

Pursuing holiness because of God's faithfulness

1 Corinthians 1:1-9, p. 923

I. CALLED TO BE HOLY: PAUL GREETES THE CHURCH AT CORINTH (1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3).

- A. Paul wrote as an apostle of Jesus Christ [and friend of their friend Sosthenes] (1:1).
 - The story of the Corinthian church (Acts 18:1-17)
- B. Paul greets the Corinthians as saved and holy already, yet called to live holy and unique in Corinth (1:2).
- C. Paul prays they will experience God's grace and peace (1:3).

II. THANKFUL FOR YOU: PAUL REMINDS THE CHURCH OF GOD'S GRACE AND FAITHFUL WORK IN THEM (1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-9).

- A. Paul was grateful for the Corinthians because they were recipients of God's grace (1:4-8)
 - 1. They are saved by grace (4) = So don't boast about anything but Christ
 - 2. Their spiritual gifts confirmed the message of Christ (5-7) = So don't use your gifts for selfish reasons
 - 3. God would confirm them blameless when Christ returns (8) = So focus on holiness, not conflicts and distractions
- B. God is faithful to keep working in us because He called us into an eternal relationship with Him (1:9).