on the overall cultural study.

Our Context

Provide the current time period.

Give an overview of the modern culture of this time period.

Give an overview of the modern culture of the church.

Our Context

List struggles and sins of today's society.

List important historical facts of today's society.

List struggles and sins of today's church.

List important historical events of today's church.

1 Corinthians 13

Overview Study

Overview

What is the general topic or instruction?

First Impression: what general idea do I think this text implies?

What are some initial questions I have?

Overview

Where else in scripture have I studied this topic? What are the similarities and differences of the underlying message between the passages?

Similarities

Differences

1 Corinthians 13

Content Study

1

1 Corinthians

13:1-3

1 Cor. 13: 1-3

Literal Meaning: what does this text literally say?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with five horizontal blue lines, resembling notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Word Translation: (Go to <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> and study the original translation of the words being used in the passage).

[illegible]

Intention

Intention: is this passage descriptive or prescriptive? How do you know?
Refer back to the Opening Letter.

Five horizontal red brushstroke lines, each with a rough, textured edge, providing space for handwritten notes.

If the passage was prescriptive, explain the intended instruction for all believers. If the passage was descriptive, explain how the passage relates to The Gospel.

Five horizontal red brushstroke lines, each with a rough, textured edge, providing space for handwritten notes.

Interpretation & Application

Where do I see innuendos of the cultural context in the instruction given to this people?



Interpretation: what are the foundational truths/underlying messages being conveyed to the targeted group in their specific cultural context?



Application: how does this underlying message apply to us today, considering our culture vs. their culture?

