

## Saints By God's Grace (Part 2) Outline

### *1st Corinthians 1:1-9*

- I. Through God's grace we have our identity.
  - A. Who you are should determine what you do.
    1. You are/You ought.
    2. The Church at Corinth are called "Saints"--- who they are.  
They are "sanctified" – set apart from sin, made holy in Jesus Christ.
      - a. "Now act like it!"
    3. "You are saints" – 1:1-9; "Act like it!"—1:10-16:16
    4. Illustration—the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11).
- II. Benefits of the Christian life.
  - A. Past—Grace (Verses 4 & 6).
    1. The verbs in verse 4 are in "*aorist verbs*" = as a Christian, sometime in your past, at a very specific point in time, once and for all, you were given grace, and this grace is from God.
    2. "In Christ" – Galatians 3:26-28. Being brought into union with Jesus Christ through the "baptism" of the Holy Spirit.
    3. More about Grace: Three things that cannot coexist with grace.
      - a. Grace and guilt cannot exist together.
      - b. Grace cannot co-exist with human obligation.
      - c. Grace cannot coexist with any recognition of human merit.
    4. Why didn't God just fully sanctify us at salvation then take us then?
      - a. God saves us by His grace in order to produce good works in us.
      - b. God saves us by His grace to bring blessing to His church (other Christians).
      - c. God saves us by His grace for His glory.
  - B. Present—God sustains us (Verses 5 & 7).

1. We have everything that Christ has to give and gives us everything we need (5)
  - a. The Christian lacks nothing (2 Peter 1:3).
2. Two specific benefits: Word and Knowledge.
  - a. Word—speech or utterance: He has given us all the words we need to share the gospel.
    - Acts 1:8
    - Acts 4:31
  - b. What holds us back from sharing the gospel? Ephesians 6:19

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:6 6 For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

3. All Christians are given spiritual gifts.
    - a. “Charismata” = spiritual gifts.
  4. All Christians have been given EVERYTHING to live the Christian life.
    - a. 2nd Peter 1:3 .
- C. The Future—He will fully sanctify believers (Verses 8 & 9).
1. Philippians 1:6 **being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**
  2. We should all be eagerly awaiting the second coming of Jesus Christ!
  3. How can we be assured that this all will happen? (Verse 9)
    - a. God is faithful!

## **Saints By God's Grace (Part 2) Pastor's Notes**

### ***1st Corinthians 1:1-9***

After last week's message I received a polite criticism.... Actually not as much a criticism than a mild concern... I understood the concern... if you have been on this earth more than fifty years and involved in church for that length of time you most likely would have observed a shift in preaching emphasis.

Back in the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's there was an emphasis on God's grace... not that we should not emphasize God's grace... but there's more to God than His grace... most sermons preached back then focused on what God has done for us and very little on how we then should live...

So... you would leave church feeling very good... because all the sin you indulged in since the previous Sunday was all covered by God's grace and you could feel good about yourself and go on your merry way, sin through the next week having it all erased the next Sunday...by God's grace.

Not that churches aren't still doing all that... but in churches that actually read the Bible and preach the word... the emphasis has shifted the other way to preaching that convicts... preaching that pricks our consciences and hearts and calls for life evaluation, repentance for sin, and change in course... living holy lives....which is all great...and essential...

So when you hear a sermon on grace... I mean real, biblical, God given grace... grace that God freely gives to one who receives Christ, making that one holy, perfect in the sight of God... and it has nothing to do with one's performance, what one does or has done or will do... nothing to do with that person's lifestyle, sinful indulgences...

It could cause concern... even flashbacks for the over fifty person of a time that abused that free gift of grace by never linking it to actually being holy...so the hence the polite concern over last week's message that it was a "feel good" message.....

Well... guilty as charged... last week was intended to be a feel good message, I hope if you were here you did feel good when you left... and this morning I'm going to hopefully leave you feeling good as well... but lest you think I am becoming a "feel good" preacher...

