

1 Corinthians 1.1-3

Greetings, Friends!

The ideal of the _____ was the reckless development of the individual. The merchant who made his gain by all and every means, the man of pleasure surrendering himself to every lust, the athlete steeled to every bodily exercise and proud in his physical strength, are the true _____ types; in a word a man who recognized no superior and no law but his own desires.

Which of our NATIONS or CITIES does this DESCRIBE?

We'll FIND People JUST LIKE THIS in Every Place from which we've COME

Not written about 21st C ASIA, EUROPE, AMERICAS, or AFRICA

Written about 1st Century CORINTH – THEN Most Dynamic City in GREECE

The ideal of the Corinthian was the reckless development of the individual. The merchant who made his gain by all and every means, the man of pleasure surrendering himself to every lust, the athlete steeled to every bodily exercise and proud in his physical strength, are the true Corinthian types; in a word a man who recognized no superior and no law but his own desires. R. St. John Parry

Begin Study of 1 Corinthians > See “Gospel Change in a Godless City”

1. Patience in Ministry

a. Hope in God v. 1 Paul, called by the will of God

CONVENTIONAL Greeting with UNCONVENTIONAL Truth and Power

Letter 1st C FORM – Inerrant, Infallible, Inspired by H.S. Word of GOD

Paul saw Great POTENTIAL in Church of Corinth, INFLUENTIAL Roman City

Just like PARENTS have DIFFERENT Relationship w/each of their CHILDREN

Apostle Paul DIFFERENT Relationship w. Various Churches > Spiritual Father

Writes LOVING, CONCERNED Letter from Father's HEART

I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me. 1 Corinthians 4.14-16

God's POTENTIAL Not be TAPPED without GREAT PATIENCE of Paul

Paul MODEL Church Planter

Stayed Year and a Half MINISTERING in Corinth

Paul's LONGEST Stay of any Evangelistic Location TO That Point

RELATIONSHIP with this Church spanned a DECADE

I wrote to you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

2 Corinthians 2.4

JESUS gave Paul APOSTOLIC Commission to ALL GENTILE World

Could easily have said YOU Corinthians – WASTING My Time – Other Places DOES go Other Places – Never Loses Sight of BIG Picture of WHOLE WORLD Always CIRCLES BACK to Corinth – Visits, Letters, Prayers, Sending Workers

16 Chapters Paul INVITES Corinthians to Know GOD, His Ways, Power, Love Patience in Ministry >> Full Trust PROMISES of the MASTER BUILDER Joins God's RELENTLESS PLAN and PURPOSE from ALL ETERNITY

God CREATED Heaven and Earth – When FELL into SIN & REBELLION God LAUNCHED Plan of SALVATION – RESCUE People for His NAME PROMISED to ABE – PICTURED in OT – PURCHASED by Christ/Cross

Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there.” And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit.

Isaiah 48.16

2000 yrs PASSED Since THIS Letter to Corinth Written

Have in HANDS, PRINT and PIXELS, Circling around WORLD WIDE WEB

Here we are 2000 yrs LATER > Living the DREAM! Following KING JESUS!

v. 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

SHALOM of the Old Covenant > Now ours thru GRACIOUS Work of Christ

b. Hard-work for the Gospel

v. 2 to those sanctified in Christ Jesus > God is MAKING them HOLY

HOLY – HOLINESS – SAINT – SANCTIFY > same root word = Set Apart, Unique, Distinct
Christians are set apart FROM sin FOR the Savior.

SAINTS > Not on STATUES or STAINED Glass Windows – Sitting Here Now!

If knew 1st Century CORINTH you'd LAUGH at phrase Corinthian Christian

RIDICULOUS OXYMORON – City much MORE HELLISH than HOLY



2nd M Journey > Paul to CORINTH

CORINTH -- Greek City-State

More Prominent than ATHENS 1st C

Population 80,000

another 20,000 Nearby RURAL Areas

WEALTHIEST City in GREECE

AMPITHEATER Sat 18,000 People / CONCERT HALL 3,000



Narrow NECK of Land – ISTHMUS
 – btwn Corinthian & Saronic GULF

Merchants Preferred PORTAGE
 Hauling Goods 4 Miles of LAND

Instead LONG Voyage round Rocky,
 Storm-Tossed Peloponnesus Cape

MERCHANTS, SAILORS, lots of MONEY – are you getting PICTURE here?

