

GOD ESTABLISHES, LAVISHES, AND PROVIDES

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

GOD ESTABLISHES HIS CHURCH AND IT BELONGS TO HIM

- “Paul, called as an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will, and Sosthenes our brother: 2 To the church of God at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called as saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord—both their Lord and ours. 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1:1-3)
- **The Church is not a man-made institution that belongs to humans, but a divine institution created and belonging to God Himself.**
- **As Christians we need to strive to extend the same grace that we have received from the Lord while pursuing a peace that only He can provide.**

GOD LAVISHES HIS PEOPLE WITH GRACE AND GIFTS

- “I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in Him in every way, in all speech and all knowledge. 6 In this way, the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you, 7 so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1:4-7)
- **Without the grace of God at work in the Church and in our lives individually we would have no hope of living a God-honoring life.**
- **When we begin to see people the way the Lord sees people, we will become less critical of them and more grace-filled.**

GOD PROVIDES THE STRENGTH WE NEED AS WE AWAIT CHRIST’S RETURN

- “He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; you were called by Him into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)
- **When you truly understand that the blood of Jesus cleanses you of ALL sin and makes it possible for you to stand “blameless” before God, you should have a sense of eager expectation for Christ’s return.**
- **Any sense of dread or anxiety that arises when thinking about standing before the Lord Jesus Christ is stemming from an improper understanding of what Christ has done for you.**

- Our fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ is hindered when we have broken fellowship and disunity with fellow Christians.
- “So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24)

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation

- In verse 2, how does Paul describe the church at Corinth, and what does it say about their identity in Christ?
- According to verses 4–7, what blessings and gifts has God given to His people?
- What promise does Paul highlight in verses 8–9 about God’s faithfulness and our future?
- Why is it significant that Paul opened the letter with thanksgiving for the church at Corinth given the issues in the Corinthian church?

Understanding

- Paul reminds the Corinthians they are “sanctified in Christ Jesus and called as saints.” What does it mean for you personally to be “set apart” for God’s purposes?
- How should knowing that the church belongs to God (not to people) shape the way we handle disagreements or disunity in the church?
- Paul was thankful for the Corinthians despite their flaws because he saw God’s grace at work in them. How can we learn to see others with that same grace-filled perspective?
- What spiritual gifts or blessings has God entrusted to you, and how are you using them to build up His church?
- What are some things that weaken or hinder your fellowship with Jesus? How can you take practical steps this week to restore closeness with Him?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?