

**Woodland Baptist Church**  
**September 23, 2018 - Morning Worship**  
**1 Corinthians 1:1-9, The Apostolic Identification, Salutation and Motivation**

**1) 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

- a) **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 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.**

**2) Verse 1 - The Apostolic IDENTIFICATION**

- a) **1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,**

**i) Paul - who is Paul?**

- (1) Paul was a Jewish Rabbi that was born Saul of Tarsus. Saul is first mentioned in Acts 7 as a witness to the stoning execution of Stephen one of the first deacons. Not long after Stephen's death, Saul launched a vicious attack upon the church of Jesus Christ [Acts 8-9], but his war against Jesus would not last long. Christ would confront him and change him on his way to Damascus.
- (2) To set our minds into this epistle, let us travel the road of Paul's conversion by turning to Acts 9.

**ii) Paul called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.**

- (1) Called by the will of God** - is under the authority if no man, the Almighty God called Him through Christ Jesus.

- (a) Galatians 1:11-2:10** - one of the most thorough explanations of Paul's call.  
**(b) Called** - literally - "called" - Saul, Saul!! Why do you persecute me!!  
**(c) By the will of God** - Paul spent the majority of his life trying to stamp out Christianity not spread it - Paul's will was to kill Christians...but God changed Paul's will to become a Christian and be the greatest missionaries.  
**(d) Apostle** - simple explanation - "one sent" - if you want to go deeper in meaning, we can delineate two explanation - Apostle capital "A" and apostle "a".

(i) Apostle “A” - the 12 disciples, excluding Judas, including Matthias. These were the foundational men hand picked by Jesus, walked with Jesus and witnesses to his resurrection.

1. Paul considered himself one unnaturally born - he was called and taught by the resurrected Christ. Paul’s background made him a perfect choice to help us understand the fullness of the Abrahamic Promise.

(ii) Apostle “a” - is all of us - if you are a Christian, you are one sent in the name of Jesus.

iii) **Sosthenes** - we have two references to Sosthenes - we read the one earlier in the book of Acts, where he seemed to be the second in command to the synagogue when Crispus converted, and the second is here in 1 Corinthians. Is this the same mentioned mentioned in both places. Some say yes, some say no, some say there is no way to know.

### 3) **Verse 2-3 - The Apostolic SALUTATION**

a) **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.**

i) **Church of God in Corinth -**

(1) **To the church** - what is the church?

(a) **Ekklesia** - the term means an assembly - and it can be an assembly of any kind, in fact the term is primarily used to describe a political body, but in this case, Paul uses it to describe the ekklesia tou theo - assembly of God.

(2) To the church of God - whose church is it? God’s, please let us not forget that; this is God’s, you are God’s. The church does not belong to human leaders, but God.

(a) Who is God? The ancient of Days, God the Father, Yahweh of the Old Testament, the One who spoke the world into existence. The One who created us in His image. The One that sent his Son Jesus Christ to die for us.

(3) Corinth - what is Corinth? A city from ancient times on the Greek peninsula. Corinth contained hundreds of thousands of what? People and from among all those people there was a very distinct group of people that had heard the gospel and believed from Pauls missionary journey there in Acts 18.

(4) **To Those sanctified in Christ Jesus**

- (a) **sanctified [hagiazō]** - to be or become dedicated to God either in distinction, devotion or moral purity. How are we sanctified?
- (i) The term derives from Exodus 19:5–6, where Israel is called “a holy nation” set apart by God for himself through the events of the exodus (cf. Deut. 7:6; 26:19; Jer. 2:3).
1. **Exodus 19:5-6** - 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”
- (b) **In Jesus Christ** - that is the only way.
- (i) In Romans 15:16, Paul describes his own apostolic ministry as <sup>15</sup>But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup>to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

(5) **Called to be saints.....**

- (a) **Called - Kaleo** - to be summoned, called - when your presence has been officially requested and such a request should not be refused - being called for jury duty.
- (b) To be **saints** [hagios] together -
- (i) God is calling us and we are calling to him - we have no hope without Him and He is calling us to be on mission for Him.
- (c) Notice the parallels - Paul’s description of the Corinthians in v. 2 mirrors elements of his self-description in v. 1. He is an apostle by calling; they are holy people by calling. He is an apostle of Christ Jesus; they are sanctified in Christ Jesus. He is an apostle by the will of God; they are the church of God. If Paul claims for himself a high station in v. 1, v. 2 accords with the Corinthians’ considerable dignity and confirms his generally high opinion of them in spite of their many failings.

