

1 CORINTHIANS

February 6th & 7th, 2010
Paul's Letter to Californians

Introduction:

"Corinth was a port city and a wealthy commercial center. As a teeming metropolis, it had a notorious reputation of being the vice capital of the ancient world. Rich, busy, heavily populated, military personnel, coastal trade, businesses, sports, vice... does that sound familiar? Perhaps Paul's letter could be referred to in our day as the 'First Letter of Paul to Californians.'" Chuck Swindoll

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

I. Paul's Greeting (Vs. 1-3)

A. The Author (Vs. 1)

First: He was an apostle

Second: He was an apostle of Jesus Christ

The apostles were a part of the foundation of the church.
(Ephesians 1:21)

No one can meet the qualifications (Acts 1:21-22)

Third: He was an apostle of Jesus by the will of God

B. The Recipients (Vs. 2)

First: They were "at Corinth"

Second: They were Saved

They were *"the church of God,"*
They *"had called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Third: They were Saints

A saint is one who has been "set apart" by God to accomplish His purpose.

C. Their Blessings (Vs. 3)

They had received two blessings: **grace** and **peace**.

II Paul's Thanksgiving (Vs. 4-9)

A. For God's Grace (Vs. 4)

*"For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the **grace of God** I am what I am, and His **grace toward me** did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, **but the grace of God** with me."*

(1 Corinthians 15:9-10)

Provided through Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:4)... Is abundant and free (1 Timothy 1:14)... Results in salvation (Ephesians 2:8)... Is received by faith (Ephesians 2:8)... Is always adequate (2 Corinthians 12:9).

"When we have exhausted our store of endurance, When our strength has failed ere the day is half done, When we reach the end of our hoarded resources, Our Father's full giving is only begun. His love has no limit; His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known unto men; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth and giveth again." Annie Johnson Flint

B. For God's Riches (Vs. 5-6)

"in everything you were enriched in Him."

C. For God's Gifts (Vs. 7)

We have all the "gifted people" we need to accomplish His purpose for this church.

D. God's Promises (Vs. 8)

Their (our) Conformation "...who will confirm you to the end..."

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." (John 10:27-29)

(Romans 14:4; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; 1 Peter 5:10; Jude 24)

"Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off." (Romans 11:22)

"Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end." (Hebrews 3:12-14)

The Coming of Christ *"blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

God's Faithfulness (Vs. 9) *"God is faithful through whom you were called..."*

*"Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the **faithful God**, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;"* (Deuteronomy 7:9)

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **He who promised is faithful;**"* (Hebrews 10:23)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought."

(1 Corinthians 1:10)

Introduction to I Corinthians - Paul wants the church at Corinth, divided because of the arrogance of its more powerful members, to work together for the advancement of the gospel. He wants them to drop their divisive one-upmanship, build up the faith of those who are weak, and witness effectively to unbelievers. - ESV Study Bible

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 1:1-9

OBSERVATION:

- What was Paul thankful for?
- What does it mean to be enriched?
- What does it mean to have spiritual gifts?
- What is Paul saying to the church when he mentions they are not lacking in any spiritual gift?

APPLICATION:

Taking the above study into consideration, consider the following:

- What are you thankful for?
- Describe how life in Christ has enriched your life.
- Can you identify your spiritual gifts? Do others agree?
- Describe ways that you have observed or can surmise that spiritual gifts could be misused.
- Are you using your spiritual gifts to advance the gospel? Explain.

PRAYER:

How can others pray for you in regard to this week's study?

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