

Knowing Who You Are in Christ!

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

❖ Who You Are In Christ – Say Title-

❖ Introduction

➤ Founding of the Church

▪ Paul was the founder of the church

- In Acts 18 we see Paul establishing the church here.
- It was after Paul had left Athens and he made his way west to this small town of Corinth.
- PICTURE
- Paul was a great missionary and the way He established churches was by preaching...

▪ In Athens first

- Right after He spent a lot of time in Athens pleading with the people there - over the worship of false gods.
- AS you remember, he preached there in the Areopogus..
- And He said He saw that they were very religious
 - ◆ They had idols to every god imaginable...
 - ◆ Even one to the unknown God....
- Paul says...this God you do not know...
- **Let me declare Him to you.**
 - ◆ Acts 17:23 ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.”

▪ Acts 18 – In Corinth

- So Paul goes to Corinth and He employs the same strategy...
- He begins preaching and persuading people at the synagogue.
 - ◆ He so often would begin preaching to the Jews and persuading them that Jesus was the Christ.
 - ◆ So often people think of Paul as sent out only to the Gentiles
 - ◆ But he had such a heart for his countrymen and He would always try to reason with them to believe on Jesus Christ.
- **The Jews would not listen:**
 - ◆ Acts 18:6 ⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”
- **So He took up his stuff, and moved on....**
 - ◆ And as we see from the next verse...
 - ◆ He went next door to start preaching the gospel at a man named Titus Justus’ house
- **Bible says many believed and were baptized there in Corinth....**

- ◆ Paul stayed there for 1 year and six months preaching the gospel...
- **Before we learn this we see God telling Paul something very interesting and very encouraging.**
 - ◆ Acts 18:9-10 ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”
 - ◆ **First, we see Jesus telling Paul that he is going to be protected...**
 - But that is not the interesting part to me
 - Because I think Jesus could have said, Paul, you are going to be attacked, but keep on speaking and do not be silent...
 - Because Paul had already been through it, and would continue to do that...
 - ◆ **The interesting thing is that Jesus says...**
 - I have many in this city who are my people...
 - Very encouraging to know that our preaching is not in vain...
 - Paul could go right on ahead preaching, knowing that many would be saved, because Jesus already knew them.
 - They did not know Him yet, but He knew them...
 - ◆ **You may think:**
 - Oh...He is just saying that there were many that were already saved...
 - I do not think that is the case...
 - For a number of reasons:
 - ◆ **Reason:**
 - 1) There was no church there in Corinth before Paul... He founded this church...
 - That was his job, that was his mission
 - 2) Also, what was the purpose of His preaching and persuading people to believe on Jesus
 - If they were already saved
 - 3) The Bible says...in Eph 1 that he chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world...
 - So Christ knew us long before we knew Him....
 - Even before the earth was ever made...
 - ◆ **Application for us:**
 - We can go about our work as a church....
 - Knowing, that if we follow His commands, and do the things He has for us to do...
 - We will see people come to know him...
 - There are people out here, right now in this city that are
 - HIS people....
 - Can we find them??
 - Should give us great Encouragement... And Courage, and Boldness....
 - What a privilege to do this....and get rewarded for doing it...
 - Jesus said He would leave His 99 sheep to find the 1 that was lost!
- **Why is this Background so important?**
 - ◆ Of how Paul founded the church
- **How did Jesus get out His message?**
 - ◆ He went and preached to multitudes
 - ◆ And he preached to small groups
 - ◆ And He preached to individuals...
- **He sent out His disciples**
 - ◆ And they went to people’s homes