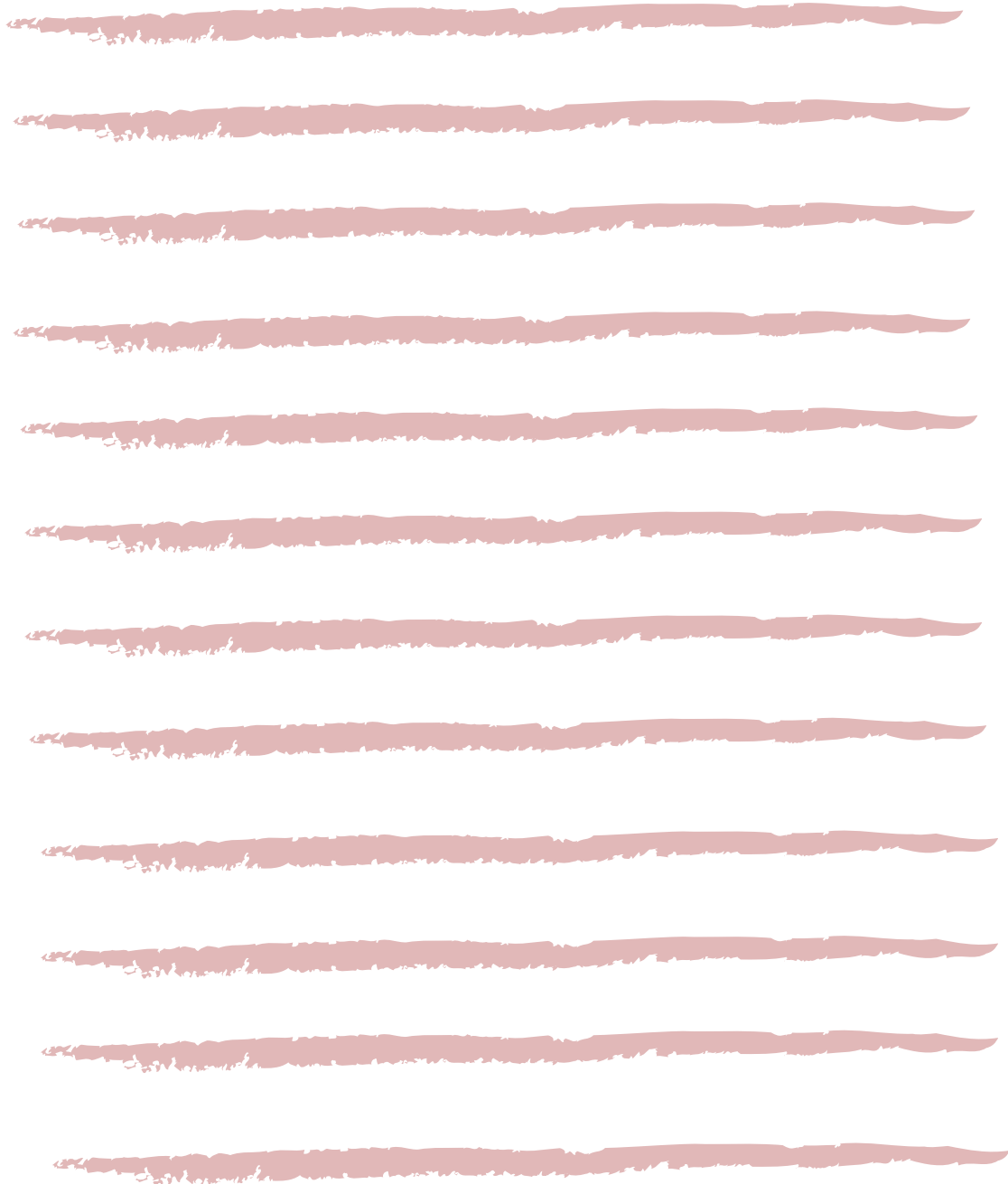


Wrap Up

Growth: How does this text allow you to grow in knowledge of God, bearing fruit, gaining joyful endurance, and in giving thanks to God?

Things I Learned

Notes



2

1 Corinthians

13:4-7

1 Cor. 13: 4-7

Literal Meaning: what does this text literally say?