(6) **Together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:**

- (a) Paul gives the reality of the universal church - meaning all born again believers the world over that call Christ Lord.
- (b) **In Every Place...**

- (i) **Malachi 1:11 - 11** For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts - *prophecies a future time when God would be worshiped by Gentiles in every place.*

**(c) Those that call upon the name...**

- (i) **Romans 10:12-13 - 12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. **13** For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

(7) We are a small piece of a much greater whole - let us never lose sight of the reality that there were thousands of generations of believers before us that left a legacy of faith that we know carry on...and unless Christ returns soon....there will be thousands of generations of Christians afterward carrying the gospel forward.

- (a) But....so many times we suffer from tunnel vision and think this is all about us, well we definitely play a part in it, but it's not just about us and this building or this property....this is about Christ's Kingdom for all eternity of which this is nothing but the door. This place is a net that catches lost souls and prepares them for eternity and there are hundreds of thousands of places like this the world over.
- (b) Paul wants to be sure Corinth understands that...we need to be sure we understand it...we are a small part of a much larger whole and thank God we as Southern Baptists have found a way to cooperate for missions the world over. We ever lose sight of that, we have lost sight of our purpose.

- (i) A church that is aware of its connection to the church universal is less likely to be absorbed in its own problems.

**ii) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

(1) This is Paul's special salutation that combines two very interesting themes:

- (a) Grace - charis - favorable attitude toward someone for no reason - unmerited.
- (b) Peace - shalom/eirene - favorable set of circumstance - absence of war.

(2) Some have suggested Paul may be reflecting the blessing uttered by Aaron and his sons from **Numbers 6:24-26** - The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

(3) Who is this Grace and Peace from - God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ - our Trinitarian God.

#### 4) Verse 4-6 The Apostolic Motivation - GOD'S GRACE

- a) What motivates you in your life? What makes you get out of bed in the morning? Answer that question and you will know whether you are serving God or idols.
- i) In criminal justice, one of the primary objectives police and lawyers have is to answer the question, "Why did this suspect committed this crime?" What motivated them to do this? Motive is very important and can help answer the question of why you do what you do. What are some things that can motivate you?
- (1) Hunger can motivate you - because if you don't eat and drink eventually you will die.
  - (2) Desire for Relationships can motivate you - because we are creatures that God has created for relational bonding - we were created male and female - and God has designed us to be attracted to each other within the sanctified bounds of marriage.
  - (3) Financial Needs can motivate you - knowing that we must have it for survival and to provide for those we love.
  - (4) Death can motivate you - knowing that one day we will no longer be alive - motivates us to try to figure out a way to avoid it.
- ii) What do you think motivated Paul? The desire to please God. Paul had a very concentrated mind on one particular thing - pleasing the God that saved him.
- (1) Paul was motivated by God's grace. His miraculous forgiveness, His sustained goodness, His infinite perfection and His unstoppable love He has for us.
- b) **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 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.**
- (1) *J. Mac* - In 1:4-9 Paul summarizes the benefits of believing in Christ, of being a Saint. The benefits have three dimensions: some are past, given the moment we accept Christ as Savior and Lord. Other are present, worked out as we live our lives in Him. Still others are future, to be experienced only when we go to be with Him in heaven. In the past there is grace, in the present there are gifts and for the future there are guarantees. Our past is already taken care of, our present is provided for, and our future is assured.
- ii) **I Give thanks to my God for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus...**
- (1) How can Paul be thankful for the Corinthian church hearing this report about all the types of problems going on there? He is thankful because even in the midst of all these issues, God's grace is at work in the heart of the people. Grace works in primarily three ways that can be observed:

- (a) First - God provides salvation in order that those who are saved may produce good works. Good works touch and help the lives of others.
- (b) Second - Grace is meant to bring blessing to believers.
- (c) Third - God saves us through grace to glorify himself. Grace is given so that the “manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church and that to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.” (Eph 3:10, 21)
  - (i) “Not only the churches which bring him unmixed joy, such as the Philippians, invite regular thanksgiving on Paul’s part, but even troublesome Corinth. For the very existence of their faith as Christians outweighs any personal inconvenience, disappointment, or anguish which their less-than-appropriate attitudes and at times lifestyles also bring.”
  - (ii) “To delight in God for his working in the lives of others, even in the lives of those with whom one feels compelled to disagree, is sure evidence of one’s own awareness of being the recipient of God’s mercies.”

