

## CHAPTER 1

**P**AUL, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother,

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

3 Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

5 That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and *in* all knowledge;

6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:

7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

10. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.

12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

14. I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I

know not whether I baptized any other.

17. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

20 Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

## CHAPTER 2

**A**ND I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

6. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the

things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

### CHAPTER 3

**A**ND I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were

not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

5. Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.

10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is

Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

16. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

18. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise,

that they are vain.

21. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;

22 Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or

death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours;

23 And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

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## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Without question, Corinth was the most important city of Greece. It was noted for its commerce, culture, and corruption. It was the headquarters for the worship of Venus, as well as for some of the impure mystery cults from Egypt and Asia. Paul visited Corinth on his second missionary journey, after he had met with seeming failure in cultured Athens. He made friends with two Jewish tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla, and stayed in Corinth for a year-and-a-half. He reasoned in the synagogue week after week. Silas and Timothy joined him after they had completed their ministry in Berea. The ruler of the synagogue was converted and baptized by Paul (Acts 18:8 with I Corinthians 1:14-16). Christ gave Paul special encouragement to stay in Corinth (Acts 18:9); then after a year-and-a-half, he departed for Ephesus. He left behind a church richly gifted in spiritual things (I Corinthians 1:4-7) but sorely tempted by the world, wisdom, and the awful wickedness of the city itself.

Paul remained at Ephesus for three years. It is likely that he made a second visit to Corinth (see II Corinthians 13:2) to correct some of the problems there. Once he was back in Ephesus, he wrote them a pointed letter about fornication, but this letter has been lost to us. The church at Corinth then wrote a letter to Paul, possibly sending it with Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, who were members of the church. This letter asked several important questions about church doctrine and practice, and Paul answered them (as well as rebuked them for their sins) in I Corinthians.

Paul had two basic purposes for writing I Corinthians: (1) To reprove the people for the flagrant sins that were being permitted in the church; and (2) to answer their questions about the Christian life and doctrine. No letter in the New Testament deals so forcibly with local church problems, and perhaps no letter is more neglected today. Paul opens chapter 1 by reminding the believers of the wonderful blessings they have in Christ. He does this very tactfully, before he reproves them for their sins; for they were living beneath their privileges as Christians. They were not walking worthy of their calling in Christ.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool" (Proverbs 26:1).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend today reviewing this month's assignments.

## BIRTHDAYS TODAY

**EDWARD GODHIGH**

**JAMILA McCRUTER**

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**1902**

**JOSEPH PARKER DIED.**

Joseph Parker was a famous English Congregationalist preacher who remained a nonconformist and faithful preacher in the midst of liberalism all around him. He was called one of the world's greatest evangelical preachers. Thank God today for your preacher. How long has it been since you wrote him a letter telling him that you appreciate his faithfulness to the truth. Pray God to bless him and give him strength for his many duties. Pray God to keep him faithful in a world of liberalism.

**1962**

**QUEEN WILHELMINA DIED AT APPELDOORN, NETHERLANDS.**

It is said that she was a Christian Queen of the Netherlands, from 1898 until 1948. She became queen at the age of eighteen. She was one of the richest women in the world, and she said Christ always had first place in her heart. Let us read today Matthew 6:33 and give Christ first place. "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"

**1907**

**ARMIN GESSWEIN WAS BORN AT KOENIG, MISSOURI.**

He became the director of Revival Prayer Fellowship with headquarters in southern California.

**1783**

**THE FIRST POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED.**

What a blessing this has been—the use of the mail to get out the Gospel. Our churches have been helped. The work of God has been aided and souls have been saved by the millions because of this great establishment. How long has it been since you thanked God for your postman? Tell him today that you appreciate him and also witness to him about the Gospel.

**ON THIS DATE IN  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1871**

Ku Klux Klan trials began in Federal District Court in Columbia, South Carolina.

**1960**

Death of Richard Wright (52), novelist and author of *Native Son*, in Paris, France.