Word Translation: (Go to <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> and study the original translation of the words being used in the passage).

Word

Translation

Intention

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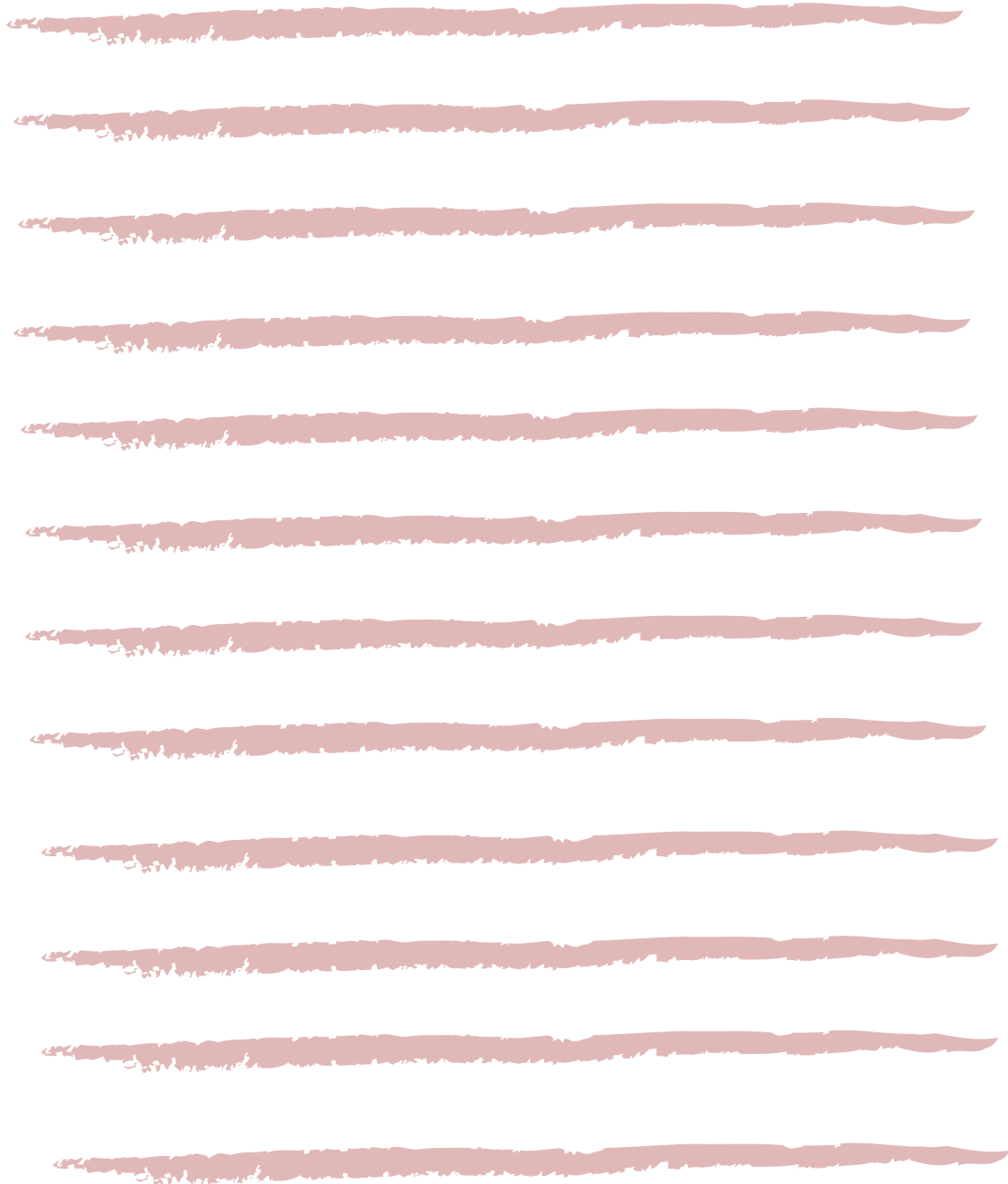


