



**Feb. 3 -
Mar. 10**



JOB

D E S C R I P T I O N S

A Study in First Corinthians



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JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The church is God's bride. God loves the church. Jesus died for the church. The Spirit lives to make intercession for the church. The church is not to be thought lightly of. Just as my wife represents me at events in my absence, the church is God's physical representative on earth.

If all of the above is true, then it's imperative that we get things right when it comes to the church. As Paul writes 1 Corinthians he knows there are many things he must address. Fractured as it was, it was still the church, and the church is God's plan to bring hope into the world. So Paul begins by addressing a foundational issue that everything else will build upon.

In the first four Chapters Paul will help the Corinthian Christians understand who is in charge of the church, what role the Holy Spirit will play in empowering the church to accomplish its mission, how each member of the body is to join in the work of God, and how the leaders of the church should serve.

How were unbelievers to come to faith in Corinth? Through the church. How will unbelievers come to faith in Beijing? Through the church. It's imperative we get this right...eternity is at stake.



Jesus

*Job
Descriptions*

*Week 1
February 3, 2019*





**AS A GROUP READ THROUGH 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-31.
WHEN FINISHED WRITE DOWN THE ACTS AND
DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS FROM THIS CHAPTER.**

**LOOK AT THE ABOVE LIST AND DISCUSS WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO
KEEP CHRIST THE FOCUS OF OUR LIVES AND OUR CHURCH SERVICES.**

———— THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH ————

Fill in the following:



- *Christ will _____ His church (Matthew 16:18)*
- *Christ is the _____ of the church (Eph. 1:22, 5:23)*
- *Christ is the _____ of the church (Ephesians 3:19-22)*



**HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE A CHURCH? IN
OTHERWORDS, WHAT IS CHRIST BUILDING?
WHAT IS HE THE HEAD OF?**



READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

Sanctified

1. DISCUSS WHAT THE WORD SANCTIFIED MEANS.
2. HOW DOES JESUS SANCTIFY US? (*SEE JOHN 17:17-19, EPH. 5:25-27, HEB. 10:10-14, 13:12*)
3. WHY DOES PAUL USE THE PAST TENSE AND NOT FUTURE? WHAT DOES THAT TEACH US ABOUT THE WORK OF JESUS?

Root word
HOLY

ἀγιάζω

- to purify
- to cleanse externally
- to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin
- to purify internally by renewing of the soul

ἅγιος (called to be saints)

Saints (Holy Ones) - Christ has founded the church by purifying for Himself a people!



- How does the sanctification of Jesus change how we view ourselves?
- How does the sanctification of Jesus change how we relate to other Christians?
- What are some ways we as a church regularly celebrate & thank Jesus for our sanctification?



READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:2, 9, 24 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

Called

1. WE READ AND SING A LOT ABOUT GOD CALLING US, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
2. SHARE ABOUT THE TIME YOU FELT THE CALL OF GOD AND RESPONDED BY CALLING UPON HIS NAME.
3. WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE PRACTICALLY TO BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS?

Have you ever been invited to something special? How did you feel? How does it feel to know that the God of the Universe has invited you to fellowship with Him?

κλητός

- invited (by God in the proclamation of the Gospel) to obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom through Christ



READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:6-9 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:



Jesus is the beginning and the ending of our salvation.

Sustained

1. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU ARE WAITING WELL FOR JESUS' RETURN?
2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS WILL SUSTAIN YOU TILL HIS RETURN? SEE: PHIL. 1:6, 2 COR. 1:20-22



*Jesus has built the church by **inviting** us into fellowship with Him. But he doesn't stop there. He **cleanses** us from sin and prepares us to stand in His presence so that we can experience true fellowship with Him. Lastly, Jesus knows that we will continue to sin, therefore He lovingly continues to cleanse us as he **sustains** to the end. God is Faithful!*

— THE CENTER OF THE CHURCH —

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17



- What divisions did the Church in Corinth have?
- What are some common division in the church today?

