

1 Corinthians 1:4–9

⁴ 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 in you,

⁷ 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.

“Called Into Fellowship” 1 Corinthians 1:9

INTRO:

When we count our blessings and name them one by one, I wonder if we think in the term the Apostle Paul thought in **1 Corinthians 1:9**. *“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Before we participate in the Lord’s Table this week, I want us to meditate on one of the greatest blessing the Lord Jesus purchased for us at Calvary. Our Meditation will have two parts.

I. God’s Faithfulness: The Source of Our Blessing

II. Christ’s Fellowship: The Substance of The Blessing

I. God’s Faithfulness: The Source of Our Blessing

A. The ultimate blessing we Christians have is the fellowship we enjoy with the Lord Jesus Christ. We have this privilege because Jesus bought it for us at Golgotha. We also enjoy this blessing because *“God is faithful.”*

B. How is God faithful? Ultimately, God is trustworthy because God is faithful to who He is. God will never act in any way to violate His nature.

1. God is a holy God. As a holy God, God cannot and will not tolerate sin. He must judge it. This is the essence of the problem which had to be solved in our salvation. God hates sin and we are sinners. God could not simply forgive us. In sending His Son to die for our sin; in imputing our sin unto Him and His righteousness unto us, God was able to forgive us and not violate His holy nature

2. God is faithful to who He is in that He does not change. In **Malachi 3:6**, Malachi reminded the Jewish people of this truth.

“For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”

C. God is also faithful to His promises. Paul wrote about God’s faithfulness in **Titus 1:1-2**

“Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”

God must keep His promises because it is impossible for God to lie or to forget.

II. Christ’s Fellowship: The Substance of The Blessing

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:9

A. Now that we have established the source of the blessing, let us look at what this great blessing is. What does being called into the fellowship of His Son mean? The word translated ***“fellowship”*** is the Greek word which means to have in common.

B. What do we share together in common with the Lord Jesus Christ? The New Testament tells us there are several areas in which we share together in common with our Lord. The following is only a sample list.

1. We share together in his life. **Galatians 2:20** reads:

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

We share together in His life because we shared together in His resurrection.

Ephesians 2:4-6 says:

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

2. We share together in His resources. This is clear in the contrast between two verses.

First, **John 15:5**, Jesus said

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Compare this with Paul’s statement in **Philippians 4:13**

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

This is true because in our fellowship with Him, His resources are at our disposal.

3. We share together in His value system. When Paul contrasted the natural man, the carnal man and the spiritual man he wrote in **1 Corinthians 2:16**

“Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.”

4. We share together in His sufferings. There are two texts that speak to this reality.

Philippians 3:10

“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

How does this work? In **Colossians 1:24** Paul gave us more insight.

“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church.”

When Jesus left this world, his enemies were not done with their hatred and animosity toward Him. The hatred and hurt that they would pour on Him, they pour on us who bear His name. In this limited way we share together in His sufferings. **Acts 9:4b**

“Why persecutest thou me?”

5. We will share together in His glory. **Romans 8:16-17**

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

Now very quickly let me flip the coin. Fellowship is two sided. If we share in these things of His, He also must share in the things which are ours. **Revelation 5:12**

“Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.”

Should He not have all of our POWER?

All of our RICHES?

All of our WISDOM?

All of our STRENGTH?

All of the HONOR and GLORY and BLESSING that we can bring to His name with our lives?

Why? We should want to do this because He has called us into fellowship with His Son. He has shared all that He is with us and in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Isn't it a very small thing to give Him all that we are and have in return?

Hymn #210 Jesus Paid It All