

## Knowing Who You Are in Christ!

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 <sup>1</sup> Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those **sanctified in Christ Jesus**, called **to be saints together** with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup> **Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.** <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the **grace of God** that was given you **in Christ Jesus**, <sup>5</sup> that in every way you were **enriched** in him in **all speech and all knowledge**— <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup> so that you are **not lacking in any spiritual gift**, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will **sustain** you to the end, **guiltless** in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is **faithful, by whom you were called** into the **fellowship of his Son**, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### ❖ Introduction:

- **We will be looking at 1 Cor in the upcoming weeks,**
  - and so pray for me that I am given the time to complete the studies in these verses
  - so that I can bring to you what God intended when inspiring Paul to write this letter to this church...
- **I am not going to go into all the background today about the Church here at Corinth because I intend to bring much of it to light as we go through the book...But it is very important stuff...**
- **We will look to begin with at who the letter is addressed to:**
  - And see why it is so important.
- **And then Begin to Look at the main thrust of the 1<sup>st</sup> 9 verses that tell us Who We are In Christ...**
  - So we will see....Since I am now joined with Christ as a Believer...
  - What does that mean...
  - What is true of me now?
- **And I am pretty sure that many of you are very familiar with this book...**
  - So that will be good also, since you have all read it...
  - So I am going to encourage you all to read the book, so that when we meet, will have a better grasp of what is being written here...

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth to those **sanctified in Christ Jesus**, called **to be saints together** with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

### ❖ Greeting

- **Who He is:**
  - **An Apostle – One called out by Christ, with authority in the church.**
  - **Called by the will of God**
    - Remember, Paul was persecuting and hunting down anyone that was a Christian,
      - ◆ And Jesus appeared to him while He was on the road to Damascus.
      - ◆ And changed this selfish prideful, murderous man into someone who would give up his own life for the cause of Christ.
  - **Of Christ Jesus**
    - And He is here affirming who his master is, it is Jesus.
  - **And Sosthenes**
    - Sosthenes is probably His penman... and we almost assuredly see Sosthenes elsewhere in the Bible....
    - **Acts 18....founding of the church in Corinth...**

- ◆ When the chief ruler of the synagogue got saved...Crispus, they had to get a new ruler...
- ◆ and that was Sosthenes....and He was anti Paul...and they brought him to the judgment seat....
- ◆ trying to get an indictment against him....
- ◆ Galeo the leader in that area threw the Jews out of court...
- ◆ and Sosthenes get beaten up....
- ◆ either taken up the time of the court, or doing a bad job of presented the Jews case...
- And then we see later, this man is a believer and united with Paul.

## ➤ To Who

### ▪ **The Church that is in Corinth**

- You can see that in Acts 18... and we will look at it more later

### ▪ **To those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints**

- He is writing to those who have been set apart by Christ.
- Those that have been sanctified
  - ◆ Set Apart...Literally... **MADE HOLY**
- **Called to be Saints...**
  - ◆ Hag ee os (agios) in the Greek
  - ◆ Meaning: Holy, or Holy one, or a most Holy thing...

#### ➤ **A Saint...**

### ▪ **Together with:**

- **All those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**
  - ◆ So, this letter is to us as well....Right?

### ▪ **So...the letter is addressed to the church in Corinth**

- And it is specifically addressed to those that are **set Apart and Made Holy as Saints**
- Within this church, **and all those who call upon the name of the Lord...**

### ▪ **Why is this so important...**

- Because we must quickly recognize that **Paul is not saying that everyone in that congregation is a saint.**
  - ◆ Not everyone in the congregation was a saint...a Holy One, a Set Apart One...
- **We can very quickly get confused here in this book if we were to think this way**
  - ◆ Because throughout the book we see mentioning of people in deep sin throughout the congregation...
  - ◆ And we may be quick to say, well those guys in Corinth were so sinful, it is not ideal, but it is ok....
  - ◆ But that would be faulty thinking...Because that is not what Paul is saying...
- **We may be very quick to adopt the notion that Carnality is just something that is going to happen.**
  - ◆ **Carnality is *being worldly or sinful in our lifestyle***
  - ◆ That being worldly is just something we have to put up with as a church...
  - ◆ But it is not...Nowhere in the Bible do we see this teaching...
- **And we know this is not the case:**
  - ◆ John tells us not to love the world or the things of the world..
  - ◆ He goes as far to say there in 2:15 of **1 John that whoever loves the world, the love of the Father is not in Him.**
- **Throughout the Bible we see the truth that there will be a mixture of Saints and Sinners in the Congregation**
  - ◆ Jesus taught us that there would be **tares mixed in with the wheat.**