Archeological excavations have revealed many evidences of a city life-style devoted to entertainment and self-indulgence, as can still be found in any great city today. It is hardly speculation to suggest that status, kudos, popularity, money, success and pleasure were the idols at the heart of Corinth, concealed in

the outward pursuit of a good life with its aggressive and pervasive paganism. As citizens of the 21st century we would have found much that was instantly familiar.

David Jackman

Paul FOCUSES on what God is CAN MAKE Them in Christ

Paul left Athens and went to Corinth... And he found a Jew named Aquila...with his wife Priscilla...he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word

Acts 18.1-5

Paul's PURPOSE in Life was to SERVE Jesus by Preaching & Teaching WORD SUPPORT to Accomplish TASK from GOD – Jehovah Jireh – God/Provider

As BEGINS in Corinth – SUPPORT Came as SWEATED over TENTS

Then Silas & Timothy came from MACEDONIA – City of PHILIPPI

Philippians ONE Church that gave Paul – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Funds from Philippi – Stop Sweating over TENTS & just SWEAT over TEXTS

Paul's CALLING is to Serve Jesus by Preaching WORD

Sometimes got \$ being MESSENGER / Other Times earned in from Marketplace
Either WAY he has SAME, SINGULAR Focus on his CALLING to SERVE

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13.4-8

NOT Trying to WIN an ARGUMENT or SHAME our ADVERSARIES

We SPEAK Most like Jesus only when we SHOW THEM Jesus

“Truthing IN Love” --- Speak the TRUTH in LOVE – Paul writes in Ephesians

2. Power of the Message

a. Focus on Words v. 1 Paul....an apostle of Christ Jesus

Few figures in History have been so **BELOVED** or **BELITTLED** as **PAUL**

ROMAN Citiz by Birth, **HELLENIST** by Training – Devout **JEW** by Conviction

Grew Up in **TARSUS** – University Town – Superior to Alexandria and Athens

Studied under **GAMALIEL** – Pharisee & Hellenist – earned equiv 2 Ph.d’s by 21

Going to Kill Xtians in Damascus – Met by their Lord Protector > **RISEN** Jesus

BLINDING Encounter P both **SAVED** & **SET APART** for **SERVICE** > Apostle

Paul stresses his **AUTHORITY** as an **APOSTLE** by **WILL** of **GOD**

Apostle is **MESSENGER** with a **CLEAR, SIMPLE, SPECIFIC** Message

Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all... For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle...a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. 1 Timothy 2.5-7

APOSTLE – Message **FOR** Every Believer – **ALL TIME** and **ALL PLACES**

Message **FROM** Jesus – 4 X’s ref – 3 verses – **JESUS CHRIST**

English	Greek	Latin
“sent with authority”	Apostle	Missionary

Still **NEED** People to **GO** to **UNREACHED** Peoples / Places w Gospel of Jesus

Some have **APOSTOLIC** Gifting, **PIONEERS**, Start New Things, New Places

If **PROPHET** /**APOSTLE** > Region/Church/Season, **NEVER** with Capital A or P

NOBODY has **APOSTOLIC OFFICE** – Should **NOT** call Someone **APOSTLE**

Then	Now
“thus says the Lord”	“the Bible says”

the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone
Ephesians 2.20

CHURCH IS BUILT – DONE – FINAL WORD of Scripture WRITTEN

Paul's "thus says the Lord" to CORINTH – Message from CHRIST to US

Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus... And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.
Acts 18.5,11

WORDS do NOT make any Sense to those BLINDED by SATAN in their SIN

Some LAUGH @ FOOLISHNESS and WEAKNESS of Preaching

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law." But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things." And he drove them from the tribunal. Acts 18.12-15

Roman HISTORY says GALLIO served in ROLE JUST ONE YEAR

Summer of 51 to Summer of 52 AD > Dates PAUL'S time in Corinth

1 Corinthians WRITTEN about 3 years Later – 54 or 55 AD

ROMAN Gov't Not have THEOLOGY Problem w/ Christians

Most Gov'ts Not CARE what CRAZY Christians OR Jews say they Believe
Govt had AUTHORITY Problem w. Believers > JESUS - Not Caesar - is LORD

