

Accurately Handling

The Word of Truth

By Gary Gilbertson

1 Cor. 12:1-3

Why is I Corinthians 1-3 important?

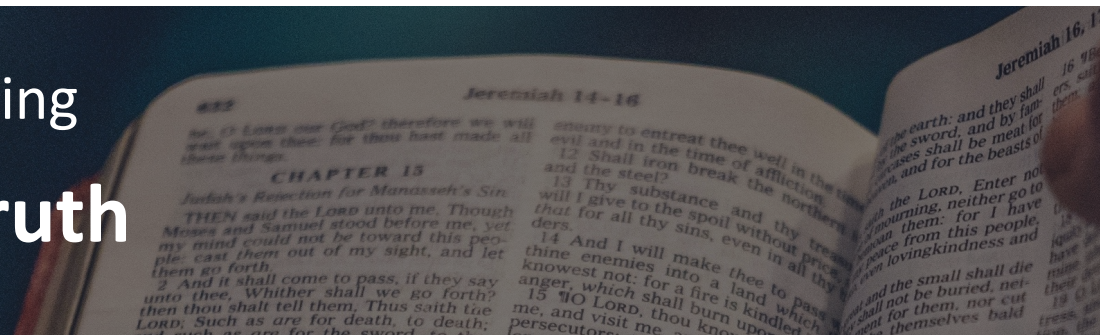
William Barclay, “...even in the Church, someone in a semi-mad frenzy might cry out “Accursed be Jesus”. In the hysterical atmosphere anything might happen and be claimed to be the work of the Spirit...It was dangerous. For one thing, it was abnormal...a kind of self-hypnosis and deliberately induced hysteria, which issued in a completely false and synthetic speaking with tongues.”

John MacArthur, Jr., “...some professing believers were standing up in the Corinthian assembly, supposedly manifesting the gifts of the Spirit and *cursing Jesus!*”

Pulpit Commentary, “It is evident, however, that such expressions [Jesus accursed] **had** been uttered by persons who were, or seemed to be, carried away by the impassioned impulse which led to “glossolaly” (speaking with tongues)

Benjamin Witherington II, “The gift of speaking in tongues seems to be the real focus of the problem in Corinth...”

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I Corinthians 12:1

“spiritual” *pneumatikos*

pneu = spirit

ma = results; actions

tikos = belonging to

The results of the actions belonging to spirits.

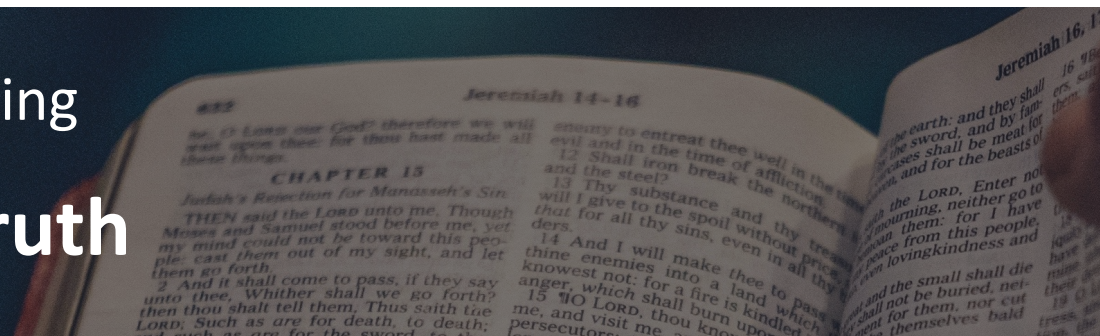
John 3:8 “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know (see) where it comes from or where it is going; so is everyone that is born of the Spirit.”

“gifts” (*doma*) Not in Greek text, added by translators.

Has nothing to do with the list in v. 4-11.

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“...I would not have you...” I would = *thelo* = determined;

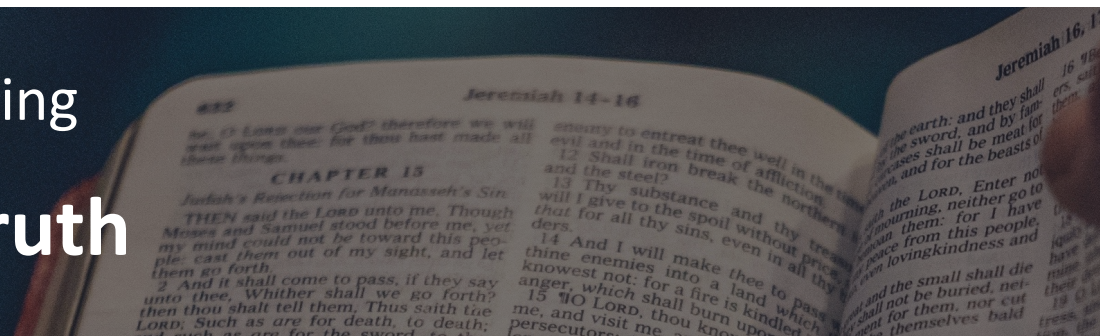
“I am determined not to have you...”

