

I Corinthians 1:1-9

The Benefits of Being Saints

Introduction:

Corinth was a narrow neck of land between the Corinthian gulf and Saronic Gulf. It was a great commercial center of the Mediterranean Sea filled with Greek culture of the philosophers of Athens. Before the rise of Christianity, Corinth was often referred to as the city of fornication and prostitution, (I Cor.5:1; 6:9,15-20; 10:8)

Date: One of Paul's earliest epistles written 55-56AD

The necessity to write is more pronounced in I Corinthians than in any other Pauline epistle. William Hendriksen observes: "Among all Paul's epistles there is none that covers such a wide variety of subjects and problems, stretching all the way from relating lawsuits, marriage and divorce, meats offered to idols, ministers remuneration, propriety in worship, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the resurrection of the body, to the exercise of Christian benevolence."

I. Paul's Salutation – v.1-3

A. Paul's apostolic authority – Gal. 1:1; II Cor. 1:1

1. Sosthenes – Acts 18:17

B. The Church of God

1. Sanctified
2. Saints

C. The Gospel Call – Turn To: Matthew 22:1-14

1. "Grace" the greatest of Christian words – I Pet. 1:18-19
2. "Peace" (Heb. Salom, God's blessing upon us)

II. Paul's Thanksgiving – 4-9

A. For God's grace done in them in Christ Jesus

1. What did this grace do for them?
2. Answer: Speech and Knowledge

B. Confirmation –v.6

1. Theirs gifts evidence of the power of the gospel – 1:18
2. Charisma – v.7
3. Spiritual gifts – Turn To: I Corinthians 12:4-11
4. Timothy's spiritual gift – I Tim. 4:13-16 (I Pet. 4:10) William Barclay

C. The Revelation of Christ – v.7

1. For the believer a foretaste of what is to come.
2. For the unbeliever a frightening judgment – Rev. 6:15; Amos 5:18-20

D. Found blameless – v.8; Rom. 8:33; Jude 1:24

Conclusion:

1. *What is humbling about our salvation is that God "called" us. We are Christians not by some initiative of our own. God called us through His own initiative for His good pleasure – Eph. 1:5,9*
2. *What is assuring is that God has called us "saints" into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" v.9 it is the faithfulness of God that has made our fellowship possible. (nine times in all Paul mentions our Savior's name)*

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