POWER

Paul was a man of power as he walked in the gifts of the Spirit. Some Christians believed what the church needed was more of Paul's power.

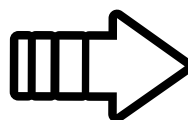
WISDOM

Apollos was a man of wisdom as he spoke and reasoned with Greek logic. Some Christians believed what the church needed was more of Apollo's wisdom.

TODAY WE STAND IN THE SAME DANGER AS THE CHURCH OF CORINTH. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE ELEVATE A LEADER OR A GIFT OVER JESUS CHRIST?

APPEAL (V. 10)

Since Christ is head over His people, Paul appeals to Christians to submit to Christ and not their own preferences.



What preferences have you (are you willing to) given up for the sake of Christ?

*And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in **everything he might be preeminent**. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Col. 1:17-20*



Learn much of the Lord Jesus. For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ. Let your soul be filled with a sense of the excellence of Christ. - Robert Murray M'Cheyne



Paul desires to keep Christ and the Cross center in the conversation (v. 17). As you read 1 Corinthians notice how much he talks about the cross as the solution to the problems faced in the Church. What are some ways you can make Christ supreme in your life this week? What are some ways you can make Christ supreme in your congregational worship this week?

— THE BOAST OF THE CHURCH —

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

POWER

True power is found in Jesus and the cross.

What is the power of the cross mentioned in v. 18?

WISDOM

True wisdom is found in Jesus and the cross.

What is the wisdom obtained through the cross (26-30)

Paul reminds us that we seem foolish and weak in the world's eyes. The glory of the church is not in our programs, finances, buildings, or even enjoyable services. The glory of the church is the power of a transformed life through the cross. We must never abandon the cross for a cultural fad.

V. 31 tells us to boast in the Lord. Read:

2 Cor. 10:17

Gal. 6:14

Psalm 34:2

Jer. 9:23-24

How do we as a church daily and weekly boast in Christ?



REFLECTION:

Jesus is our hope in this life and the next. He is the object of our affections. He is the treasure we gladly sell everything for in order to purchase. He is the glory of God and the beauty of the Church. We must never come together in our worship or fellowship and neglect to make Christ the center of all we say and do.

Is there anything in your life that you have allowed to take first place in your heart over Jesus?

Is there anything in your Sunday or small group gatherings that needs to be reoriented to Christ and the cross?

PRAYER:

Close your time together in prayer for one another. What are some praises you want to thank God for? What are some needs you have this week? Pray for the problems you and your small group members are facing. Pray the power of the cross over every circumstance and ask for true wisdom, wisdom of the cross, to see clearly, as Christ sees.

Thy main plan, and the end of thy will is to make Christ glorious and beloved in heaven where he is now ascended, where one day all the elect will behold his glory and love and glorify him for ever. Though here I love him but little may this be my portion at last. In this world thou hast given me a beginning, one day it will be perfected in the realm above.

Thou hast helped me to see and know Christ, though obscurely, to take him, receive him, to possess him, love him, to bless him in my heart, mouth, life. Thou hast led me to place all my nature and happiness in oneness with Christ, in having heart and mind centered only on him, in being like him in communicating good to others; This is my heaven on earth, But I need the force, energy, impulses of thy Spirit to carry me on the way to my Jerusalem. -Valley of Vision



Holy Spirit

*Job
Descriptions*

*Week 2
February 10, 2019*





**AS A GROUP READ THROUGH 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-3:4
WHEN FINISHED WRITE DOWN THE VERBS USED TO
DESCRIBE THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Scripture Text	Action of the Holy Spirit
1 Cor. 2:4	Demonstrates the power of God
1 Cor. 2:10 a	R_____
1 Cor. 2:10 b	
1 Cor. 2:11	Comprehends God's thoughts
1 Cor. 2:13 a	
1 Cor. 2:13 b	