I assure you that after today... starting next week...for the next year...year and a half as we continue with 1:10....all the way through chapter sixteen of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, you will be miserable!...not really...

what I am trying to bring out is exactly what Paul intended to do with the Christians at Corinth... **He begins with who they are...** BY GODS GRACE... and as a result of who they are... he continues with who they *should then be*.

Please turn in your Bibles to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 1... we are going to read the first nine verses... which comprise the apostle Paul's introduction to his letter to the church at Corinth... last week we looked at the first three verses... this morning we will continue with verses 4-9... but I want to read again all nine verses to keep us in context.

### **Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:1-9**

#### **Let's pray**

Probably most of my reading that I do are works from those with opposing views... Wendell Waters, a well-known Psychologist/ Humanist... wrote a book titled *Deadly Doctrine: Health, Illness, and Christian God-Talk*... a scathing book on Christianity.... Basically blaming Christianity for all modern psychiatric disorders and illnesses.

He writes this—*I want you to entertain the hypothesis of Christian doctrine, the existential soother par excellence is incompatible with the principles of sound mental health, and contributes more to the genesis of human suffering than to its alleviation*

That got my attention!...later he goes on to say—

*A true Christian must always be in a state of torment, since he or she can never really be certain that God has forgiven him or her for deeply-felt negative feelings...in spite of the...trick of self-deception known as being saved or born again”.*

I read the rest of the chapter... and I had to admit what he was saying is actually true for many Christians... you see... Wendell wasn't really writing something against Biblical Christianity... he was writing about the Christianity that many Christians are experiencing... we could call that Christianity a “graceless Christianity”.

Christians who are saved... by God's grace... but live outside of that truth...that realization.

A works-oriented... a work's based Christianity will cause damage to the soul!... A very well known pastor in giving his testimony said *I don't remember my conversion experience... I was too young when it happened... BUT I WILL NEVER FORGET MY GRACE EXPERIENCE...*

He went on to explain what he meant... *when he had the recognition, the understanding of the grace of God as a reality in his life... not merely a theological idea, but as life reality...* Let me share a little Spurgeon... he had preached a sermon on 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15... within that sermon he said this:

*You see that the mark of a child of God is that, by the grace of God, **he is what he is**. What do you know about the grace of God?... ”well, I've always been an upright, honest, respectful*

*truthful man.* "...I'm glad to hear it! But what do you know about the grace of God?...you see... it is **through the grace of God you get your identity**...your identity **in** Christ...

What the apostle Paul is setting up here in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians is the argument that WHO you are should determine WHAT YOU DO... or what you do is a result of who you are... that's what we will see this morning...and the rest of the time we are in this book...

Last week we learned about who the Corinthian church was.... And all people throughout history who are IN Christ Jesus... .. remember?... Paul called them "**Saints**"... He also said that they were "**sanctified**" in Christ Jesus... Saints are not good people... they're not people who lived excellent pure lives...some are worse than others!

Saints and sanctification come from the same Greek word... "Saint" literally means "**set apart one**" or "**holy one**"... sanctification means "**set apart from sin...made holy...by God's grace... IN Jesus Christ**"... a saint is one who has called upon the name of Jesus Christ... accepted Him as Lord and Savior... anyone who is saved... and everyone who is saved...God, sanctifies... God does it!... has nothing to do with your efforts....

So... these first nine verses are all about WHO ALL PEOPLE IN CHRIST ARE.... They are sanctified saints...everything that follows... 1:10-chapter through 16 Paul says "NOW ACT LIKE ONE! ... *"you are a saint now act like one"*... in other words... *The basis or the foundation for all behavior in Christian life is your identity....and your identity is IN Jesus Christ.*

It's like... there's a car accident... you stop to see if anyone needs help... the car is over a bank and obviously the passengers are in need of medical attention... there's a paramedic standing on the bank just looking at the car... you go over to him and say "why aren't you tending to those people?" and he just stands there!... *Hey! You're a paramedic... that's who you ARE.... You should be down there paramedicating!*

Paul is saying By grace you've been saved by God... you are a new creature in Christ... you have been made holy.... Now ACT LIKE IT!... I like how one commentator put it... YOU ARE/ YOU OUGHT.

