

1 Corinthians 1.4

10/21/18

Sunday Morning

Review:

1. Remember that Paul had stayed in Corinth (sinful city that it was) for 1½ years before leaving going to Ephesus then Jerusalem, & ending up back in Ephesus
 2. While in Ephesus, approximately 3 years after leaving Corinth, he received a letter from the Corinthians
 - a. Asking some legitimate doctrinal questions
 - b. He also received word about strife in the church at Corinth
 3. The Church had grown in Christ – but had lost its focus somewhat
 - a. Paul starts off by reminding them that they are a **called** people
 - b. The word Church means “called”
 - i. ἐκκλησία – is made up of 2 words #1. “ek” meaning out of #2. “keleo” meaning to call
 - ii. So the word “church” means someone who is called out of the world
 4. Then Paul goes on to tell them that they are not only called out of the world – but they have been set apart from the world
 - a. God could have called us out of the world & then left us to fend for ourselves while in the world, but He didn’t
 - b. He could have called us w/ no real purpose
 - i. HE did neither. V.2 says that He called us & set us apart from the world

V.2 *to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, saints by calling...*
5. Being set apart means – He has a purpose for us
 - a. We must be equipped to carry out that purpose
 - b. That's why we study the Word together

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate, **equipped** for every good work.
6. In other words – He has **gifted** us w/ the ability to do what HE called us to

Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

V.2 to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

V.3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

V.4 I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,

V.5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,

V.6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,

V.7 so that *you are not lacking in any gift*, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

V.4 x *I thank my God always concerning you*, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,

1. "I thank my God always concerning you"

a. This Church had some problems – still, Paul was thankful for them

i. They carried some baggage – partly from their past

ii. Paul was thankful for what God had done for them

iii. With some family & friends all you can be thankful for is that **God saved them** – but that isn't a minor thing

Luke 10:1 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them two and two ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

² And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

V.9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

V.17 And the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

V.19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you.

²⁰ "Nevertheless do **not** rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice** that your names are recorded in heaven."

iv. You can always thank God for someone who is saved

V.5 x that *in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,*

V.6 x even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,

1. "in everything you were enriched in Him...speech and all knowledge"
 - a. "speech" – Logos = word – communication
 - b. "knowledge" – ability to know!
 - c. They had the knowledge of the truth & the ability to proclaim it

V.6 x even as *the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,*

1. "the testimony concerning Christ was **confirmed** in you"
 - a. You can't have spiritual gifts w/out belonging to Christ
 - i. Spiritual gifts confirmed they were believers
 - b. They were a gifted church – **V.7**

V.7 x so that *you are not lacking in any gift,* awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1. "you are not lacking in any gift"
 - a. The Corinthian's giftedness had nothing to do w/ how spiritual they were
 - i. They couldn't credit themselves w/ having spiritual gifts
 - ii. Their giftedness was **based on God's grace** to them
 - iii. The same is true of you & me
 - b. They were given spiritual gifts to help others walk w/ God
 - c. The purpose of spiritual gifts is to help others walk w/ God
 - i. This is explained later in **1 Cor.12**

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.

V.4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

⁵ And there are varieties of ministries^(operations), and the same Lord.

⁶ And there are varieties of effects^(spiritual energies), but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.

⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit *for the common good*.

1. "for the common good"
 - a. Every believer is given a spiritual gift for the good of other believers
 - b. God gave gifts to the church for the same purpose – **Eph.4**

Ephesians 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

V.11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

¹² *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,*

1. "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service"
 - a. "**equipping**" means to repair or mend
 - i. Same word used in Matthew

Matthew 4:21 And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, **mending** their nets; and He called them.
 - ii. We are each giving spiritual gifts for mending other believers – everyone needs mending at some point
2. "the building up of the body of Christ"
 - a. Literally – the act of promoting another's growth
 - i. Same word used in Romans

Romans 14:19 So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the **building up** of one another.

Romans 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves.

² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.
 - ii. We should not live isolated lives – but care for others

Eph.4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.

¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,

Corinthians 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,

V.5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,

V.6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,

V.7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting *eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

1. "**awaiting eagerly** the **revelation** of our Lord Jesus Christ"

a. "awaiting eagerly" – triple compound word - ἀπεκδέχομαι

i. δέχομαι – to receive – take up – to get – to take hold of

ii. ἀπό – a state of separation – departing – fleeing

iii. ἐκ – out of – away from

b. "the revelation" - ἀποκάλυψις

i. Unveiling – of Christ

c. They were looking for the rapture

d. We are told to be waiting for the rapture – it helps us focus

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

i. What a day that will be!!

ii. Don't give up, looking up – it will be worth it

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not** worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

¹⁹ For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then **you also** will be revealed with Him in glory.

- e. Bad things can happen when we quit looking for Him
 - i. You can get wrapped up in this world if not careful – lose focus
- f. But God is faithful **even if** we lose our focus – **V.8**

V.8 Who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. "Who shall also **confirm** you to the end"
 - a. "Confirm" – to make firm – establish – make sure
 - a. Their standing before God was ultimately in His hands not theirs
 - i. It's God's responsibility to keep you
 - ii. **It's His word that is at stake**, if later, He lost you to Satan

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
³⁹ "And this is the will of **Him** who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me **I lose nothing**, but raise it up on the last day.
 - iii. You can't lose your salvation – b/c God secures you "to the end"
2. "...also confirm you to the end"
 - a. He keeps us until the end
 - i. There is **no article** w/ end
 - ii. That means you can apply "end" (telos) to whatever end you want – end of this age – end of time – end of eternity
 - iii. He keeps us to whichever end!
3. "blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ"
 - a. This is positional standing before God
 - i. Positional blamelessness has **nothing** to do w/ how we live
 - ii. It has **everything** to do w/ whether His blood was sufficient

- b. When you stand before the Father – you will be as righteous as the Son – b/c His righteousness was **imputed** to you
Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? " AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."
⁴ Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due.
⁵ But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is **reckoned as righteousness,**
1. "to the one who does not work, but believes...his faith is **reckoned** as righteousness"
 a. "reckoned" literally means – "to set down on the credit side of a ledger"
 i. Christ righteousness is credited to your account
 ii. When God the Father sees you – He sees His Son's spiritual bank account
- b. That **doesn't negate** that fact that we are judged for how we have lived as a believer
 i. But we are **not** judged concerning salvation
2 Corinthians 5:9 Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.
¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

V.9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. "God is faithful"
 a. The one thing you can always count on is
 i. It is always safe to trust God – you can trust His "keeping" ability too
 ii. You can trust God in every aspect of life

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

iii. It is always safe to believe God

Hebrews 6:18 in order that by two unchangeable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us.

Titus 1:2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

b. Part of His faithfulness is His **ability to do** what He says

i. God is as capable as He is Holy

Ephesians 1:18 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened*, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

2. "you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord"

a. "fellowship" speaks of partnership & participation

b. This **isn't** about church – following rules – being religious

c. It is about being partners w/ Christ

d. It is about **participating in life together**

Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

