
Understand that as we study 1 Corinthians, we are learning about a NT church in its infancy, and also in its immaturity:

As we continue the Apostle Paul's opening salutation to the church at Corinth:

Remember that his initial visit to Corinth was on his 2nd missionary journey; the year is thought to be about AD51.

(Ref. Acts 18)

The Lord's will in regard to Corinth was revealed to Paul in Acts 18:9-11:

Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the Word of God among them

After his stay in Corinth, Paul departed to Ephesus, where Aquila and Priscilla found Apollos, and after instructing him in the way of God more perfectly, it seems he went back to Corinth and preached there.

Acts 18:28: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scripture that Jesus was Christ

As to when the first letter to the Corinthians was written; it is thought to have been in AD53 or 54 and written from Philippi. *(READ V1-9)*

A continuation of Paul opening greeting to the church: (V4-9)

After expressing his heart's desire that God would bestow his grace or favor, and peace to them; he thanks God for the grace that had already been granted them by God.

After Paul's opening greeting to the church, (and as we will see), it becomes abundantly clear that this epistle was designed to correct many sin problems that had arisen in the Corinthian Church. For though God had richly blessed the church and blessed her with knowledge and many gifted people; they were still very spiritually immature as a church.

But how could that be, given Paul's opening greeting, thanking God for God's grace that had been given them. And then (V5-8) it seems he was addressing a very spiritual church.

You are enriched by God, you know the gospel of Christ, you're able to understand and speak and witness of the truths of Christ; the testimony (or gospel) of Christ is confirmed (established) in you; you're not lacking in gifts and abilities as a church!

Paul then encouraged them that God would confirm (keep and establish) then in the faith of Christ to the end of their lives (or to the return of Christ); so that they would not fall away from Christ.

Philippians 1:6: Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ

Jude 24: Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence

of His glory with exceeding joy

The faithfulness of God to do His work in the people of God: (V9)

Beloved of God, you must never forget that your calling and salvation, the establishment, continuance, and the strength of your faith in Christ rests on God's faithfulness.

1 Thessalonians 5:24: Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it

God doesn't begin His work of grace in anyone without finishing what He began. God abandons none of His own children!

There is no doubt that God was moving in the Corinthian church, but, they were also very immature as a church.

First, consider this concerning God's grace given/granted to them:

Just because God was gracious to them as a church, that doesn't mean that all was well within their ranks. Remember, God's grace, when given, is not given based on our goodness, it is never merited or deserved by any, but God's grace is given because of the good pleasure of His will.

Here we begin to understand the design of this letter to the Corinthian Church; if they were to mature and grow spiritually as a church body, her sins must be exposed within her and to her in her members, she must be instructed, chastised, and pointed back to God in repentance!

So yes, it might seem that all was well in Corinth, after reading Paul's opening greeting to the church, but all was not well:

Learn here that a dysfunctional and immature church may at the same time be a very gifted and capable church:

Let us never think to ourselves that everything is ok in the church because we are filled with biblical knowledge, and we have a good understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we know the doctrines of grace.

There are many among professing Christians (in good churches) who KNOW many things about God and the Holy Scriptures, (in doctrine), but in practice and in their lives, they are carnal/spiritually immature.

1 Corinthians 8:1-2, 10:1-12, 13:1-3

Paul first order of business with the Corinthian Church was there were divisions in the church, and contentions. Proverbs 13:10