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
1 Corinthians 1.18

Yet those FOOLISH and WEAK Words used by OMNIPOTENT God

GOSPEL Dynamite CAN Raise the Dead – Make a WHOLE NEW Creation

Jesus Christ WORD of God in HUMAN FLESH – Seen, Known, Loved

PAUL living MODEL – Apostolic EXAMPLE – Truth and Power of JESUS

We IN JESUS NAME Need to put FLESH on Word of God – LIVES and LIPS

b. Finality of the Word

Corinth city FULL of RELIGIONS, IDEAS, PHILOSOPHIES, VALUES

CORINTH placed Great IMPORTANCE Rhetoric, Logic, Speech, Knowledge



Massive HILL Overlooked City

TEMPLE to APHRODITE goddess of LOVE – 100's of Cult PROSTITUTES

Also TEMPLES to ASCLEPIUS Greek god of HEALING

ISIS EGYPTIAN goddess of SEA-FARERS / Greek male Counterpart POSEIDON

HIGHLY REGARDED Individualism, Equality, Freedom, Distrust of Authority

Paul NOT bring ANOTHER Man-Made Dish to SMORGASBORD of Religions

Paul given BREAD from Heaven – Lifegiving BREAD – Love, Truth, Jesus

Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

Acts 18.5

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord

comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

1 Corinthians 4.1-5

Paul does not worry about DEFENDING himself > Work to DECLARE Him
FINAL Word comes from GOD, Word of JUDGMENT will be Spoken by Jesus
Paul faces TROUBLES in Confidence IN CHRIST he will TRIUMPH

3. People God is Making

v. 2 the church of God that is in Corinth...all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours

CHURCH in Corinth had INFLATED EGO – Thought was ALL ABOUT Them
Paul takes them DOWN a NOTCH – “every place” – “their Lord and ours”

Imagine a church wracked by divisions. Powerful leaders promote themselves against each other, each with his loyal band of followers. One of them is having an affair with his stepmother, and many in the church boast of his freedom. Believers sue each other in courts; some visit prostitutes. Another faction in the church is promoting celibacy as the Christian ideal. Disagreements about men’s and women’s roles add to the confusion. Alleged prophecies occur, but not always in for edification. Some don’t even believe in the resurrection. Keith Prior

And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this. Acts 18.16

v. 1 our brother Sosthenes

He’s joined ME here in EPHESUS – ALL HEALED UP – Part of FAMILY

Does NOT need be in CHURCH of CORINTH to be in the Church of CHRIST

ZGC: All come w. Traditions/Denoms. WONDERFUL just PART God's Mosaic
 "Christian mission in the 21st century has become the responsibility of a global church...Now people from all over the world are being sent to the entire world."
 Samuel Escobar – Global Church Leader from PERU

Are YOU among the people God is MAKING into His own for HIS GLORY?
 You can KNOW this by HIS CALLING...

a. Sovereign Invitation to Transformation

v. 1 called by the will of God // v. 2 called to be saints > CALL FROM GOD
 GOD is in the CONTROL TOWER – Following HIS Plan and Purpose
 Paul is APOSTLE but Jesus is AUTHOR and FINISHER of our Faith
 Whoever HE CALLS will COME --- by HIS WILL --- to be SAINTS

And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. Acts 18.7

Paul calls them FROM the SYNAGOGUE to the SAVIOR

Some CRITICIZE Paul for this SPACE INVASION – More Polite Move Away

NEEDED to PREACH the Living Word of Truth to People of Corinth
 Because God's Message thru Moses > HIJACKED by man's Tradition and Pride

How can we be SO SURE – So DOGMATIC about our Christian Message

And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." Acts 18.9,10

If Paul kept PROCLAIMING Message / God would POUR Out His MERCY
 God NOT Correct Paul – He COMFORTS and COMMENDS him – Keep Going

b. Humble Reception of Salvation

v. 2 call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

NEED a CALL FROM GOD ... AND.... We MUST Call UPON GOD

MYSTERY of Scripture – God Absolutely Sovereign & WE are Responsible

And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”
Acts 18.6

Lord Jesus extended GRACIOUS CALL > FIND and FOLLOW Him

Jesus “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” John 10.14-16

How much MORE Should we COME to this GRACIOUS SHEPHERD NOW
Know SHEPHERD who Laid His LIFE Down for our SALVATION
Shepherd PROVIDES & PROTECTS by the POWER of His RESURRECTION

For those Chosen BEFORE the Foundation of Earth - EFFECTUAL Call
Building CHURCH with PEOPLE from EVERY NATION

Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe...you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”
John 10.24-28

JESUS is CALLING YOU! COME, FOLLOW HIM!

Acts 18:¹After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” ¹¹And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. ¹²But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, ¹³saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. ¹⁵But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.” ¹⁶And he drove them from the tribunal. ¹⁷And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this. ¹⁸After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. Acts 18.1-18

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, ²To 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: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1.1-3