

Series - 1 Corinthians – I've wanted to preach this book for a long time

Why? Because 1 Corinthians deals with grievous sinners and we are grievous sinners

Similarities between the church in Corinth and the church today

• Depending on how you count them...10-15 separate issues...threaten the church today
Now you might be thinking a couple of different things:

- Finally, we're going to talk about all those churches that are doing it wrong = Correct
- We are an imperfect church...see/hear what attacks the church & how to avoid pitfalls
- Pastor is just going to be raining down fire and brimstone = Correct
- Just got done 'Amazing Grace' = Obedience is part of Amazing Grace

The shoe fits...we wear it – The truth hurts...take heed – If the message applies...we change

- There's a lot of touchy stuff in that book...we're going to skip stuff...right? = Correct
- Take as long as it takes...breaks...mini-series: Sexual Immorality – Lord's Supper – Gifts
All of us are imperfect...blind spots – growth areas...want to know where the land mines are
We're going to fill up and overflow on this Word and see what the Holy Spirit does

Turn in your Bibles to Acts 18 – WHAT?!?! - This is the inception point of the Church...

Read Corinthians 1:1-3 – Apostle Paul and Sosthenes = Apostle & Brother beaten in public
Claimed God...regardless location | Composed saints, maturity | Committed Christ, circumstance

God is Faithful to accomplish His work through Faithful Servants | Read Acts 18:1-17

Map Corinth: 200k - Pagan & Sacrifices – Roman/Greek Influences – Prostitution | Bangkok

Now what does God do to this vile pit of sin and debauchery? God provides Messengers

- God Provides the Messengers** | To plant an imperfect church in a corrupted culture
8 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And 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, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.

Map History – AD49 Paul left Jerusalem on his second missionary Journey

- First stop – Antioch in Syria ...preach – Barnabas...Silas...Galatia & Tarsus = **Hometown**
- Derbe...Timothy...Lystra then Iconium.... Antioch of Pisidia...all the way to Troas
 - Luke tells us he was prevented by the Holy Spirit to preach in the areas in between
- Troas = vision/dream of man Macedonia saying, 'Come to Macedonia and help us' (16:9)
 - Philippi, concluding that God had called them to preach there (Acts 16:10)
 - Which they did – only to be beaten, thrown into prison, and put into stocks
 - Paul and Silas = praying and singing hymns...great earthquake... led jailer to Lord
- Thessalonica where Paul preached in the synagogue for three weeks
 - When he was forced to flee under the cover of darkness due to the uproar t
- Berea where he encountered ready hearts and eager minds...then to Athens by himself
- And then finally sailed to Corinth and that's where we pick up the story in acts 18

All of that traveling...and what did he find in Corinth...a vile pagan city? Aquila & Priscilla

• Emperor Claudius had booted Jews out of Rome...Receive Paul and Help him get work
Remarkable...I want you to see a few things here: Messengers carry something...Gospel

- First: We are all 'goers' and 'supporters' | We carry and we support those who carry
- Second: No distance too far | No culture too corrupt | No sacrifice too great

• I doubt you're called to Troas...far distance across the office – Corrupt Culture of ABQ

Paul wasn't a tentmaker who carried the gospel...messenger of the gospel who made tents

You think you're a doctor – lawyer – business person – car sales person...you're not!

That's how you support your actual calling...going and supporting the message!

2. God Prepares the Recipients

⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶ 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." ⁷ 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. ⁸ Crispus, 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. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Joined by Silas and Timothy...preaching in the Synagogue and it's not very popular

- 'blood your heads' Not cursing...I've told you...you've rejected...moving on...

But there were people waiting to hear...God's prepared their hearts...In Evangelism:

- Proximity's your mission field – Next Door
- Never say never – Synagogue Leader
- Look for Red Apples – Soft hearts vs hard hearts – believed and was baptized
- Know your Job – We Preach and the Lord Prepares | We say and the Lord Saves 'MY'
- Increased Success bring Increased Opposition | I will keep you from attack
- Commit | Stayed there a year and a half - Dare to Share Story

We need evangelists like this...because Albuquerque is just like Corinth...God preparing...

3. God Protects the Mission

¹² But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, ¹³ saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law."

- Jews aren't playing around anymore...they are bringing formal and dangerous charges
 - Romans governor...practicing illegal religion – Approved and not approved...governor has none
- ¹⁴ 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."

Paul starts defend...Roman Governor goes 'Who cares...you're bothering me' on them

- If you guys want to argue over the Jewish Scriptures...go for it...but leave me alone

¹⁷ And he drove them from the tribunal. 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.

Three things I want us to take away here:

- God promised Paul would be safe and he was...God's protects the mission
- Sosthenes was beaten here and later mentioned...God protects the mission
- God used a corrupted government...God protects the mission
- Church in Corinth is now for years old...God protects the mission

What does that mean for us:

God is Faithful to accomplish His work through Faithful Servants

Similarities between the church in Corinth and the church today

God promised to build his church – Corrupt culture – Dreadful Sinners – Faithful People
God Provides the Messengers – God Prepares the Recipients – God Protects the mission