**c) that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge**

- i) Present blessings - Enriched in speech and knowledge - that is what Jesus does to us, he make us rich. Did you know that you were rich in Christ? You will have the inheritance Christ has - you will inherit the Kingdom of God. You will live even though you die.
  - (1) **2 Peter 1:3-4** - 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
  - (2) **Colossians 2:9-10** - 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
- ii) When Christ comes into you the main two things that should be immediately evident that there has been a change is your speech and your knowledge.
  - (1) When the heart is changed, the mind is changed and it is evident by what comes out the mouth. Christ taught us what is in the heart comes out the mouth.
  - (2) **Matthew 15:17-19** - 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
- iii) When Christ comes to live in you, your mind is changed...therefore your tongue is going to form different words. Did anyone use profanity a lot before you were saved? Then after you were saved it was drastically reduced if not completely eliminated?

**(1) Romans 10:8-10** - 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

**d) Enriched in all speech and knowledge - Motivated**

**i) Speech** - we must speak for God at all times - He gives every believer the capacity to speak for Him. We do not all have eloquence, an impressive vocabulary or a captivating personality, but we all have been given the ability to speak the truth for God.

**(1) Acts 1:8** - you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth.

**(2) Ephesians 4:29** - 29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

**(3) 2 Timothy 2:14-17** - 14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene.

**ii) Knowledge** - we must remember that we do not know now everything we will know, but God has given us all the knowledge we need in this time to do the job for which He has called us.

**(1) 1 Corinthians 13:12** - 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

(a) We have His Word and Spirit to help us interpret it.

**e) 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you 7 so that you are not lacking in any 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.**

**i) Testimony - [marturion]** - the word we get the term “martyr” from. It’s the story of life change that happened to you when you met Christ and you were transferred from darkness to the kingdom of light. When Paul was laboring in Corinth in Acts 18, it was clear to him that God’s power had impacted the area through gospel preaching - people had believed and come to faith in Christ and the testimony was confirmed.

**(1) How is a testimony confirmed?** The testimony should reflect biblical order. Meaning that the individuals that heard the gospel understood the gospel - that they were sinners in need of forgiveness and that was available only through the Son of God, Jesus Christ. They had to believe in their heart and confess with their tongue that Jesus is Lord - repentance and faith - turning from sin and serving the Lord.

- f) **Not lacking any gift** - Paul would be referring to spiritual gifts, endowed at the moment of salvation, which would take time to develop. Gifts such as teaching, preaching, exhortation, administration, helps, giving...etc.
- i) Paul seems to be emphasizing two things in this statement:
- (1) The believes in Corinth, as believers everywhere, did not need to look for, and should not try to look for, additional special blessings or gifts.
  - (2) Believers should claim and begin to use the gifts that the Lord has given them.
- ii) We are born spiritually just as we were born physically, with everything complete and intact. We do not add arms or legs or organs as we mature physically. These grow and develop but are not added. Likewise when we are born spiritually, we are underdeveloped but complete. We need spiritual food and exercise in order to grow, but we do not need and we will not be given additional "spiritual parts." If we do not grow, or if we regress, it is not because we lack God's resources but only because we do not use them.
- g) **Motivation of Christ's Return - 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.**
- i) **The motivation of Christ's Return - 2 Thessalonians 1 - 5** This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from [b] the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- h) So as Paul's salutation closes he mentions two very sobering realities that will hopefully grab their heart and make them stop and think - you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ - in other words, he has yet to come back and he will be coming back...and he will sustain you to the end...meaning the end is yet to come, it has not yet arrived...guiltless in the day...meaning you will be held accountable for all that transpires here.