

# **The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

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## Study Outline

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## Lesson 1 – Introduction

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The letter of Paul to the Corinthians was written by Paul and Sosthenes (1:1). The purpose of the letter is to rebuke the Corinthians about their sinfulness and set a few things in order in the church.

The opening of the letter is missing the commendation of the believers that often accompany other letters (Romans 1:8; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:5).

The Corinthian believers have been in strife, divisions, comparisons, lawsuits among brethren, and there are people in sexual immorality among them, and some openly so.

“I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> that you were enriched in everything by Him in all <sup>6</sup>utterance and all knowledge, <sup>6</sup> even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed <sup>7</sup>in you, <sup>7</sup> so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be* blameless 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.” (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

### The City of Corinth

The city of Corinth was a center of trade and commerce in ancient Greece. The city was located on the isthmus of Corinth. It was a key point of transportation between the Aegean Sea and Saronic Gulf, making it a major hub for trade and commerce.

The culture of Corinth is a mix of Greek, Roman, and Eastern influences. The city was known for its luxury and decadence, with many wealthy citizens and a vibrant nightlife.

Corinth was known for its many temples and shrines including the Temple of Apollo and the Temple of Aphrodite. Religious rites including sacrifices and, in the case of the Temple of Aphrodite, the temple was said to have over 1,000 temple prostitutes.

Immorality and idolatry were everywhere in the city.

### The Gospel Preached in Corinth

In Acts Chapter 18, Paul came to Corinth and began His apostolic work of preaching the Gospel and discipling the believers.

## Lesson 2 – A Call to Unity

### 1 Corinthians 1:10-31

Verse 10 starts with this call to the Corinthian believers:

*“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all <sup>all</sup> speak the same thing, and that there be no <sup>all</sup> divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*

A. Speak the Same Thing (1:10)

What does this mean?

B. Report of Contentions (1:11)

C. Is Christ Divided? (1:12-16)

This is a rhetorical question. The truth is that Christ is not divided, so divisions occurring is not of Him. Misplacing our faith in Christ’s ministers, instead of putting faith in Christ will lead to division.

D. The Gospel of the Cross (1:17-25)

- a. The preaching of the cross was contrary to human wisdom (opposites)

E. Not many wise men according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble (v. 26-31)

- a. God chose the base things of this world...
- b. He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.