If you are saved... you are holy because of what Christ is... therefore we OUGHT to be like Him.... A good example of this is in John chapter 8... familiar story... the woman caught in adultery... let me just read it...

**Read John 8:1-11**

**{Comment}**

*You are now a saint...you are now holy...your sins are forgiven...your sins are removed and set aside... now... don't go on living a life steeped in sin!...don't go on with your life doing what you did before.... you are a new creature in Me! You are/You ought.*

Colossians 3:9 **Do not lie to one another**... 1<sup>st</sup> notice, this is an appeal to not do something... that suggests one must make a willful, conscious decision...the Christian life is a life of making willful decisions... **Do not lie to one another**... WHY?... **since you stripped off the old self with its evil practices... You are no longer the old person... you are a new person in Christ!** You are/You ought.

SO... verses 1-3 Paul tells them and us who we are... [if you are not in the “are” category... and you’re checking out what this “Christian thing is about”] what follows in verses 4 through 9, what we are looking at this morning tells of the benefits being found in Christ... having your identity in Christ.

These verses actually show us the entire life of a Christian in regards to the benefits... they all take place within the three periods of life... **the past tense...the present tense (now) and the future tense..**

We could put it this way... In the past was grace... now in the present there are God given provisions to sustain us.... And in the future there is a guarantee... *your past is forgiven, now you are taken care of and your future is guaranteed*... isn't that wonderful?...what more would you possibly want?

The outline is simple... verses 4 & 6 are about what God has done for you in the past....verses 5 & 7 are revealing what God is doing in the present...now..... and verses 8 & 9 are glorious verses telling what God will do for us in the future.

## **PAST**

Verses 4 and 6 reveal to us the past...**Read verse 4**

In Greek vocabulary there are “Aorist Verbs”... these are all aorist verbs... meaning...**as a Christian... that sometime in your past... at a very specific point in time... once and for all... you were given grace... and this grace is from God.**

Referring back to the moment in time each one of these Christians in the Corinthian church became a saint... notice it says it was given to them **IN CHRIST JESUS**.... More than a dozen people have asked me what “IN CHRIST” actually means.... Let's clear that up.

Galatians 3:26-28 gives us some insight into the phrase “in Christ”...

**26 For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew**

**nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** No distinctions!... everyone is now IN CHRIST.

Paul was reminding the Galatian church that they had a new identity when they placed their faith in Jesus Christ... to be **“baptized into Christ”** is not referring to water baptism... but rather being brought into union with Christ, by the Holy Spirit... **At salvation, we are “immersed” in the Holy Spirit.** The Spirit covers us, indwells us, fills us, and makes us a part of the spiritual body of Christ... both personally... and corporately (the church).

To be "in Christ" means we have accepted His sacrifice as payment for our own sin. Our rap sheets contain every sinful thought, attitude or action we have ever committed... No amount of self-cleansing can make us pure enough to warrant forgiveness and a relationship with a holy God (Romans 3:10-12).

The Bible says that in our natural sinful state we are enemies of God (Romans 5:10). When we accept His sacrifice on our behalf, He switches accounts with us. He exchanges our list of sins for His perfect account that is totally pleasing to God (2 Corinthians 5:21). A Divine Exchange takes place at the foot of the cross: our old sin nature for His perfect one (2 Corinthians 5:17).

To enter the presence of a holy God, we must be hidden in the righteousness of Christ. To be "in Christ" means that God no longer sees our imperfections; He sees the righteousness of His own Son (Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 8:12). Only "in Christ" is our sin debt cancelled, our relationship with God restored, and our eternity secured (John 3:16-18, 20:31).

