

"TO THE CHURCH OF GOD WHICH IS AT CORINTH"

PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH



1 CORINTHIANS 2

¹ And when I came to you, brethren,
I did not come with superiority of
speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to
you the testimony of God. ² For I
determined to know nothing among
you except Jesus Christ, and Him
crucified. ³ I was with you in
weakness and in fear and in much
trembling, ⁴ and my message and my
preaching were not in persuasive
words of wisdom, but in
demonstration of the Spirit and of
power, ⁵ so that your faith would not
rest on the wisdom of men, but on the
power of God.

- The Greek word for *apostolos* literally means one sent with a commission.

- Why does Paul describe himself as “called by the will of God”?

- Where else have we heard of Sosthenes?

CHAPTER 1:1-9 — AFFECTIONATE GREETINGS, HOPES, AND REMEMBRANCES TO A CHURCH

- List just a few of the problems that you know Paul dealt with among the Corinthians...

- ...yet what did Paul call them in verse 2?

- the _____ of God

- those who have been _____ in Christ Jesus

- _____ by calling

- What was Paul confident of in v. 8?

- (our Lord Jesus Christ), who will also _____ you to the end

- _____ in the day of our Lord

- Yet, what does 1 Cor. 6:9-11 tell us?

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; ⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; ⁸ the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

⁹ but just as it is written,
 "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS
 NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT
 HEARD,
 AND which HAVE NOT
 ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN,

- How could Paul be so confident, given all their problems? (see Php. 1:6 and Col. 2:7)

- What sort of grace is Paul talking about in vv. 4-7? (see 1 Cor. 12:8-11)

CHAPTER 1:10-17 — THE PROBLEM: "...THERE ARE QUARRELS AMONG YOU."

- How serious is Paul's introduction to v. 10: "Now I **exhort** you, brethren, **by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...**"

- What is the command?
- that you all _____
- there be no _____
- you be made _____
 (_____)
- the same _____
- same _____

- How had Paul discovered this problem?
- How were people divided?

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-
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-

- In vv. 13-17 (especially v. 17) what appear to the reasons for the divisions?

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- Are there any such things today?
- What are they called today?
- For what reason was Paul thankful to God that he had not baptized many more in Corinth?
- Is baptism not important?

ALL THAT GOD HAS
PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO
LOVE HIM.”

¹⁰ For to us God revealed them
through the Spirit; for the Spirit
searches all things, even the depths
of God. ¹¹ For who among men
knows the thoughts of a man
except the spirit of the man which
is in him? Even so the thoughts of
God no one knows except the
Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have
received, not the spirit of the
world, but the Spirit who is from
God, so that we may know the
things freely given to us by God, ¹³
which things we also speak, not in
words taught by human wisdom,
but in those taught by the Spirit,
combining spiritual thoughts with
spiritual words.

- Is there something wrong with cleverness?

CHAPTER 1:18-31 — TWO KINDS OF FOLLY AND WISDOM

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the word of the cross is ...
 - _____ to those who are _____,
 - but to us who are being _____ it is the _____ of God.”
- Why is the wisdom of man and the wisdom of God so different?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:21 “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the _____ to save those who believe.” (**meaning?**)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:23, 24 “but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a _____ and to Gentiles _____, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the _____ of God and the _____ of God.” (**meaning?**)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:25 “Because the foolishness of God is _____ than men, and the weakness of God is _____ than men.”
 - 1 Corinthians 1:27, 28 “but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to _____ the

¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may _____ the things that are," (**meaning?**)

- Is God just trying to be "contrary"?
- List some of the things that man see as wise — some will be in this context, but we can see others in the world around us today
- Are these worldly things really meaningful, lasting, or important in the long run?
- 1 Corinthians 1:30 "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us _____ from God, and _____ and _____, and _____,"
- What does it mean to boast in the Lord?