Wrap Up

Growth: How does this text allow you to grow in knowledge of God, bearing fruit, gaining joyful endurance, and in giving thanks to God?

Things I Learned

Notes



3

1 Corinthians

13:8-10

1 Cor. 13: 8-10

Literal Meaning: what does this text literally say?



Word Translation: (Go to <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> and study the original translation of the words being used in the passage).

Word

Translation

Intention

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Interpretation & Application

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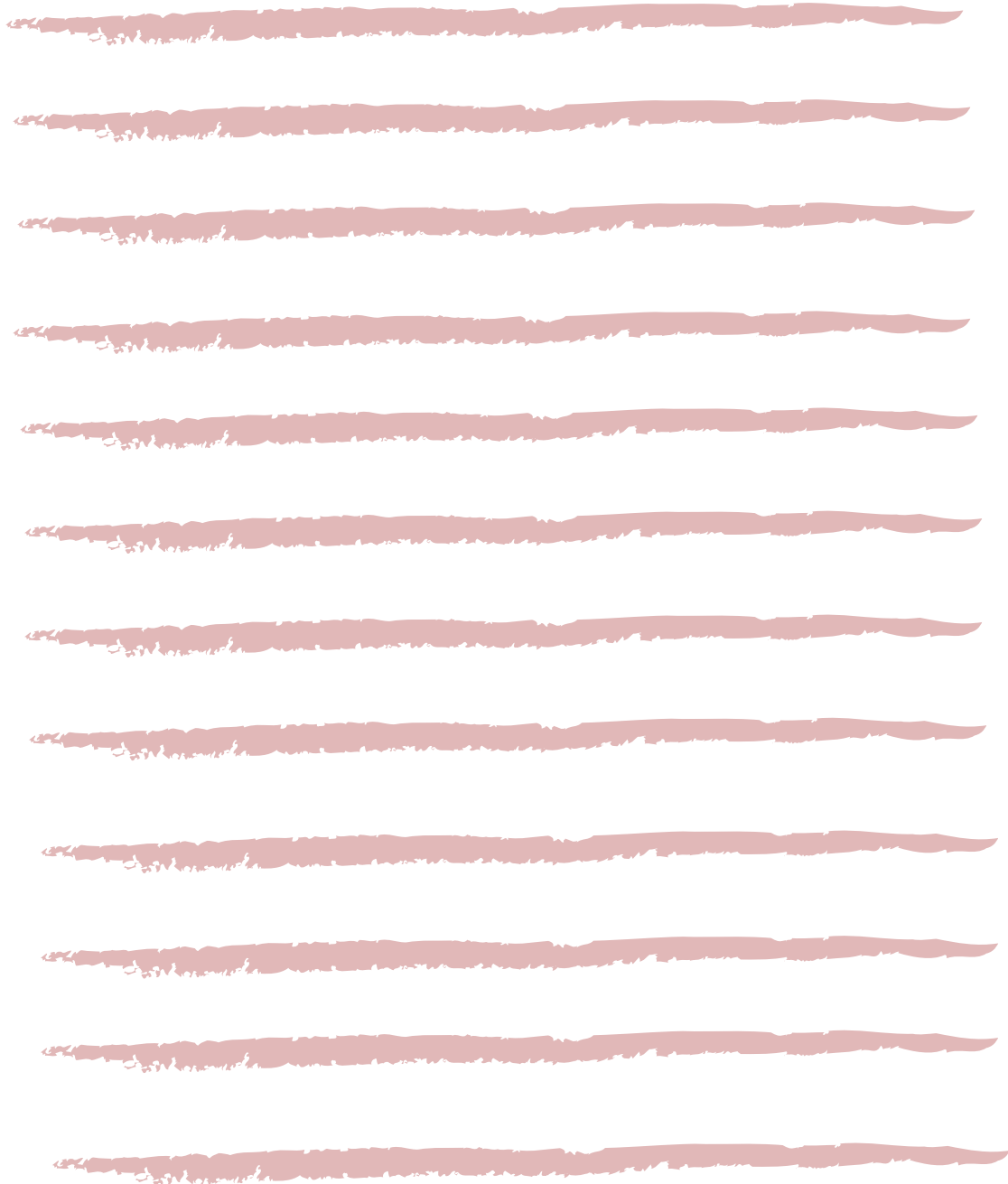