**USING THE CHART ABOVE, DISCUSS THE NEED
FOR THE CHURCH TO BE SPIRIT-FILLED.**

———— POWER ————

Read v. 4-5



- *How did the Spirit demonstrate the power of God to the Corinthians?*
- *How is the power of God seen through the Spirit today*

Read the following verses to see a connection with power and the Spirit:

*Num. 11:25, Judges 14:6, 15:14, I Sam. 10:6, 16:13, Micah 3:8, Luke 1:35, 4:14, Acts 1:8, 10:38,
Rom. 15:13, 19*



ON A SCALE OF 1-10 WHERE WOULD YOU RATE THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE AND COMMUNITY?

A horizontal scale from 1 to 10, represented by a line with 10 tick marks and square boxes at each end.

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO SEE AN INCREASE OF THE SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE?

— WISDOM —

Both the Old and New Testament has a wisdom book: Proverbs and James.

Both teach us that true wisdom is given from above and is defined by the ability to make godly choices and decisions. Read the following passages to see a connection with Wisdom and the Spirit.

See I Cor. 2:6, 7, 10

Ex. 31:3

Deut. 34:9

Isa. 11:2

Acts 6:3
Eph. 1:17

Why is Spirit wisdom important in our lives and in the life of the church?

How does Paul describe the cross in I Cor. 1:22-23?

JEWS

GENTILES

See Deut. 21:22-23

Tacitus: "the pernicious superstition"



IF THE CROSS IS BOTH A STUMBLING BLOCK AND FOOLISHNESS, HOW DOES ANYONE EVER COME TO TRUST IN CHRIST? SEE 1 COR. 1:24, 2:10

**WHAT IS THE SPIRIT'S ROLE IN SALVATION?
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO KNOW?**

Read 1 Cor. 2:10-11



- **The Spirit _____ the depths of God.**
- *The Spirit _____ the thoughts of God.*
- *What does 2:10-11 mean for the Christian? See. 1 Cor. 2:16*

The Spirit searches the of God. v. 10

The Spirit comprehends the of God. v. 11

- **How are we to use the mind of Christ in our everyday life?**
- **How have you used the wisdom of the Spirit this week?**

“The mind that is alive chooses the spiritual rather than the fleshly. For example, take our thought life. The world sends a constant barrage of messages to us—politics, world, business, sex, sports, products, and others. God also is sending us messages, messages about His expressed will in the Bible for us, promptings about words to say or not to say, anger to control, or patience to extend.”

- T.W. Hunt



TWICE PAUL USES THE WORDS, "SPIRITUAL PEOPLE" (2:15, 3:1) AND COMPARES THAT TO FLESHLY PEOPLE. USING GALATIANS 5 FILL IN THE FOLLOWING CHART ON FLESH VS SPIRIT.

Flesh	Spirit
Jealousy & Strife 1 Cor. 3:3	Judges all things 1 Cor. 2:15

Paul is NOT saying the Corinthians do not have the Spirit or that they are not believers. In 1:2 he calls them saints. In 2:13 he says WE have the mind of Christ. In 3:1 he calls them infants in Christ. They have the Spirit but are not keeping in step with the Spirit



- *How do we grow in the Spirit*
- *What do you think Spiritual Milk and Solid food is? (give examples)*
- *How can you grow up to eat solid food rather than continue on milk?*

See Hebrews 5-6, especially 5:11-14 & 6:1-3

Receive milk, so that you may become strong enough to receive solid food.
-Augustine



REFLECTION:

The Spirit reveals to us the beauty of Christ and also transforms us into the image of Christ. Without the Spirit the church can neither bring men to Christ nor make disciples of Christ. A Church that is not operating in the Spirit is a dead or dying church. We must not lean on our own wisdom and power for conversion and transformation, but upon the mighty power and wisdom of the Spirit.

