

The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Study Outline

1. Introduction (1:1-9)
 - a. Writers (1:1)
 - b. Recipients of the Letter (1:2)
 - c. Greetings and Thanksgiving for the Church (1:3-9)
 - i. For the Grace given
 - ii. Enriched in all utterance, all knowledge and they come behind in no gift
2. Divisions in the Church (1:10-4:5)
 - a. A Call to Unity (1:10-31)
 - i. Beseeched by the name of the Lord to speak the same thing (1:10)
 - ii. Report of contentions by the House of Chloe (1:11)
 - iii. Is Christ Divided? (1:12-16)
 - iv. The Gospel of the Cross (1:17-25)
 - v. The Wisdom of God (1:26-31)
 - b. The Method of Preaching (2:1-16)
 - i. Not in excellency of speech or enticing words of man's wisdom (2:1-3)
 - ii. In the demonstration of the Spirit (2:4-7)
 - iii. Wisdom which none of the princes of this world knew (2:8-11)
 - iv. Revealed to us by the Holy Spirit (2:12-16)
3. Carnal Condition of the Corinthian Believers (3:1-4:5)
 - a. Carnal, not spiritual (3:1-3)
 - b. Divisions as evidence of carnality (3:4)
 - c. God, not the ministers, is the true source of blessing (3:5-9)
 - d. Christ is our foundation, no other (3:10-11)
 - e. Build wisely on the foundation. Every work will be tested (3:12-15)
 - f. You are God's Temple (3:16-18)
 - g. God's Wisdom (3:16-23)
 - h. Ministers of Christ and Stewards of the mysteries of God (4:1-5)
4. Humility, not Pride (4:6-21)
 - a. Don't be puffed up (4:6-8)
 - b. Apostolic example of humility (4:9-13)
 - c. Paul, a father to the Corinthian believers (4:14-21)
5. Immorality and Lawsuits Rebuked (5:1-6:20)

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, ⁵ that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed ⁷ in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be blameless* in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ 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. Located on the isthmus of Corinth, the city 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 is 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 Aphrodites. Religious rites including sacrifices and, in the case of the Temple of Aphrodites, the temple was said to have over 1,000 temple prostitutes.

Immorality and idolatry was 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.