**1 Corinthians 1**

*After his gracious greeting to the Corinthians, Paul immediately deals with the division existing among them. He proclaims the power of the message of the cross, and calls for them to rest their hope in it alone. (Synopsis by Stan Cox)*

1. Introduction **(1:1-9)**
   1. Greeting **(1:1-3)**
      1. Emphasis on apostleship **(v. 1)**.
      2. To the church of God at Corinth – sanctified, saints **(v. 2)**.
      3. Greetings sent on behalf of God and Jesus **(v. 3)**.
   2. Thanksgiving from Paul to God for the spiritual blessings in the church at Corinth **(1:4-9)**.
      1. Enriched in utterance and knowledge by the grace of God given by Christ **(v. 4-5)**.
      2. Testimony of Christ validated by spiritual gifts **(v. 6-7)**.
      3. God is faithful to grant everything needed to be ready for the judgment day, and to be found in fellowship with Him **(v. 8-9)**.
2. Reported Problems **(1:10-6:20)** – *“For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren…”* **(1:11)**.
   1. Division **(1:10-4:21)**.
      1. Party spirit in Corinth **(v. 10-13)**.
         1. Plea for unity **(v. 10)**.
         2. Declaration of contentions by Chloe’s household **(v. 11)**.
         3. Identifying with certain preachers, not Christ – “preacheritis” **(v. 12-13)**.
      2. Paul did not promote this mindset **(v. 14-17).**
         1. He did not baptize in his own name **(v. 14-16).**
         2. His ministry was to preach, not baptize **(v. 17).**
      3. The nature of the message preached **(v. 18-25)**.
         1. Power of God to salvation, not philosophy of man **(v. 18-20)**.
         2. Man’s wisdom made foolish and destroyed because it is given no place in salvation **(v. 21-25)**.
            1. Jews want a sign, Greeks want wisdom (man’s wisdom) **(v. 22)**.
            2. Paul, and the others **(v.12)**, preached Christ **(v. 23)**.
      4. The nature of those saved by the message **(v. 26-31)**.
         1. God has chosen the humble to be called **(v. 26-28)**.
         2. Salvation is only granted by the wisdom of God. Therefore, glorying can only be done in the Lord – as opposed to what is being done with the party spirit **(v. 29-31)**.
      5. The nature of the message preached (*Continued*) **(2:1-16)**.

*Questions on the back.* 🡪

**Questions**

1. How do the spiritual gifts, and the purpose they serve, contrast with the party spirit in Corinth? **(v. 4-10)**
2. What misconception about the gospel led the Corinthians to identify with specific men? **(v. 12-13, 17)**
3. How did God *“destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent”*? **(v. 19-21)**

**Another Question to Consider**

Some suggest that Paul’s thanksgiving to God that he did not baptize many, and the reason given for Christ sending him (not to baptize but to preach), is evidence that baptism is not essential for salvation **(v. 14-17)**. Why is this not true? How does **verse 13** imply that baptism is essential for salvation?