

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

A Reminder that God is Gracious to the Church

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1. An Apostle Called by God's Will (v.1)
Paul has been called by God Himself. Paul's ministry and authority are not based in the calling or approval of men (cf. Gal. 1:11ff).
2. A Church of Common Believers (v.2)
There are many specific problems and difficulties within the church of Corinth, but they have the same essential quality that all Christians have: they are saints called by God who call on the Christ.
3. A Church Blessed with Everything in Christ (vs.4-7)
The Corinthian church had been blessed with everything that they needed in Christ. This included the gracious gifting of God in the areas of speaking and of knowledge, even if they misunderstood and misused these gifts (cf. 1 Cor. 13:1ff).
4. A Church with a Faithful God (vs.8-9a)
The Lord has not called His own people unto salvation only to leave them on their own (cf. Phil 1:6). The basis of our salvation is the greatest assurance that we have that God will continue to be faithful to finish what He has started (Rom. 8:31ff).
5. A Church Called into Fellowship with Jesus (v.9b)
The Corinthian believers have been called into this fellowship with Christ through their faith in Christ. Christians are able to have a confident assurance of the permanent reality of life with God (cf. John 10:29). Fellowship with the Lord, as seen by fellowship with others who likewise have fellowship with the Lord, is distinguished by being characterized by the things of the Lord (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14ff; 1 John 1:3, 6-7).