

I Corinthians 1 – 24 October 2021

“We Preach Christ Crucified”

Introduction

- *Written in 55 AD this is one of the earliest books
- *Paul was ‘here’ 2nd Missionary Journey (see Acts 18)
- *Corinth was 4th most populous city in known world behind only Rome, Alexandria & Antioch
- *Popular sea commerce city w/ all vices of East & West
- *This is a very practical book, teaching us about:
 - Divisions & unity (*This is where we begin today*)
 - Solving Christian disputes in-house
 - Christian marriage when the ideal state is lost
 - Conscience issues like the eating of meats
 - Proper public worship & Doctrine of the Resurrection
- *The central of the practical issues is where we begin with keeping Jesus Christ central avoiding divisions
- *So here are 3 reasons why we, the Church, keep the emphasis on Christ Jesus & His work**

1st reason we keep the emphasis on Christ is b/c He initiated His call and gifting toward us (Vs 1-9)

Read Vs 1

1. Paul was called to this life, he didn't choose it
2. Sosthenes WAS the ruler of the synagogue but has been converted to Christ

Read Vs 2

1. The Corinthians from this corrupt city, are drawn by God into Jesus to be separate from sin
2. God has called us to be saints & to a specific ministry that He reveals to each person

Read Vs 3

1. Typical greeting of God's grace & peace
2. Combines Greek (grace) & the Hebrew (peace)

Read Vs 4-6

1. How do we see God's grace or gifting in them?
 - a. B/c they're growing in their knowledge of Him.
 - b. This is showing they have Christ life in them

2. Vs 5: We're "enriched by Him" or *made wealthy*
 - a. God has initiated good things for us
 - b. W/o His gifts in us, we still sit in darkness

Read Vs 7-8

1. Gifts are graces; same word
2. They'll have all the gifts until the very end
 - a. Big discussion of gifts in Chap 12 & 14
 - b. They don't cease until the end
3. Christ's life in us is how we'll be seen as blameless on the day He comes back

Read Vs 9

1. God keeps us till the end not our efforts
2. Notice, we're called into a fellowship not a religion
 - a. Read Gal 3:1-3
 - b. Relationship w/ God isn't based on rules
 - i. It's based on the Law of Love thru the H.S.
 - ii. Stop asking if that habit is right or wrong & start asking if it will plz your heavenly Father

2nd reason we keep the emphasis on Christ is b/c man's leadership will ultimately divide (Vs 10-17)

Read Vs 10-11

1. Divisions, contentions, schisms
 - a. To the fleshly person, Chloe is a snitch
 - b. To the godly person, Chloe wants to fix broken relationships w/i her area of influence
2. Divisions on primary issue need to be resolved

Read Vs 12-13

1. They mistakenly placed their loyalty in a man instead of keeping it in God
 - a. Don't be opposed to denominations
 - i. They're needed to test believers I Cor 11:19
 - b. But we should be opposed to their overemphasis on what makes them different instead of the commonality of Jesus Christ
2. Paul reminds that Christ did the work, no one else bought your salvation & eternal life!

Read Vs 14-17

1. It's clear Paul didn't link baptism w/ salvation
 - a. In 18 months of being there, he can think of only 3 people that he baptized
 - b. Baptism is the act of showing other that you've already been identified w/ Jesus in death, burial and resurrection
2. Paul's point here is that he served in such a way so that people didn't worship him but God
 - a. He kept the focus on Jesus & His work
3. Remember in Act 14 – Paul & Barnabas in Lystra
 - a. They heal an impotent man
 - b. Then people think they're gods & worship
 - c. Read Act 14:15 – Paul rents his clothes & says we are also men like you but we need to turn away from empty thoughts like this
4. If husband mows his lawn, would wife come & thank the lawnmower? No, b/c it's just the tool

3rd reason we keep the emphasis on Christ is b/c His work unites us in equality (Vs 18-31)

Read Vs 18-20

1. Source of true, effective salvation is only found in the teaching of what Jesus accomplished for us
2. Man's "calculating a plan to gain eternal life" (wisdom) has been embarrassed, by Jesus doing the work
 - a. Read Matt 11:25 – Only those that humble

Read Vs 21-25

1. It's not the method of preaching but the substance of preaching (Christ crucified)
2. Fleshly man looks for a physical, earthly sign (*power*) or an earthly plan (*wisdom*) to earn life
3. Spiritual man sees the *power & wisdom* of God thru the cross

Read Vs 26-28

1. Look around! The people puffed up with earthly pride of power or pride of smarts won't accept the plan of God thru Christ crucified
2. It takes a certain humility that the independent struggle to grasp

Read Vs 29-31

1. Those that come to salvation are those that glory in Christ and don't glory in self
2. The ground is level at the foot of the cross
3. The first day in heaven won't be filled with stories of what we've done to get there
 - a. It'll be filled with the wonders of the cross and how amazing God's plan of redemption is!

Conclusion

When you're learning about a church & all they want to talk about is there denominational legacy, run!

We will keep talking about Christ Jesus and His work on the cross! Why? B/c...

- 1. He's initiated His call and gifting toward us**
 - a. God started this whole adventure calling us into relation with His Son Jesus
 - b. God is the One who equips us for all things
- 2. Man's leadership will ultimately divide**
 - a. Men tend to overemphasize their preferences
 - b. This leads to seeing others as the enemy
- 3. Jesus' work unites us in equality**
 - a. If salvation was thru man's efforts, plans or brilliance, there would be boasting
 - b. But it's the simple applying of the activity of Jesus on the cross that is effective
 - c. Those of us that have accepted Christ know the great wisdom & power of the cross!