- ◆ And the preached to great multitudes
 - ◆ And the preached and taught in small groups
 - ◆ And they dealt with people individually...
- **And Here Paul is: And what is he doing**
 - ◆ Preaching to multitudes
 - ◆ Preaching to smaller groups
 - ◆ And meeting people individually...
- **What is the common denominator...**
 - There were multiple size groups
 - There were different types of people
 - ◆ Jews
 - ◆ Athenians
 - ◆ Cornithians
 - ◆ Etc.
 - Different cultures.
- **The preaching of the gospel was the same...**
 - Paul went around preaching Christ... all the time....
 - So what this tells me is:
 - We grow our church by the preaching of the gospel....
 - ◆ There is no other way...
 - **We can go around helping people.**
 - ◆ Serving them
 - ◆ Bringing them cookies
 - ◆ Fixing up their houses
 - ◆ Buying them clothes
 - ◆ Going to coffee houses with them
 - ◆ Having block parties in their neighborhoods...
 - ◆ We can buy them brand new cars.....
 - **But if we are not sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with them...**
 - ◆ That they are lost and in their sins
 - ◆ And they need salvation from Jesus Christ....
 - ◆ What have we done for them...
 - NOTHING...
 - It is meaningless....
- **I am not saying:**
 - Not to do these things:
 - They are important....
 - But if we use these things, and do not share the gospel with people,
 - ◆ WE HAVE ONLY DONE PART OF OUR JOB....
- **Well....You may say...That was Paul....BUT**
 - All believers are called to preach the gospel.
 - It may just be to a small group
 - Or to individuals....
 - But we must preach....
- **TO TELL**
 - It just means to tell, to witness of something....
 - We can all do that...

- And we are all responsible to make sure we know how to do this....
 - 2 Timothy 4:2² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
 - ◆ If you can not do this...
 - ◆ And I mean, at the drop of a hat...
 - BOOM...your explaining the gospel...
 - Clearly and truthfully....
- **Then you need to get on it, and make sure you can!**

❖ Recap of Last week

➤ Greeting:

- ...To those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints....
- Writing to the church there, and those “who call upon the name of the Lord”
- Realized this book is directed to us as well.

➤ A Book for us

- When we are studying a book like this, it is important that we discover Paul’s original intention when writing the letter.
- It will be very hard for us to understand what is going on if we do not...
- And generally we really have to read the whole book, and look throughout the Bible to get a more clear grasp of this.
- When we do this, we can truly understand what a verse means...

➤ No excuse for Carnality!

- We talked about the possibility of maybe reading this book and coming away thinking it is OK to be a worldly Christian... (although it would be hard given Paul’s tone...
 - But I think some have this notion...Because I have heard it
- **The reason one might think this is because of all the problems this church had..**
 - And they had a lot...
 - There were:
 - ◆ Divisions
 - ◆ They had wicked church members...
 - And Paul had told them before not to have anything to do with them.
 - But they continued in fellowship with those that were supposed to be believers, but living a worldly Corinthian lifestyle...
 - Not to associate with SUPPOSED believers that are worldly...
 - He is not talking about Non Christians...we have to be around them, and reach them.
 - He even says this...
 - Many of them were trying to have the best of both worlds...
 - Trying to follow Christ and still have a foot in the world...
 - And Paul warns them throughout the book that this can not be...
 - **And we know from the rest of scripture that a Christian is not to:**
 - ◆ Love the world or the things of the world, and if they do, the love of the Father is not in that person
- **SO....We put great importance on the Greeting, and who He was writing too....**
 - Because it helped us to see that in his letter He is not saying everyone in the church is saved...

- But He is writing specifically to those that are.

➤ Who You Are In Christ

- 1) In Christ we are Sanctified
 - ...to those sanctified in Christ Jesus,
- 2) In Christ we are Saints
 -Called to be Saints....
- 3) In Christ we are Receivers of Grace
 - ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

❖ Who you are In Christ...

- If ever a group of believers needed to be reminded who they were...It was this group..
- And they needed to be reminded of what they had in Christ...

⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—

❖ 4) In Christ we are Enriched in all speech and all knowledge

➤ IN HIM and in Every way

- As you can see it is all IN Christ...IN Him...
- And it is in every way...
- Because of what Christ has done in us, we are enriched spiritually in every way....