- **So, we can not adopt the notion that Carnality is OK within the Church....within the Church of the Holy God of all Creation...**
  - ◆ Paul says “essentially” it would be stupid to think that way... And anytime someone with the wisdom of Paul says something like this, my ear perk up...especially when He puts it this way:
    - ◆ He says **Romans 6:1-2** <sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
      - Look at the last part....**How can we who died to sin, still live in it?**
      - He is saying it is foolish for us to think this way, and especially to act this way...
        - ***After dying to sin...meaning, at our salvation we died with Christ...Our Old Person died...and we now live because of the Death of Christ...***
        - ***To cover our sins...***
    - ◆ **Now: What He is not saying:**
      - He is not saying **anything about being perfect...** No one with a good or even decent grasp of the Scriptures would ever say we will be perfect on this earth...
      - **Too many verses saying the contrary**
        - Pauls says **He has not attained perfection...**
        - **The Bible teaches we are being made holy...**
          - That it is a process...of sanctification...
          - And some of us are further along than others...
        - **Positionally with God, we are Holy in His sight...But we are here in the right now, but not yet...while on this earth..**
          - That is a great truth and mystery we do not have time to address now, but trust me, it is biblical.
      - And then in 1 John, He says, **that if anyone says they are without sin is a liar**
- **BUT also, take into consideration our God:**
  - ◆ When considering the notion that carnality is something that is ok.
  - ◆ God as the I AM... which means, the One Who Exists... and all life flows from Him.
    - He is a Holy God...And He can not tolerate sin...
- **BEAR WITH ME...I WANT TO TEACH SOMETHING HERE....IT will take a second though....So follow along with me...**
  - ◆ You ever wonder why the children of Israel had to go through all those sacrifices before they could be cleansed...
    - Why did the High Priest for Israel have to go through so much before He could stand before the Lord...
  - ◆ **Look at the Day of Atonement in Lev 16 here for a second:**
    - ◆ **Leviticus 16:1-13** <sup>1</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the LORD and died, <sup>2</sup> and the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, **so that he may not die.**
      - So, he could not just haphazardly go before the Lord
    - ◆ **For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.** <sup>3</sup> But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. <sup>4</sup> He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. <sup>5</sup> And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. <sup>6</sup> “Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make

atonement for himself and for his house. <sup>7</sup> Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>8</sup> And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. <sup>9</sup> And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, <sup>10</sup> but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel. <sup>11</sup> “Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. <sup>12</sup> And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil <sup>13</sup> and put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, **so that he does not die.**

- ◆ **So, before going in before the Lord as it says God would appear in a cloud over the mercy seat...And I believe the cloud was a way to shield the people for the Lord**
- ◆ **Aaron had to :**
  - 1) Bring a bull as a sin offering for himself and His family
  - 2) And He had to bring a ram for a burnt offering
  - 3) He had to put on a garment that had been consecrated (set apart as holy)
  - 4) He had to bathe himself first before putting them on
  - 5) Then He had to take 2 goats from the people for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering
  - 6) One goat would be killed, and the other sent out into the wilderness as a Sin bearer
  - 7) And the ram would be killed....
  - He had to do all these things so that when He appeared before the Lord...
- ◆ **So THAT : HE WOULD NOT DIE....**
- ◆ **WHY????**
  - **You may say, I do not even know what all that means...**
    - And that is ok...
    - But One thing we can all agree on, is that He had to do a lot of sacrificing for sins before appearing before the Lord
  - **Is God just trying to make us do a lot of stuff for His own pleasure, or is there a reason...**
    - Is God mean, and is going to make people do certain things or He is just going to kill them?
  - **Have you ever thought He made Aaron do all these things to protect Aaron from His presence...**
    - Because His presence, His existence, His nature is one of Holiness...
    - And He can not tolerate sin...
  - **The Bible teaches about a God that is merciful and gracious, and wise...**
    - *So Aaron had to do all these things, so the Holy Nature of God would be satisfied, because if it wasn't, **God would break out** on Aaron, and He would die...*
    - Why, Because He is a Holy God...
- ◆ **Jesus is now the way we can stand before God**
  - **He made the Sacrifice once for all...**
    - That had not been done yet during the Old Testament
  - **Jesus was the Lamb that was slain**
  - **We have been washed clean by His blood**
    - Signified in our baptism

- **We have had the Holy Garments of Righteousness placed on us so we can come to the banquet....**
- All this has been done through CHRIST...
- **So.....lets get back to 1 Cor.**
  - **Did God change all of a sudden... is it now Ok to be worldly...**
    - ◆ No, it is not...
    - ◆ So please do not ever get this notion from 1 Cor.
- **So, to sum it up...As we go through this book**
  - Just because Paul has addressed this church as called out ones, as Holy Ones, does not mean He is talking about everyone in the church...
    - ◆ That would be foolish to think this way...
  - **But, at the same time...**
    - ◆ Saints will sin, they will stumble along the way....
    - ◆ But the conviction of the Holy Spirit will be on them so quickly they will not be able to continue on in the sin....
    - ◆ *AT THE SAME TIME< THIS IS WHY WE SEE PAUL EXHORTING THEM TO HOLY LIVING THROUGHOUT THE BOOK>*
  - **And I think we all know the difference between the two...**
    - ◆ If we think about it, it is not all that difficult.
- **So, we see the Greeting here in the First 2 verses....and it continues**