Once I am in Christ... The grace of God is mine!... **I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus**... let's talk a little more about this grace of God... let's put it this way... three things that cannot exist with God's grace:

**1. Grace and guilt cannot exist together**—if grace does not account for all guilt... all sin... it is not grace... God can't say *Here's my grace, but you better not blow it!... one false step and it's over!*

Grace must provide for the complete elimination of guilt... I don't know if you've ever thought of it this way but Grace can only exist if there is sin!... God cannot extend His grace to a sinless person... there's got to be something to forgive!

Being a righteous God, God had to execute the penalty of our sin... that sin debt had to be paid... so by His grace... He sent His Son to the cross as the full sacrificial payment for our sins... Christ died to take care of OUR sin... showing God to be gracious.

We need to see this... once you've been forgiven by God... Once God acts in grace towards you... you are absolutely 100% guilt free!... yet so many people/Christians live with guilt... I get it... I look at my past... I look at the sinful things I did and even still do... and I shake my

head... *How could I have done those things?.... How come I still do sinful things....* Well... it might be good to remember those things but only as a reminder of God's amazing grace!

We should not live in and with guilt! ...we are new... we have a new identity based on the righteousness not of us.... but of Jesus Christ.

**2. Grace cannot co-exist with human obligation**—Grace is not something you have to... or can pay back... Grace does not put you in debt to God... it was a free gift!... you can't come close to paying back God for what He has done to extend His grace to you.... He put His Son on that cross!

What we are more likely to do is try to put God into our debt... we get this ridiculous idea that if we strive to live a good Christian life.... and somehow we see ourselves as successful doing it... that God now owes us something.... *"Hey I've been so good, I didn't do what I was tempted to do---I didn't do the sin I wanted to do... you need to be thankful God... answer my prayers!"*

The beautiful thing is that God's salvation is absolutely free.... You can't work for it...pay for it... buy God out for it...

**3. Grace cannot coexist with any recognition of human merit**—God isn't sitting up in heaven looking out for good people to hand over His grace... some of the "worst" people who walked the planet have been given God's grace the moment they exchanged their old self for new life in Jesus Christ!

Grace is given INDEPENDENT of your deserving it.... you don't want God to EVERY give you what you deserve!...Romans 3:10—**there is not one righteous...not even ONE!**

Aren't you thankful that this is how God's grace works?... if any of those were false we wouldn't be sitting in His grace!... this is why Paul says ***I THANK MY GOD FOR HIS GRACE.***

Interesting discussion this week... If through God's grace we are sanctified... deemed as holy, set apart for God...but not yet fully sanctified... and then after we are dead... again through His grace He fully sanctifies us... makes us perfect... why does God make us go through the middle... all of life after our conversion?

I don't know all the answers to why God works the way He does... but let me quickly give you three reasons why God is gracious to us but doesn't snatch us away:

**1. God saves us by His grace in order to produce good works in us**....saving grace is to produce works in us...why?.... so that others may come to this saving grace.... Two verses in Titus:

2:14 [Jesus] **who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, eager for good deeds.**

3:8 **This statement is trustworthy; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and beneficial for people.**

**2. God saves us by His grace to bring blessing to His church (other Christians)...**through the grace shown us by God... we each build up each other in Christ... why?... to carry out the great commission... to be the church that God wants us to be... the church that Jesus is building.

**3. God saves us by His grace for His glory...**this is the most important of the three... Matthew 5:16 tells us—**Let your light shine before men in such a way that they can see your good works... AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.**

And when does all this happen?...when do we receive this grace?... verse 6

**Even as the witness of Christ was *confirmed in you.***

Confirmed means to be settled... made solid... made steadfast in you... when the gospel of Jesus Christ was settled in you... THEN God's grace was made yours!

