

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 1

¹ Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

² To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God

• The Greek word for *apostolos* literally means one sent with a commission.

• Why does Paul describe himself as "called by the will of God"?

• Where else have we heard of Sosthenes?

CHAPTER 1:1-9 — AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS, HOPES, AND REMEMBRANCES TO A CHURCH

• List just a few of the problems that you know Paul dealt with among the Corinthians...

• ...yet what did Paul call them in verse 2?

• the _____ of God

• those who have been _____ in Christ Jesus

• _____ by calling

• What was Paul confident of in v. 8?

• (our Lord Jesus Christ), who will also _____ you to the end

• _____ in the day of our Lord

• Yet, what does 1 Cor. 6:9-11 tell us?

is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

¹⁰ Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. ¹¹ For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you. ¹² Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."
¹³ Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one would say you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness

- How could Paul be so confident, given all their problems? (see Php. 1:6 and Col. 2:7)

- What sort of grace is Paul talking about in vv. 4-7? (see 1 Cor. 12:8-11)

CHAPTER 1:10-17 — THE PROBLEM: "...THERE ARE QUARRELS AMONG YOU."

- How serious is Paul's introduction to v. 10: "Now I **exhort** you, brethren, **by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...**"

- What is the command?

- that you all _____

- there be no _____

- you be made _____
(_____)

- the same _____

- same _____

- How had Paul discovered this problem?

- How were people divided?

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- In vv. 13-17 (especially v. 17) what appear to the reasons for the divisions?

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- Are there any such things today?

- What are they called today?

- For what reason was Paul thankful to God that he had not baptized many more in Corinth?

- Is baptism not important?

of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than

- Is there something wrong with cleverness?

CHAPTER 1:18-31 — TWO KINDS OF FOLLY AND WISDOM

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the word of the cross is ...
 - _____ to those who are _____,
 - but to us who are being _____ it is the _____ of God.”
- Why is the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God so different?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:21 “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the _____ to save those who believe.” (**meaning?**)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:23, 24 “but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a _____ and to Gentiles _____, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the _____ of God and the _____ of God.” (**meaning?**)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:25 “Because the foolishness of God is _____ than men, and the weakness of God is _____ than men.”
 - 1 Corinthians 1:27, 28 “but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to _____ the

men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no man may boast before God. ³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, “LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”

wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may _____ the things that are,” (**meaning?**)

- Is God just trying to be “contrary”?
- List some of the things that man see as wise — some will be in this context, but we can see others in the world around us today
- Are these worldly things really meaningful, lasting, or important in the long run?
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us _____ from God, and _____ and _____, and _____,”
- What does it mean to boast in the Lord?