➤ Enriched

- It means literally **to be made rich**
 - So, we were once not very rich, rather poor, and now Christ has made us rich....
 - The Idea is one of taking someone in a poor state in a given area
 - ◆ And making him rich.
- **Examples**
 - We use fertilizers, and minerals to enrich ground that is not very productive.
 - A man that wins the lottery has been made rich....
- **The Word: Also....**
 - **Is Passive...** meaning it is not something we do, rather, it is something done to us...
 - ◆ We did not do this, rather Christ did it in us...
 - **It is in regards to spiritual enhancement...Spiritual Abundance....**
 - ◆ Whereas before we were poor in this area...
 - ◆ We now have an abundance...
- **Before:**
 - Now, these guys knew what it was like to be spiritually poor and bankrupt...
 - Paul goes on to remind them who they were...
 - ◆ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

➤ All Speech and Knowledge (one of the ways we are enriched)

- **All...**
 - As we saw before, we are enriched...made rich...

- And it means we have an abundance...
- Paul is not saying we have all speech and all knowledge...
- But we all we need...
 - ◆ And then some...we have an abundance...
 - ◆ And what is this speech and knowledge he is talking about here?
- **Speech**
 - **Logos**
 - ◆ Same word as used to describe who Jesus is...
 - ◆ And His message
 - ◆ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...
 - **Meaning:**
 - **Speaking**
 - ◆ **Particularly the word of God...(Primary context of this word)**
 - I believe Paul...as a preacher of the word of God, and one that founded the church on the strength of the spoken Word of God...
 - Is reminding them, that they too have this ability...
 - They have been enriched to speak the word of God....
 - They have been enriched in all:
 - Speech.
 - ◆ **Probably should not leave out the importance of how we use speak in conversation...**
 - I do not think this is what Paul is intending here...
 - But It is a good time for us to remember:
 - As Christians...
 - AS those who are to be speaking the Holy, Blameless Word of God...
 - It is important that our words be pure words...
 - **We need to watch how we talk to each other...**
 - We are to us proper words... not vulgar ones....
 - Paul and James both warn us about the danger of our mouths being out of control...
 - ◆ **Witnessing:**
 - Primary idea here is that Paul is telling these people...
 - They have all they need to speak God's word....
 - **PROBLEM:**
 - Most of us just never speak up....
 - We must remember...we have been enriched by God to do these things....
 - **Knowledge: (could go on and on about this, but I will not)**
 - ◆ If we are going to be speaking, it is important that we know what we are talking about!
 - ◆ Meaning...it means basically the possession of knowing...
 - You know something...We all know what that means...
 - ◆ **BUT.... What do we know?**
 - **We have been given knowledge from Christ....of the gospel..**
 - Does this mean we know everything?
 - No...He is not saying that... because elsewhere **he says we only know in part...**
 - But he does mean something here....
 - **Meaning :**
 - Because we now have the Spirit of God living inside of us... we know things...
 - Things we did not know before...
 - The unconverted, or natural man, the Bible says in :

- 1 Corinthians 2:14 ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

◆ **So... WE Now have the ability to understand these things of God...**

- So, now, it is not that we can just say...
- I am saved so I have all knowledge of all the things I need to know...
- Because that would be stupid for us to do...

◆ **Rather...**

- The Spirit inside of us helps us to know all things...
- So as we study, and study and pray over the scriptures we can understand them...
- And therefore we are able to use them...

◆ **WE MUST REMEMBER THIS....Who We Are**

- WE know things, And we can speak things
- And especially the more we study, the more we will know and understand...
- But we all have that Ability inside of us
- And we need to know that we have that in Christ!

⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are **not lacking in any spiritual gift**, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

❖ **5) In Christ we are Not Lacking in Any Spiritual gift**

- Before rebuking them, He continues to let them know who they are...
- Although not as strong as some other believers and other churches...
- They still had all the same resources....
- Although they were immature... they still had gifts....
- They just needed to learn how to use them

➤ **Spiritual gift...**

- These are gifts given to us by Christ at the moment of our Salvation...
- **Greek word is: charisma**
 - Which is derived from the word grace...
 - Essentially we are talking about gifts of grace...
 - **Spiritual gifts of grace...**
 - ◆ We need to know whether we have the gift of **teaching, preaching, exhortation, administration, helps, giving**, or whatever it may be.