SO that is the *past tense*... at a moment in time... In the past... God has extended His grace freely upon all who are in Christ...sanctifying them in Christ... making them....SAINTS... that's your past.

### **Present Tense**

Verses 5 and 7 show the results of God's grace for us in the present tense... and that is He gives us everything we need to sustain us...let's take a look:

#### **Read verse 5**

Did you know you are completely "enriched in Him?"...in other words... now get this... **WE HAVE EVERYTHING THAT CHRIST HAS TO GIVE!**... and he gives us everything we need... We are literally rich in Christ... we are rich because He provides us everything we need...

Everything doesn't mean an unqualified EVERYTHING... prosperity preachers use this to justify their Gulf-Stream private jets and their summer homes in Switzerland... *Jesus gives us everything!*...Jesus gives us what we need!... and not stingingly... he gives us what we need to flourish.

The Christian lacks nothing from Jesus Christ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:3 **for His divine power has granted to us *everything* pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.**

We have everything we need to go through this life in a manner that glorifies the Father... what else would we possibly want?... Paul points out specifically two of these things we have....

**Word and knowledge...**

**Word**—logos...here it could be translated as speech... or utterances... you will have all the words you need to do what God wants you to do... we will be given all the words we need to communicate what God wants us to communicate...

These are words to tell others of the truth... to share the gospel of Jesus Christ!... this is good news!...especially to those of you who say you don't know what to say to others regarding the gospel of Jesus Christ.... Get this.... **YOU HAVE THE WORDS!**...that make you nervous?

God has given every one of His saints... the capacity and capability to speak the truth of the gospel....yet... this is a big problem if not the biggest problem for us Christians.... to actually speak to others about Christ.

*I just don't know what to say.. isn't this what pastors are for?... that's what I do... I just tell people they should go talk with my pastor... yeah, that's it... are those the words you're talking about?*

**Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth."**

God promised to give you all you need to share the gospel.... *"I just can't do it!"*... yes you can!...you can do it! You've been enriched in all word!

**Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.**

You have the Holy Spirit if you are a Christian... what's standing in your way is one thing... Paul reveals it in Ephesians 6:19... what's he say?...**and pray in my behalf, that speech may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,**

Did you catch that?... the thing keeping you from sharing the word is ***you have to open your mouth!***...that's never a problem for any other subject.... But when it comes to sharing Christ!!!!.....I like what MacArthur said... *"Most Christians are like the Arctic River... frozen at the mouth..."*... it is hard... at first!

Open your mouths with the gospel.... The Holy Spirit will enable you to speak!... you don't have to know all the theology of the Bible... you don't have to know Greek and Hebrew... the differences between Ultra-lapsarian and Infra-lapsarian...you don't have to completely understand the Trinity.... Nobody does...

1st Corinthians 13:9 tells us that **we only know in part**...nobody has all the knowledge... but Paul tells us we have the **words AND knowledge**... all knowledge necessary to share the words...

2nd Corinthians 4:6 **For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

What do you know?... you were a sinner right?... you don't deserve God's grace, right?... You know that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins.. right?... you know that when you placed your trust, your life in Him...you were saved.. right?.... now you are completely forgiven, He paid the debt for your sin, right?

Because He lives you will live in eternity, right?... and you know that anyone else who embraces Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will be saved and have eternal life as well, right?.... what else do you need?.... that's all you need!

We have everything we need... we just need to open our mouths....if they have really big questions.... Send them to Randy!... But we are so insecure with our message?.... I have all these books telling of all these techniques in sharing Christ.... Witnessing to others... all kinds of tricks of the trade to talk to others about Jesus.

All we have to do is open our mouths!.... He has enriched us in all word and knowledge.... But we're insecure of that gift!... if you do finally share Christ with an unbeliever.... And they actually respond.... We are shocked that it happened!