Wrap Up

Growth: How does this text allow you to grow in knowledge of God, bearing fruit, gaining joyful endurance, and in giving thanks to God?

Things I Learned

Notes



4

1 Corinthians

13:11-12

1 Cor. 13: 11-12

Literal Meaning: what does this text literally say?



Word Translation: (Go to <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> and study the original translation of the words being used in the passage).

Word

Translation

Intention

Intention: is this passage descriptive or prescriptive? How do you know?
Refer back to the Opening Letter.

Five horizontal red brush strokes, each approximately 660 pixels wide and 20 pixels high, providing a space for writing the answer to the first question.

If the passage was prescriptive, explain the intended instruction for all believers. If the passage was descriptive, explain how the passage relates to The Gospel.

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Interpretation & Application

Where do I see innuendos of the cultural context in the instruction given to this people?



Interpretation: what are the foundational truths/underlying messages being conveyed to the targeted group in their specific cultural context?



Application: how does this underlying message apply to us today, considering our culture vs. their culture?

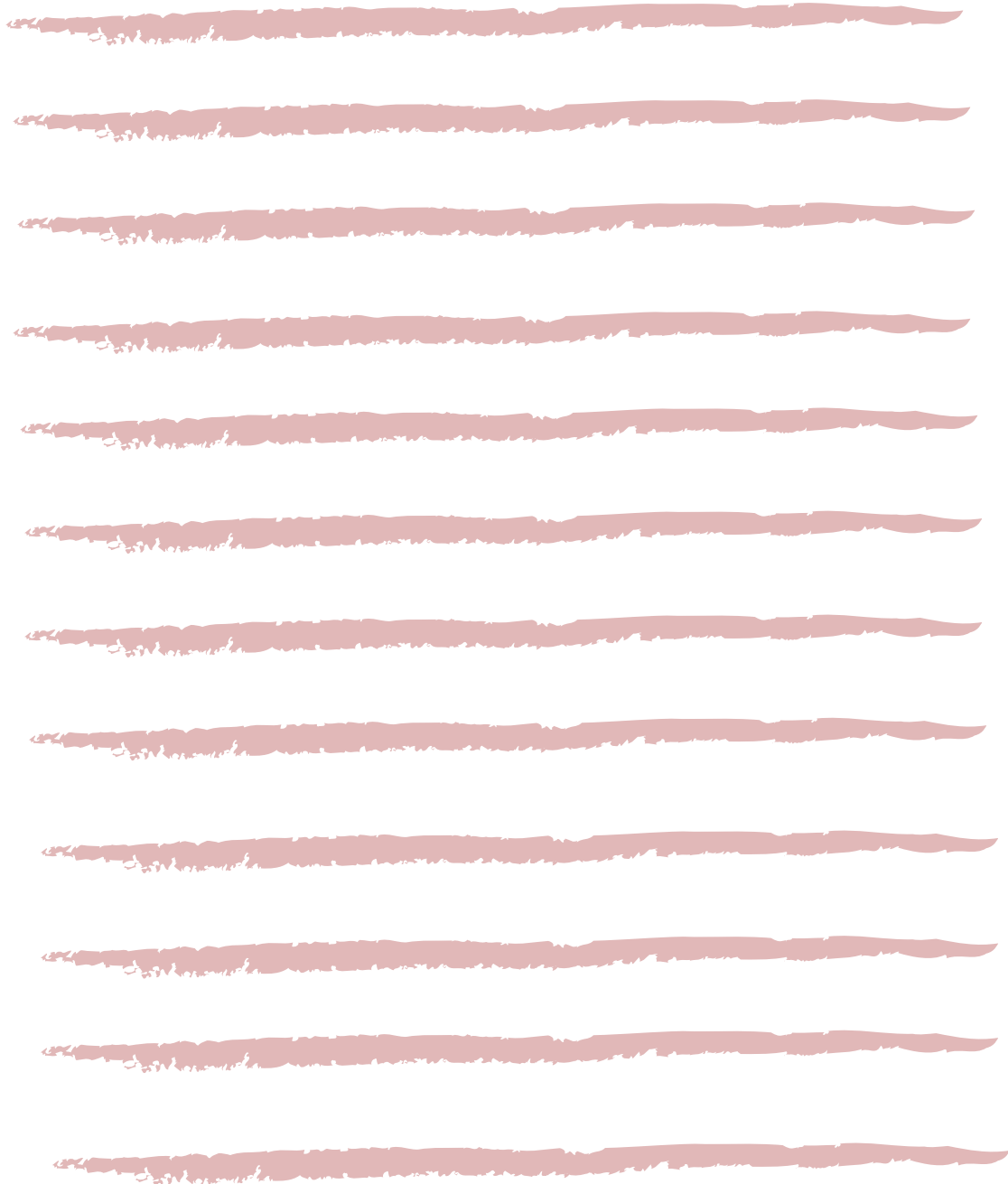


Wrap Up

Growth: How does this text allow you to grow in knowledge of God, bearing fruit, gaining joyful endurance, and in giving thanks to God?

Things I Learned

Notes



5

1 Corinthians

13:13

1 Cor. 13: 13

Literal Meaning: what does this text literally say?



Word Translation: (Go to <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> and study the original translation of the words being used in the passage).

Word

Translation

Intention

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Interpretation & Application