➤ **God provides the resources:**

- They just needed to use them
- **Paul tells them later...**

- 1 Corinthians 14:1 ¹ Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

◆ Prophecy (is not telling the future here...rather proclaiming the truth of God)

- He then tells them the foolishness of desiring to speak in tongues...

➤ **APPLICATION FOR US:**

- Each church is placed here on this earth to fulfill a mission for Jesus Christ...
- And its members make up its body....
- **And from my understanding of the scriptures:**
 - We should be able to function as one body...
 - That within our doors, we have all the spiritual gifting that we need....
 - But...many of us stay immature because we do not work to grow...
 - And therefore never live up to the potential we have because of Who We Are In Christ...

- **Realize your gift...**
 - Practice it...Ask God for clarity, and strength in it...
 - Grow in it.
- **as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,**
 - **I almost overlooked this part of the verse...**
 - I was running out of time in this sermon....
 - For this church that Paul is speaking to...
 - ◆ They needed to know who they were...
 - ◆ As they were waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to come back...
 - ◆ They needed to remember that He is coming back
 - I think this offers us a pretty good perspective for our own life...
 - **What if Jesus comes back today?**
 - **Because He is coming back...**
 - And He sees what we are doing with what He has given us...
 - I think we need to sober up, and wake up and realize God has called us to a mission, and we all need to get to it...

who will **sustain** you to the end, **guiltless** in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

❖ 6) In Christ we will Be Confirmed Guiltless

➤ Sustained – Confirmed – Secure

- ESV says sustain... which we think of as keeping something a certain way...
- Probably better understood as Meaning:
 - Confirm us...Validate us...
 - This is a future thing...
- **When we Stand before God....**
 - As the last verse ended with
 - ◆ **as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,**
 - ◆ **That we are waiting on that day when we go to be with Christ...**
- **We will stand there and be:**
 - **Confirmed by Christ as blameless...**
 - ◆ Meaning we will be without blame there before God....
 - ◆ No big screen for everyone and their mamma to see our deepest sins committed on this earth...
 - **Blameless....**
 - ◆ That means without blame right...
 - ◆ Pure...no sin...completely cleansed...
- **Colossians 1:22²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,**
 - Holy and Blameless

➤ **Application:**

- How does this affect us today...
- How should it change the way we relate to one another
- How should it make us feel about ourselves and our standing with God?

⁹ God is **faithful, by whom you were called** into the **fellowship of his Son**, Jesus Christ our Lord.

❖ 7) In Christ We are Called into Fellowship

➤ **God is faithful**

- 2 Timothy 2:13 ¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.
- I love this... no matter what my insufficiencies...
- God is always faithful....He does what He says He will do...

➤ **Called into Fellowship**

▪ **By Whom**

- Who does the calling here....
- It is By God...
- Please Remember this... it is so important to see we have a special calling that came not of our own will, rather His will.
 - ◆ Romans 8:30 ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

▪ **Fellowship –**

- We talk about this all the time don't we... We are always talking about how important it is to fellowship with each other...
- Just hang out...
- Meaning: To Share in a special relationship with someone
 - ◆ To be in the likeness of someone...

▪ **Jesus has called us to fellowship with Him.....**

- What a great privilege
- Lets not take it for granted

▪ **In 1 John : One of John's main reasons for writing was for this very thing:**

- He said in Chapter 1...I am writing this so that you to may have fellowship with us and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

➤ **Application**

- We need to remember how important it is to be in constant fellowship with Him
- To Share in a special relationship with Jesus, and to be in His likeness...
- Paul wanted this church to know this...

❖ **Invitation**

- Remember Who You Are In Christ