It's like *“Would you like to hear about Jesus?”*..... *“actually I would!”*.... *“Really?!!!!”*... *“Seriously!?”*.. *“Wow!”*... you're blown away!... *Now that you've heard the gospel, would you like to accept Jesus into your heart?”*..... *“yes I would”*..... *REALLY?*

***“We are more shocked that it happened than we are at the miracle of being born again!”***... I remember having just finished reading one of the latest books on witnessing to others... a man came made an appointment with me.... came to my office and said *“I want to be saved, accept Jesus into my heart”*..... I remember just staring... thinking.... I didn't even get a chance to try out the stuff in that book!.... we are so surprised....

But the fact is.... The world needs Jesus.... They know they need something... and if we don't tell them....

Romans 10:14 **How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?** “Preacher” here is “*One who proclaims*.... Proclaims the gospel.

God has enriched you in word and knowledge... that doesn't mean you don't have to continually enrich yourself in God's word.... We all need to be in God's word so that God can enrich all the more... in fact, 1 Peter 3:15 reminds us to **make sure that I have an answer for every man that asks me a reason for the hope that is within me....**

God enriches us.... but we play an important part in that.... Attached to verse 5 is verse 7—

### **Read verse 7**

That word translated as gift is the Greek word “charisma”...or more specifically “charismata”... it is a word apparently invented by Paul from the word “Charis” which is the Greek word for what?..... GRACE...

So *charismata* refers to “gifts” given by God's grace....most likely the spiritual gifts that we will eventually talk about later in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians... Paul tells us they lacked nothing when it came to spiritual gifts... which is really amazing when you think about it... the most sinful, often plain wicked church didn't lack any of the spiritual gifts!....important!

They couldn't blame their sinfulness on not having everything God had given them to lead lives that matched their sainthood!.... understand this... when you came to Christ you were made complete in Him...not lacking in anything!

When a Christian falls into sin... falls into impurity... immorality... **it is not because he was lacking ANYTHING**.... It was because he did not use what he had!.... God had given us... enriched within us everything we need....remember:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:3 for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.**

They had everything!.... and you know what?.... so do we.... So do all Christians... all of us have gifts of the spirit...we won't spend time on this in that we will cover it extensively later.... Finally.... The third tense is the future.

In the past we received His grace..... giving us a new identity.... Today He is providing us with all we need to glorify Him and do our work for Him... and all we need for all of life and godliness..... and what's really great.... He guarantees our future.....look at verse 8:

### **The Future**

### **Read Verse 8**

Fully sanctified!

I don't know about you but I'm excited about the ultimate future!.... and like many of you I get the sense that it is not too far away.... I can't give you a date of His return but I could sure talk a lot about it if you ever want to!

This is a wonderful verse... it coincides with what Paul was talking about in Philippians 1:6; **“being confident** [a strong Gr. Word... *it is I am absolutely certain... this will happen!*] **of this, that He who began a good work in you** [when did that work start?... at the moment of your salvation... **will carry it on to completion until** [when?] **the day of Christ Jesus.**

We are all waiting... and waiting... that word “awaiting” (verse 7) means *“with eager anticipation!”*...we go on with our daily lives... we plant gardens... we paint the house with good paint that will last 30 years... but we are always looking!....

Just like John in his book Revelation... over and over again John is saying “Jesus is coming”.... “He’s coming”... and he wraps up the book of Revelation with the final words... **“Come Lord Jesus!!!”**

And when He comes... what did Paul say?...**(8) He will confirm you to the end...**in other words... the moment you became a saint... you will never loose your sainthood.... Even though there will be 15 chapters of sin after their salvation.... they will be confirmed to the end.... And so will we.... We will be found.... Even after a life of sin... blameless!

Can we be sure of this?... WHY?....

**Read verse 9**

**GOD IS FAITHFUL!**

The One who gave you new life through His grace.... The One who sustains you in all of life.... the One who will deem you as “righteous, blameless, perfect, on that great day.... It will come to pass because HE IS FAITHFUL!