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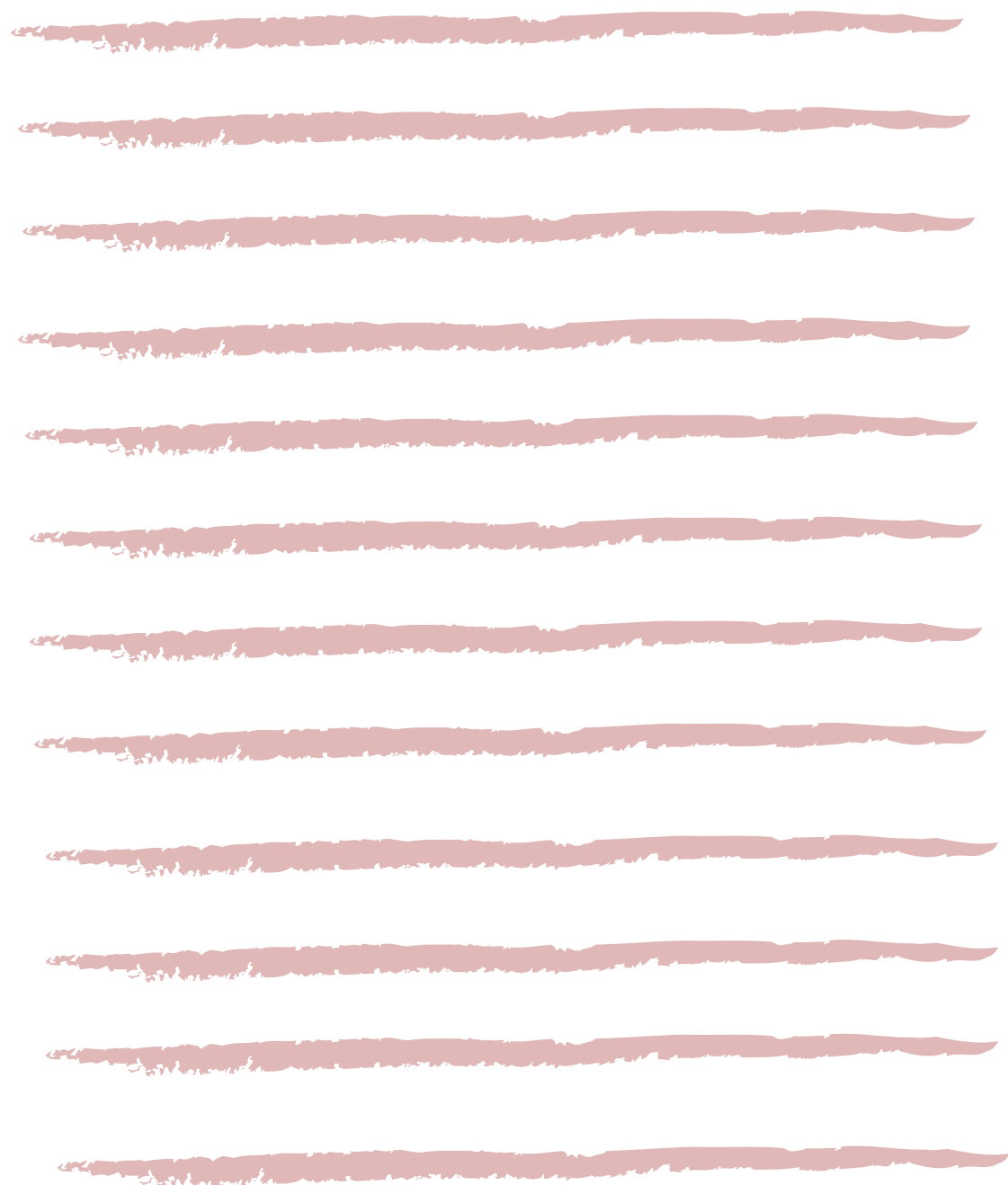


Wrap Up

Growth: How does this text allow you to grow in knowledge of God, bearing fruit, gaining joyful endurance, and in giving thanks to God?

Things I Learned

Notes



1 Corinthians Conclusion

Conclusion

How was I right or wrong in how I originally perceived this text?

Five horizontal red brush strokes, each approximately 650 pixels long and 20 pixels high, spaced evenly for writing.

Which of my questions were answered through this study?

Questions

Answers



Conclusion

Do I still have unanswered questions? If so, what questions are unanswered?

Five horizontal red brushstroke lines, each with a rough, textured edge, intended for handwritten text.

What impacted me the most during this study?

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Conclusion

How has my heart and perspective of the relationship between God, man, Christ, and the church shifted?

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What is my response to this change of heart and perspective, if any.

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Pastoral
Care

Questions for Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a vital aspect of the believer's life. God has gifted our pastors to act as our earthly shepherds, to guide us in God's word. There will be questions that we have in which we are incapable to answer on our own, and that is where our pastors step in and lead us in the truth of the Gospel. What questions, from this study of 1 Corinthians 13, do you have for your pastoral care?



Growth
Assess.

Growth Assessment

Fruit bearing

Knowledge of God

Joyful endurance

Thanksgiving

Discipleship

List ways you have seen growth, in the areas above.
Refer to Col. 1:9-12 & Matthew 28:18-20