“ignorant” To ignore through disinclination; rebukeable ignorance; willful blindness.

No lack of information, instead a lack of willingness to obey the information they had.

“I am determined not to have you willfully blind concerning the results of the actions of spirits.”

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I Corinthians 12:2

“...you were Gentiles...” *ethnon* = nations; pagan or heathen, not non-Jews
Jews in the Corinth were called “Gentiles” by Paul until they were “brethren”.
Rom. 2:28-29 “...he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly...but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit...”

“...carried away...” *hegesthe* = governed, ruled 22x
esteemed 10x
counted particularly important 10x
Not “to excite great unreasoning emotions”.

“...dumb...” *aphonos* “soundless” I Cor. 14:10 “There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices (*phonos*; “sounds” or “languages”) in the world, and none of them is without signification. (*aphonos*; “without sound”? or “without significance; without importance”?)









“...idols...” Hebrew = *edolon*; “copy; image” Greek = *eikon*, “representation”

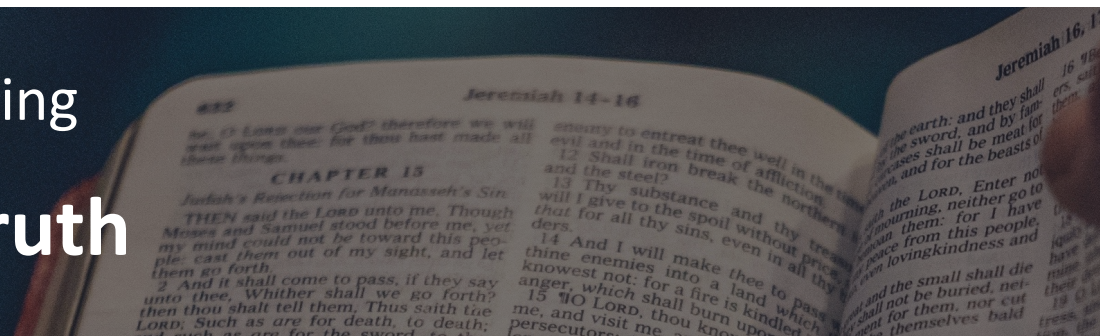
I Cor. 10:20 “...the things which the Gentiles (non-Christians) sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils and not to God: and I would not that ye have fellowship with devils.”

*Real demons were behind the copies and representations (idols) that pagans revered so highly. Demons were controlling every aspect of their lives through the representations that they assigned so much importance to. (*hegesthe*: “ruled by”)