As you read through the book of Acts you get the sense that the early church was a church in love with Jesus and led by the Spirit. If we are to impact the world around us it will not be through clever programs or persuasive arguments but through the power of the cross applied by the Spirit. May we be a people who keep in step with the Spirit.

What practical steps will you take this week to be more Spirit led?

PRAYER:

Close your time together in prayer for one another. What are some praises you want to thank God for? What are some needs you have this week? Spend time praying for one another to grow in the Spirit, to be sensitive to the Spirit's leading, and attentive to His voice.

Thou who dost proceed from the Father and the Son, have mercy on me. When thou didst first hover over chaos, order came to birth, beauty robed the world, fruitfulness sprang forth. Move, I pray thee, upon my disordered heart; Take of the things of Christ and show them to my soul; Through thee may I daily learn more of his love, grace, compassion, faithfulness, beauty; Lead me to the cross and show me his wounds.

Open for me the wondrous volumes of truth in his, 'It is finished'. Increase my faith in the clear knowledge of atonement achieved, expiation completed, satisfaction made, guilt done away, my debt paid, my sins forgiven, my person redeemed, my soul saved, hell vanquished, heaven opened, eternity made mine. -Valley of Vision



The Church

*Job
Descriptions*

*Week 3
February 24, 2019*





**AS A GROUP READ THROUGH 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-23.
WHEN FINISHED FILL IN THE FOLLOWING CHART:**

Cor. Worker	Action	Your Worker
Paul		
Apollos		
God		

*Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God.
Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.*

Heb 13:7



**TAKE SOME TIME TO SHARE WITH THE GROUP
WHO GOD HAS USED (AND HOW HE USED THEM)
TO GROW YOUR FAITH**

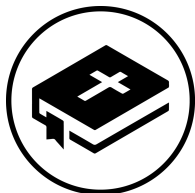
*The Church is a body. It is important we see God working through
the body to grow our faith and not just see ourselves as independent
from the church.*



**WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC WAYS YOUR GROUP
CAN ENCOURAGE GROWTH IN ONE ANOTHER?**



— GOD'S FIELD —



READ 1 COR. 3:9 AND THEN READ MATT 13:1-9, 18
23



WHAT TYPE OF FIELD ARE YOU CURRENTLY?
ARE THERE ANY WARNING SIGNS YOU ARE
CURRENTLY STRUGGLING WITH DRY SOIL,
ROCKY PATHS, OR THORNS?

ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΝ

A tilled field, cultivation, husbandry.

Read the following verses for more understanding
of field: Isaiah 5:1-20, 27:2, John 15:1-5

*God is the husbandman who breaks up the fallow ground of the hearts
of his people; he casts in the seed of grace, he makes the ground good,
and causes it to bring forth fruit; the churches of Christ are his
property, land of his fertilizing, and all the fruit belongs unto him; they
are gardens of his planting, and vineyards of his watering, and which
he keeps night and day, lest any hurt. **John Gill***

— GOD'S BUILDING —



READ 1 COR. 3:10-15.



- ACCORDING TO V. 11 WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH?
- WHY DOES HE REMIND THE CHURCH IN CORINTH OF THIS TRUTH?

Read 1 Cor. 3:12-13 and fill in the following chart:

Material	Reaction to Fire/worth of material
Gold	Removes blemishes/most precious.
Silver	
Precious _____	
W_____	

Read Romans 12:1-2. Discuss the connection with fire, sacrifice, and how you live. How does this verse relate to 1 Cor. 3:12-14?



- How does one build on the foundation?
- What does it mean that we can build with gold or straw?
- What are you doing to build with gold and not straw?



The Day of the Lord

The Day of the Lord is a phrase used in the Bible to describe how God is at work in history to confront collective human evil, liberate his people from oppression, and assert his rule over all creation.

All of the historical instances point to the one "Day of the Lord." It is the appointed time when God will eventually orchestrate the downfall of all Babylons and replace them with his kingdom once and for all.

