

I used to work in the market place...working with businesses that needed staffing and HR support

- Good company: Clear on were and wanted | Supplied employees that they needed to get there
- Lived and died by their Mission – Vision – Values...performance reviews
  - If you had to correct someone you did so with the 'why we exist' as the backdrop
  - Made sure that the employees had whatever they needed to meet the goals

Paul is about to rebuke the church in Corinth...and he starts with something brilliant and personal (HR)

**Paul...reminds them that it's all about Jesus and God has given them everything they need**

Do you believe that? The church is all about Jesus and God has given us everything we need?

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Big Idea: God generously delivers all the church needs**

Do you see it? It's Jesus, Jesus, Jesus – 6 times in 6 verses...think he's saying something

What we have...Jesus | Who we are...Jesus | What we do...Jesus | What we need...Jesus

To a busted up church like the Corinthians...its 'I thank God...Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...'

Jesus is the reason for the season...nope...Jesus is the reason | Woven paragraph...life!

### 1. **God Gives: Grace that changes us (v4)**

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus

- Always: 'As a regular habit' – 'At every opportunity'
- Grace: Free – unearnable – undeserved – unrepayable kindness & favor of God...given
- Thankful for the grace that was given 'In Christ'
  - His life – The fact that he came to earth, instead of abandoning us to our devices
  - His death – Suffered the punishment, instead of making us getting what we deserve
  - His resurrection – Rose to new life, instead of leaving us in death
  - His intercession – Right hand of Father our behalf, instead leaving us in devastation

Molly chasing kite...finally flew away...we tie all discipline & rebuke to grace and the gospel

The church is riddled with problems and Paul is thankful to God for the grace given in Christ

- Paul still saw evidence of God's grace in Corinthians...he thanked God for it! **Two things**
  - a. **First: When offering criticism...first stand back and stare in awe of God**
    - These people give Paul grief and he is still thankful to God for them
  - b. **Second: He sees the grace in their lives...something you have to look for...**
    - **Do you see the grace of God in others?**

### 2. **God Gives: Blessing that sustains us (v5-7a)**

<sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift,

- Enriched in him in all speech & all knowledge – Heightened ability speak & understand
- Even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you - Evidence is growing

**Holy Spirit Gives Blessing that Sustains us | Three Primary:**

- **Regenerate souls through the Word – Indwelling**
- **Understanding of the Word – Illumination**
- **Gifts that Build the Church – Edification** | Holy Spirit is a light...shining on what? Christ

### Three things about the blessings that sustain:

- a. **We have gifts from the start – Testimony about Christ confirmed**
  - i. Not some second baptism...they are ours at regeneration
- b. **They're ours in abundance – Enriched** – Giftedness is not equal and that's okay
  - i. Not all gifts for everyone but everyone gets gifts
  - ii. Some churches have different giftedness in different abundance...what we need
    - **We have a 23-year-old worship leader – Nashville – albums – I have a Brian**
- c. **They're there to use – No lacking in any gift**
  - i. They are meant for activity not atrophy - **Muscles have to be worked**
  - ii. There is no greater waste than to squander the gifts of God

Unused giftedness in the church is a biblical bummer

Ed Sheeran – 'You're really talented' – No...I'm really disciplined | Don't prepare...UGH!

**How do I know what I'm gifted at...start trying...guitar and preaching**

### 3. **God Gives: Righteousness that protects us (v7b-9)**

as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- He will sustain you till the end...what's the end?
  - As you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Not only that but on that day you will be found 'guiltless'

What does all that mean? Two things:

- a. He is protecting our fellowship
  - GOD IS FAITHFUL...He has called you into the fellowship of His Son
    - **Which is a good reminder going into our next couple of weeks where we talk about church division - We're going to be together for a long...long time!**
- b. He is protecting your salvation
  - **You cannot lose your salvation – God is protecting you!**  
Once saved...always saved...will always act like it

Why can I say that with confidence

<sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Most important verse in this section...GOD IS FAITHFUL...To His own promises!
  - He has promised to preserve those to fellowship who persevere  
God will give you the desire and ability to preserve your faith until He comes  
Macarthur – If it were dependent on me I would have lost it by now

I started talking about my time in the marketplace

- I used to get mad at people who said the church is a business...now I don't...  
**The church is a business...it's about God's business**
  - He has made it clear what our mission is
  - He has given us everything we need to be successful

**God Generously Delivers all the Church Needs**

**God Gives: Grace that changes us (v4)**

**God Gives: Blessing that sustains us (v5-7a)**

**God Gives: Righteousness that protects us (v7b-9)**