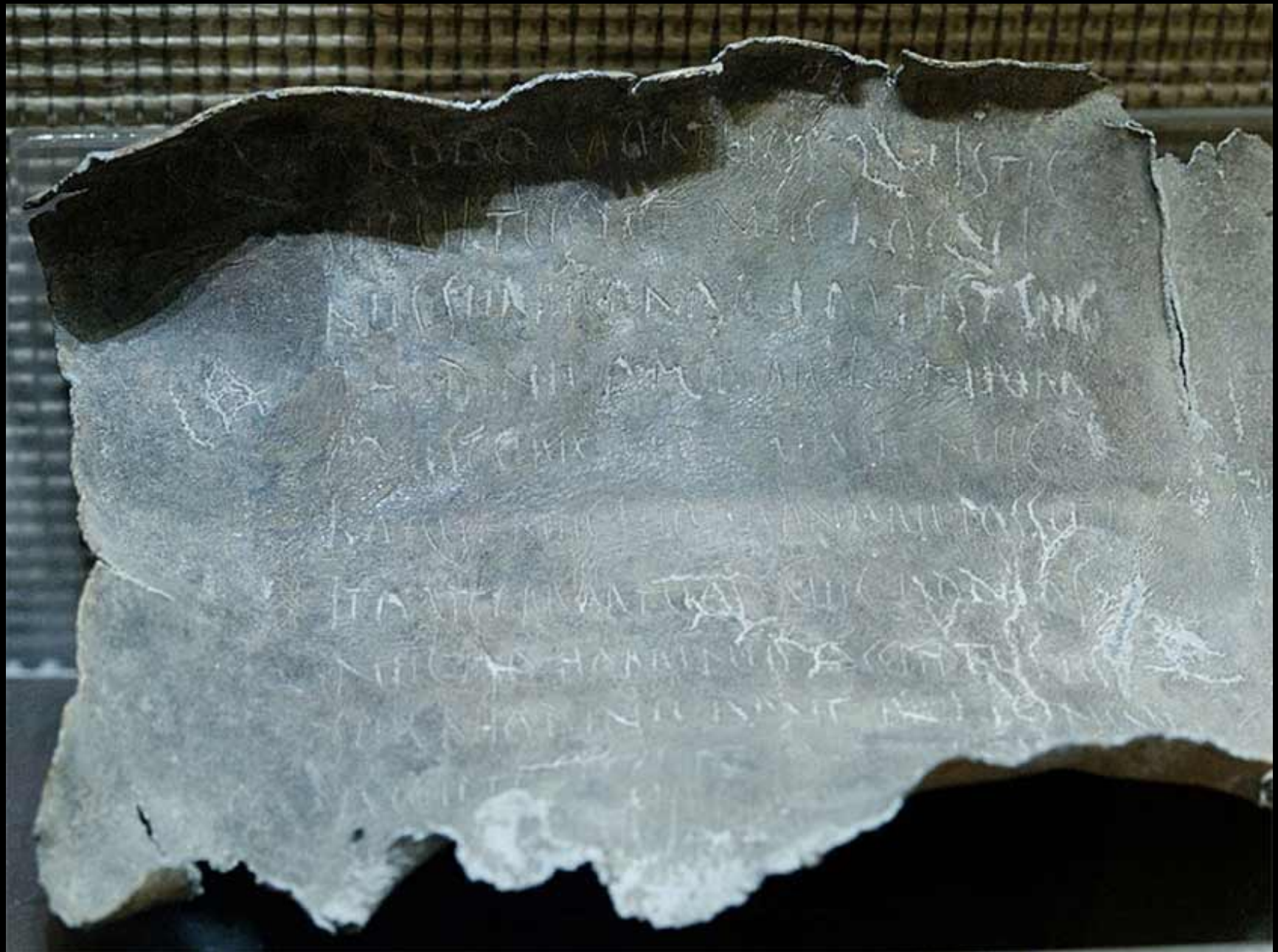
“...even as you were led.” *apogo*; to lead away

The demons behind the representations and copies can give “leadings” to those who assigned particular importance to the images and lead them away from the truth. (deceive them)

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NOXOATISESTENOS AS ANOAL
POSRATONATELESTO LOREVEN
ENKAIKEALONKAIKAIKAI
RCAENTAILLAALIEVAPHAESTOS
HONLITTEITTE
ENMISATELESTOS
KATEKAIKAIKAIKAIKAIKAI
DONISATELESTOS
TONATELESTOS
EONVQIEQDIATR





ROMAN BATHS

I Corinthians 12:3

“...understand...” I am reasserting and reaffirming that which you already know!

Acts 18:11 “And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”

I Cor. 10:20 “...they sacrifice to devils and not to God...”

Needed: 1) Information about 1st century pagan religious practices.

-Historical documents. (papyri)

The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation (Bertz)

“Curses” Ancient Christian Magic, Coptic Text of Ritual Power (Ritner)

-Archeological artifacts.

1,500 first-century ‘curse tablets’

2) Accurate translation of the words.

Strong’s Greek Dictionary , Vine’s Expository Dictionary,

Kittel, et.al. Theological Dictionary

“One feature of first-century cultic activity which stands out is the powerful hold over the pagan mind of cursing others and being cursed.”

Dr. Bruce Winter, St. Edmunds College, University of Cambridge

“Ritual Cursing occupied a prominent position in all 1st century...religions.”

Dr. R. K. Ritner, University of Chicago

“The overriding characteristic of the practice of magic in the Hellenic (Greek) world was the cognizance of the spirit world exercising influence over every aspect of life.”

Dr. William Simmons, Lee University School of Religion

“There is no one that is not afraid of becoming the subject of lethal curses.”

Pliny the Elder, (A.D. 23-79) Historian, Lawyer, Navy Admiral

“The effectiveness of incantations and spells depends upon the precise recitation of divine names.”

The Greek Magical Papyri, Translated by Hans Dieter Bertz, University of Chicago