<sup>3</sup> **Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### ❖ **Grace and Peace from the Lord**

- **And Paul starts his letters this way....**
  - Grace is: It is the unmerited or undeserved favor and kindness of God on our life.
  - And the Peace is: **what we gain from the grace given to us by God.**
- **So Paul is just greeting them this way just to say,**
  - that God's grace has been given to them, and that because of the grace, we now have peace with God...

Now we get into seeing **Who We Are in Christ**

to those **sanctified in Christ Jesus,**

#### ❖ **1) In Christ we are Sanctified**

- Now, we already touched on this a little before, but lets look at it in more detail
- **Sanctified**
  - It means to be "made Holy"
  - To be consecrated, or set apart.
- **The only things that can ever be consecrated, as Holy, are done so because God makes them so.**
  - Not because of man...
- **God has taken something that has vile and has "set it apart for himself"**
  - That is neat...
  - No longer are we just common people, rather, God has taken us and set us apart for himself...
- **Application:**
  - Like the kings of the past, and even those today...
  - Within their kingdom the set apart the best of things for themselves...

- The best male servants, and female servants...
- The best lands
- The best animals
- And the best produce...
- **YET:**
  - Even though we are common things, and even less than common I would say
  - God has set us apart for himself....And MADE US HOLY

## called to be saints

### ❖ 2) In Christ we are Saints

- **Agios (ha gee os)**
  - Meaning: Holy, or Holy one, or a mosty Holy thing...
  - Now the word for sanctified..... brings out the notion of being made holy...
  - The Word Saint is in regards to something that IS holy...
- **So, as Saints we are identified as Holy before God....**
- **A Saint...is not only some awesome Christian person that did a lot of great works while on this earth...**
  - The most common believer today, that spends His days serving the Lord the best He can by working with his hands day in and day out is as much as Saint as
  - The Apostle Paul, or Peter
  - Or anyone that has ever been given the tile of Saint...
- **And what makes a person a Saint, is not:**
  - Their works
  - Their looks,
  - Their status
  - Rather... it is God that identifies us Saints....
- **Hebrews 2:11<sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin.**
  - It is Jesus Christ, the Holy One, that makes us Holy.
- **Side note: A Difference b/w Position**
  - Presidents sometimes do not act like presidents
  - And Kings do not always act Kingly
  - And Customer Service people do not always act with the best Customer Service...
  - And sometimes Christians do not act like Christians...
    - What do you do?
      - ◆ That is the way it is....
      - ◆ **Posistionally** they are Holy before the Lord as he is working on them while on earth...
      - ◆ In practice, sometimes they are not so Holy....
  - **That is why!**
    - We have to say this over and over again....
    - Jesus is the reason for our Holiness, for our being right with God...
    - Not ourselves..
- **Great Application here is:**
  - When people act a certain way that is contrary to what they believe...
  - Have wisdom and understanding...
  - Do not blame God

- Do not blame the church....
- It is that person's weaknesses...
  - And last time I checked we all have our fair share of weaknesses...

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the **grace of God** that was given you **in Christ Jesus**,

### ❖ 3) Receivers of Grace

- Paul is thankful for these people because of the
  - GRACE of God that was given to them IN Christ Jesus...
- **IN Christ, we have been Given Grace**
  - Unmerited favor with God...
  - Something we just do not deserve....
- **At Salvation:**
  - We are given grace....as we see here, that comes in Christ...
  - So, at the point of our trusting IN JESUS...
  - We are given grace from Jesus....
- **Grace that stands alone**
  - There is nothing that we can add to this grace, it is abounding as it is, and lavished upon us...
  - We can not repay it, we do not have the ability...
  - We Could not pay for, nor escape our sin, that brings death...
    - So the grace of Christ steps in....
      - ◆ And it takes away all the sin...
- **Therefore there should be no more guilt...**
  - We did not deserve it in the first place...
  - And we will never deserve it...
  - So our guilt should be loosed from us...
  - And we should never think it can be taken from us...
  - **Because that is not grace at all...**
    - The very definition helps us realize, that it is unmerited to begin with, and if you ever have to merit it, or earn it...It ceases being Grace...
    - **Romans 4:3-5** <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,
- **And we can say as Paul does:**
  - **We are saved by Faith, through Grace....**

### ❖ Invitation

- I hope you see your need for Christ this morning.
- I hope you see your need for His grace...because you do have sin that needs to be covered...
- I pray that if you can not say you have been saved by faith through grace...
- That you will do so this morning.