Read 1 Cor. 3:13 - the Day will disclose it...

In 1 Corinthians Paul continually refers to the return of Christ. His promise of return is to give us hope to endure and motivation to live in light of the cross.



How does The Day of the Lord motivate us to build well upon the foundation of Christ?

What are the rewards mentioned in 3:14, 3:8?

GOD'S TEMPLE

The Greek for you is plural in v. 16 & 17

Read 1 Cor. 3:16-17
You are God's temple and God's Spirit dwells in you.

Here Paul wants to emphasize that the church, the collective body of people who gather to worship together, is the temple.



- *How did the the Christians at Corinth threaten to destroy the temple?*
- *What is at stake when we don't seek unity and allow our own preferences and sin to destroy the local church's reputation?*



Isaiah 2:2

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

See also Micah 4:2

The local church is the visible manifestation of God's glory in your city. We are called to build up the body, not destroy it. Note the warning in v. 17.

— YOU ARE CHRIST'S —

Read 1 Cor. 3:18-23



what does Paul mean when he says, "let him become a fool that he may become wise?"

Discuss what it means, "you are Christ's". How does this help us do church well?

I Cor. 3:22-23

Whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Life is yours, that you may have a season and opportunity to prepare for the life of heaven; and death is yours, that you may go to the possession of it. It is the kind messenger to take you from sin and sorrow, and to guide you to your Father's house. Things present are yours, for your support on the road; things to come are yours, to delight you for ever at your journey's end. If we belong to Christ, and are true to him, all good belongs to us, and is sure to us. Believers are the subjects of his kingdom. He is Lord over us, we must own his dominion, and cheerfully submit to his command. God in Christ, reconciling a sinful world to himself, and pouring the riches of his grace on a reconciled world, is the sum and substance of the gospel. -Matthew Henry



REFLECTION:

The Church is comprised of individuals who come together and make a body, of which Christ is its head. To be the body in such a way as to give glory and honor to God we must learn to receive care from one another as they plant and water the gospel in our hearts. We ourselves must learn to build upon the foundation of Christ and the cross by moving from milk to meat and by presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice. Furthermore, we must learn to set aside our desires for the good of the church. The church is the Temple of God that reflects the glory of God to the world. We must care for one another in such a way that the world sees our good works and self-sacrifice and gives glory to God.

In which of the above areas is there room for improvement in your life, small group, or church?

What is one practical thing you will do in response to God's Word?

PRAYER:

Close your time together in prayer for one another. What are some praises you want to thank God for? What are some needs you have this week? Spend time praying for one another to have a greater desire for the body, to use the gifts of the Spirit to edify and build up the body.

O God, you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect: Grant us during our earthly pilgrimage to abide in their fellowship, and in our heavenly country to become partakers of their joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

- Book of Common Prayer



Leadership

*Job
Descriptions*

*Week 4
March 3, 2019*





**AS A GROUP READ THROUGH 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-21.
WHEN FINISHED FILL IN THE FOLLOWING CHART.**

Note: This is more application than exposition.

<p><i>Church Leadership Roles in Corinth: See Ch. 3-4</i></p>	<p><i>Church Leadership Roles in Your Local Church:</i></p>
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**HOW DOES PAUL DESCRIBE CHURCH LEADERS?
3:5-9, 4:1-2**

— SERVANTS & STEWARDS —

ὑπηρέτης (Servant)

literally means an "under-rower," in the sense that someone is a rower on a big galley ship. Under-rowers serve "Christ the master-pilot, helping forward the ship of the Church toward the haven of heaven." (Trapp)



As you think about this definition of servants as it applies to the leaders of the church, what practical implications does it have for church leaders and members today?



Church leaders are called to be servants of Christ as they lead the church. What are some poor masters that, if not careful, leaders could follow instead of Christ?



οἰκονόμος (Steward)

a steward, manager, superintendent (a freed-man or a slave) to whom the head of the house has intrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant .



