

Grace in Sin City (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. *We are worn down less by the mountains we climb than with the pebble in our shoe*
 - B. Paul gives thanks for the very church involved in so much trouble
 - C. Reading the text and outlining the sermon

- II. **1 Corinthians 1:4 – *I thank God always concerning you ...***
 - A. Paul's purpose in giving thanks for the Corinthians
 1. It is more than mere convention
 2. It is not a ploy to *butter them up before lowering the boom*
 3. Notice how he does *not* thank them (compared to other churches)
 - a. Romans 1:8
 - b. Ephesian 1:15-16
 - c. 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4
 4. His use of passive verbs emphasize God's work, not theirs
 - a. The problems of the church are best dealt with by making much of Christ!

- III. **1 Corinthians 1:5-9 - What is Paul thankful for?**
 - A. Past grace (1 Corinthians 1:5-6)
 1. *in everything*
 2. *in all utterance and knowledge*
 - a. though these were the cause of their divisions, they were nevertheless gifts from God
 - b. Paul's solution is not to teach cessation of the gifts
 3. *even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you* (v. 6)
 - a. the gifts of utterance and knowledge confirmed that God was at work in the Gospel in Corinth
 - b. but manifestations are not *always* a confirmation of the Gospel
 - B. Present grace (1 Corinthians 1:7)
 1. a church that is actively using their gifts
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:1-27
 - b. God's gifts to the church are a sign of continuing grace
 - c. Some examples of God's continuing grace with us
 2. *eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ*
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
 - C. Future grace (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)
 1. the day of the Lord – a day of judgment and vindication
 - a. What will it be for you? A day of fear or joy?
 - b. Amos 5:18-20 vs. Joel 2:31-32
 2. *confirmed to the end that you may be blameless ...*
 - a. Ps 37:17, 28, Ro 14:14, 2Co 1:21, 1Th 3:13
 - D. 1 Corinthians 1:9 The faithfulness of God to keep you!
 1. It is God who calls you with an irresistible summons and it is He who will keep you (Rom 8:28-30, Jd 24-25)