

## “To the Church of God, which is in Corinth”

**Text:** 1 Cor. 1:1-9

**Theme:** Ephesians 2:1-8

### Introduction:

- **1 Cor. 1:1-3** → “Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,
- <sup>2</sup> 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:
- <sup>3</sup> Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.”



### -- **What do we know about Corinth ?**

- 1) an isthmus with two ports (east / west)
- 2) approximately 250,000 inhabitants at the time of the writing
- 3) church was established on the Apostle Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey, around 50 A.D.
- 4) Paul lived there for 1 ½ years, according to Acts 18:11.
- 5) Paul met Priscilla and Aquila at Corinth (Acts 18:2-3)
- 6) because of the resistance and stubbornness of the Jews, Paul declares that from that point forward, he would dedicate his efforts to the Gentiles.

-- The Apostle Paul had a **divided audience** to deliver the gospel message to:

- on the one hand, there were former **Jews**
- on the other hand, there were the **Gentiles**

-- Around 55 A.D the Apostle Paul writes a letter to the church at Corinth in response to some things

-- Paul addresses both sides of the church as he admonishes them in various points of living a christian life.

- 1) **1 Cor. 1:11-12** → “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.
  - <sup>11</sup> 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. contentions among you.
  - <sup>12</sup> Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephass; and I of Christ.
- 2) **1 Cor. 1:18-25** → <sup>22</sup> For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after **wisdom**:  
Greeks seek after wisdom:
  - <sup>23</sup> But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
  - <sup>24</sup> But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

<sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

- **1 Cor. 2:6-9** → <sup>7</sup> But we speak the **wisdom** of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:
- <sup>8</sup> Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- <sup>9</sup> 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.”
- 3) **1 Cor. 3:1-9** → <sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, **but as unto carnal**, even as unto babes in Christ.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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) **1 Cor. 5:1-11** → <sup>1</sup> It is reported commonly that **there is fornication among you**, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.
- <sup>2</sup> And ye are puffed up **[have become arrogant]**, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.
- <sup>3</sup> For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,
- <sup>4</sup> In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- <sup>5</sup> To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”
- 5) **1 Cor. 6:1-8** → <sup>1</sup> Dare any of you, having a **[legal]** matter against another, **go to law before the unjust**, and not before the saints?
- <sup>2</sup> Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world ? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters ?
- <sup>3</sup> Know ye not that we shall judge angels ? how much more things that pertain to this life ?
- <sup>4</sup> If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.
- <sup>5</sup> I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren ?”
- 6) **1 Cor. 6:12-20** → <sup>12</sup> All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.
- <sup>15</sup> Know ye not that **your bodies are the members of Christ ?** Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot ? God forbid. **[This is related to temple prostitutes and pagan worship, as was common in Corinth.]**
- <sup>16</sup> What ? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body ? for ‘THE TWO’, saith he, ‘SHALL BE ONE FLESH.’
- <sup>17</sup> But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

<sup>18</sup> Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

<sup>19</sup> What ? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own ?

<sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's ?”

7) **1 Cor. 7** → <sup>1</sup> Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, **let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.**

<sup>8</sup> I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

<sup>9</sup> But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

<sup>10</sup> And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

<sup>11</sup> But If she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

<sup>12</sup> But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.

<sup>13</sup> And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.”

8) **1 Cor. 9:7-14** → <sup>7</sup> Who goeth to warfare at any time at his own charges ? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof ? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock ?

<sup>8</sup> Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also ?

<sup>9</sup> For it is written in **the law of Moses**, ‘THOU SHALT NOT MUZZLE THE MOUTH OF THE OX THAT TREADETH OUT THE CORN’. Doth God take care for oxen ?”

9) **1 Cor. 10:16-22** → <sup>16</sup> The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the **communion of the blood of Christ ?** The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ ?

<sup>17</sup> For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

<sup>20</sup> But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

<sup>21</sup> Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and **the cup of devils:** ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

<sup>22</sup> Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he ?”

10) **1 Cor. 11:17-34** → <sup>20</sup> When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

<sup>21</sup> For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

<sup>22</sup> What ? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in ? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not ? What shall I say to you ? shall I praise you in this ? I praise you not.”

11) **1 Cor. 12** → Spiritual gifts.

10) **1 Cor. 14** → Disorderly conduct in the worship services**I. And yet, Paul still called it the church of God in Corinth. WHY ?**

- We all have our own kind of “baggage” when we come to the Lord.
- It comes from our previous sinful life, before we came to know Christ, personally.
  - 1) sinful habits
    - drugs
    - sexual immorality
    - cussing
  - 2) choice of entertainment
  - 3) consequences that we have to live with for the rest of our lives
  - 4) previous religious life and learned behaviors from then
    - social activities
    - church youth sports
    - cookouts in the church parking lot
    - adding some instrumental music to “liven things up around here”
- **Example:** I remember seeing families with young children come to the Lord, and their children would crawl over the top of the pews and underneath the pews.  
To some, they were a great annoyance !  
Eventually, those children grew up and became Christians who preached, led singing, and otherwise helped-out in the church.  
We all come in with baggage - - none is exempt.
- **2 Cor 8:1-11** → <sup>8</sup> For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though it were but for a season.
  - <sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.
  - <sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.
  - <sup>11</sup> For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge ! In all things ye have proven yourselves to be clear in these matters.”

- **So we ask the Question:** “Are we so different from the Corinthians ?
- Don’t we also need to be reminded - - strongly, or otherwise - - or our Christian morals and obligations ?”
- **Heb. 4:16** → “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.