SPECIFICALLY WHAT ARE THE CHURCH LEADERS STEWARDS OF? SEE 4:1



- *Read Acts 6:4, Eph. 6:19-20, Col. 1:24-26, 4:3, 2 Tim. 4:1-5.*
- *There are many things a minister of the church is responsible for, but what is one of the most important?*
- *How can you encourage your pastor to be faithful to this calling?*

—— JUDGED ——

Read 1 Cor. 4:3-4 and fill in the following:

- *Paul doesn't care if he is judged by _____.*
- *Paul doesn't care if he is judged by _____.*
- *Paul won't even be judged by _____.*
- *Paul will be judged by _____.*

James 3:1

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.



- *How does knowing a leader will have to answer to God and not the congregation affect how a leader leads?*
- *What are some false judgements people make toward leaders? (see v. 5)*
- *Knowing that leaders bear much responsibility what are some ways you can pray for and encourage your leaders?*

———— IMITATE ME ————

Read 1 Cor. 4:6-16.

This section begins by Paul telling the church to learn by the example of their leaders and end by Paul telling the church to imitate their leaders.

Hebrews 13:7
Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.



Who are some leaders you have had that ran the race well? In what ways have you imitated their faith?

1 Cor. 4:10-13 gives a list of opposites. List those opposites below and then discuss the two lists:

--	--



Paul begins the section with the need for humility. Every gift we have is received from God. Discuss how you can help your leaders stay humble as they exercise their giftings.

Read 1 Cor. 4:17

Timothy was sent by Paul to help the church. What leaders in the church today fit into the Timothy category?



Submission and Leadership are often misunderstood. Discuss why there is a leadership structure in the church when we are all a Kingdom and Priest. (Discuss submission in the Godhead for a proper understanding of submission).

Read 1 Cor. 4:19-20 & Heb. 13:17

This section ends with a call to freely submit to your leaders, to choose gentleness over the rod.

Leadership authority in the church, then, is the power granted to men to lead the flock of God according to the Word of God, guiding, protecting and feeding them for their benefit and God's glory. - Tony Reinke



- **There are times when leaders abuse their position (See Eze 34). What are the healthy and unhealthy ways to submit to leadership in the church?**
- **Can you share of a time when you submitted to the leadership of the church (in a good way)?**

Christians must submit to be instructed by their ministers, and not think themselves too wise, too good, or too great, to learn from them; and, when they find that ministerial instructions are agreeable to the written word, they must obey them. -Matthew Henry



REFLECTION:

God loves the church, because of this He has sent (assigned - 3:5) leaders to the church in order to shepherd the church. Of course, we must remember that Christ is the chief shepherd! Leaders in the church are really servants of Christ, sent to do His work: to feed the flock, to guide the flock, and to protect the flock.

Two important ways leaders in the church help the church grow in Christlikeness is to teach Christ and model Christlike living. The church grows in healthy ways when members submit to Biblical teaching and find leaders (remember there are various kinds of leaders) in the church to live out the gospel with.

What are some ways we can live out the truths taught in 1 Corinthians 4?

PRAYER:

Close your time together in prayer for one another. What are some praises you want to thank God for? What are some needs you have this week? Spend time praying for your leaders. Do you have a small group leader? Do you have a ministry leader? Do you have a mentor in the church? Pray for the pastors as they seek to shepherd the church well.

O MY LORD,

Let not my ministry be approved only by men, or merely win the esteem and affections of people; But do the work of grace in their hearts. Save me from self-opinion and self-seeking; Water the hearts of those who hear thy Word, that seed sown in weakness may be raised in power. Make my every sermon a means of grace to myself and help me to experience the power of thy dying love.

Look upon the doubts and discouragements of my ministry and keep me from self-importance. Command thy blessing on my weak, unworthy labours, and on the message of salvation given; Stay with thy people, and may thy presence be their portion and mine.