

CLEMENT TO THE CORINTHIANS Lesson Nine (1 Clement 47-52)

Clement had seen the blessed apostles and conversed with them, their teaching was still ringing in his ears. (Irenaeus)

1 Clement 47: Disgraceful Conduct

In the beginning of the gospel. The early years of Paul's proclamation of the gospel in Corinth. Cf. Philippians 4:15.

Even then you had split into factions. Cf. 1 Corinthians 1:10-15.

Highly reputed apostles. Peter and Paul.

A man approved by them. Apollos.

Because of one or two persons. The agitators and usurpers in the Corinthian schism.

Those who differ from us. Non-believers. Idolaters and Jews.

Blasphemies upon the name of the Lord. The Corinthian schism gave scoffers an opportunity to deride the name of Yeshua.

Create dangers for yourselves as well. The Corinthian schism brought the Christian community in Corinth into public attention.

1 Clement 48: Gates of Righteousness

The brotherhood. Fellow believers. Disciples of Yeshua.

Although many gates are opened.

"Open to me the gates of righteousness" (Psalm 118:19). When a man is asked in the world to come, "What was your work?" and he replies, "I fed the hungry," they will say to him: "'This is the gate of the LORD' (Psalm 118:20), enter into it, you who fed the hungry." When a man replies, "I gave drink to the thirsty," they will say to him: "'This is the gate of the LORD', enter into it, you who gave drink to the thirsty." When a man replies, "I clothed the naked," they will say to him: "'This is the gate of the LORD', enter into it, you who clothed the naked." The same will be said to him who brought up the orphans, and to the one who gave alms, and to the one who performed [any] deeds of loving-kindness. (*Midrash Shocheh Tov* on Psalm 118:19)

The Christian gate. Christians enter through the gate of "honorable and pure conduct which characterizes our love for the brotherhood." Cf. Matthew 7:13.

Let him be able to expound knowledge. Spiritual knowledge of the scriptures and the things of the kingdom.

Wise in interpretation of discourses. Literally, "Wise in discernment of words." Notice that Clement begins his list with "knowledge, wisdom, and discernment," corresponding to *chokmah, binah, da'at*.

1 Clement 49: The Love Chapter

Commandments of Christ. Love God and love others.

Love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8.

Love endures all things ... Cf. 1 Cor. 13, a passage the church in Corinth was familiar with. Clement adds to the famous list, "Love knows nothing of schisms, love leads no rebellions, love does everything in harmony."

1 Clement 50: How Great is Love

Great is Love. Compare "great is repentance" sayings in rabbinic literature.

Ask and petition. Clement instructs his readers to pray for love.

Kingdom of Christ. Some versions say "kingdom of God." I.e. the Messianic Era.

Enter into the innermost rooms. Isaiah 26:20 with allusion to Ezekiel 37:12.

I will remember a good day and will raise you from your graves. Unknown source with similarity to Ezekiel 37:12.

Blessed are we if we continue to keep God's commandments. The Torah.

Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven. Psalm 32:1-2; Romans 4:7-9.

To whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen. Sixth doxology.

1 Clement 51: Call to the Leaders to Repent

Tricks of the adversary. Satan lays snares to trip man up.

In fear and love. The fear of God and the love of God.

Prefer that they themselves ... should fall into suffering. A true godly person will sacrifice his own position for the sake of the community.

They went down to Hades alive. Korah's rebellion. See Numbers 16:33.

Death will be their shepherd. Psalm 49:14.

1 Clement 52: Confession of Sin

I will confess to the Lord ... Psalm 69:30-32.

Sacrifices to God a sacrifice of praise Psalm 50:14-15.

For the sacrifice of God is broken spirit. Psalm 51:17.