

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Lesson 1

Alan Redpath titled his commentary of 1 Corinthians, The Royal Route To Heaven, patterned after a song of the same title written by A.B. Christiansen. The first stanza is as follows: *There's a royal route to heaven – Will you travel it today? 'Tis the path of full surrender all along the homeward way. It is yielding every moment to the blessed Savior's will, seeking only for His glory, and His purpose to fulfill.* As you study 1 Corinthians may you have the glorious sense of being a child of the King of kings traveling on the Royal Route.

DAYS ONE and TWO: Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 has been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-3

Verses 4-9

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Paul, God, Jesus, church

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Corinthians 1:1-9. Remember, as you mark words such as Paul, God, and Jesus to mark any personal pronouns which refer to them (He, Him, I).

3. Another key word that we will be marking throughout our study in 1 Corinthians is any reference to the recipients of this letter. Choose a symbol (or simply underline) to represent the people Paul is writing to and mark each time he refers to them. For example, in the verses we are working on in this lesson (verses 1-9), mark *church of God, those, who, you* when they refer to the recipients. You may also want to mark the word *our*, but it is not necessary. Actually, there is **nothing necessary** in this homework. Marking key words and making lists from them should be according to what **you personally** see as significant. In other words, there is no **right** way to mark and list words. Using the symbol you have chosen, mark the references to the recipients in 1 Corinthians 1:1-9.

4. Now, using the chart provided with your Observation Work Sheets, record what the first nine verses of 1 Corinthians 1 reveal about the **Author(s)** and the **Recipients**.
5. In these first nine verses of 1 Corinthians, there are several references to Christ (Don't forget the *who* in verse 8). Record the verse number and write the phrase referring to Him. Sometimes the name of *Jesus* is mentioned, but you may not feel that what is said really tells us something pertinent about Him. You don't have to list that reference. (Example: you may not feel that the fact that Paul was called to be *an apostle of Jesus Christ* really reveals anything about *Jesus*. If you feel it is pertinent, go ahead and list it; if not don't. This is your list for your learning.) We have provided for you the first reference (and a few numbers) to help get you started. Include the referenced verse(s) in parenthesis at the right of each item.
 1. He sanctifies (2)
 - 2.
 - 3.

DAY THREE: Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

1. The first letter to the Corinthians begins with the acknowledgement that the letter is from Paul and Sosthenes. To whom is this letter addressed? Verse 2
 - a. The words of this letter are not confined to those of the *church of God which is at Corinth*. Write the phrase from verse 2 that tells you this letter is to you also.
2. Describe and define the believers using 1 Corinthians 1:2b.
 - a. Notice the words *to be* in verse 2 are in italics. This means they have been added by the translator. Eliminate the *to be* and write what every believer is called.
 - b. Many have an erroneous concept of what a *saint* is. The root idea of *saint*, as it refers to Christians, is *separated*. *Saint* identifies us as persons *separated* from the ordinary. Believers are *different* from others because they belong to God and to God's service. How does a person become a *saint*?

3. *Grace* is God's unmerited favor most evident by His gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. *Grace* also includes all of God's blessings. *Grace (favor and spiritual blessing) be to you...1 Corinthians 1:3 AMP* Where does *grace* and *peace* come from? Verse 3
 - a. Receiving God's *grace* brings *peace*. God offers *grace* and *peace* to all who will receive it. In a world of confusion, pressure and turmoil how does God's *grace* and *peace* make a difference in your life?

*Grace and peace are twin sisters, grace being the firstborn.
Where grace abounds, peace thrives. Where grace is stunted, peace shrivels.
- Charles Stanley*

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-7

1. Jot down Paul's attitude expressed in verse 4.
 - a. Even though Paul has some weighty concerns and strong words for this church, he begins with a positive attitude of thankfulness. In what way does this challenge you as you deal with issues and confrontations in relationships?

2. Paul is thankful for God's *grace given* by Christ evidenced through these believers. In the chart below fill in the spaces that indicate the reasons for Paul's thanksgiving:

verse 4 *I thank my God always concerning you for the* _____

verse 5 *that you were* _____
_____ *in all* _____

verse 6 *even as the* _____

verse 7 *so that you* _____
_____ *eagerly waiting* _____

verse 8 *who will also* _____ *that you may be*

- a. Summarize what you learned about the Corinthian church from these verses.

3. The *grace* of God given by Jesus Christ was confirmed in these believers evidenced by the statement *that you were enriched in everything by Him*. Define the word *enriched*.
 - a. What are some specific ways you have been *enriched* by God?

4. From verse 5, what two areas were the Corinthians *enriched by Him*?

Challenge: Explain what is meant by the word *utterance*.

5. *The testimony of Christ was confirmed in the Corinthians*. *Confirmed* means *to establish or make reliable so as to warrant security or inspire confidence*. What are some ways that *the testimony of Christ* (your salvation) has been *confirmed* in you?

6. 1 Corinthians 1:7 refers to spiritual *gifts*. List some of those gifts by referring to Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, and Ephesians 4:11.

Challenge: Define spiritual *gifts*.

- a. We will be learning more about spiritual gifts when we study 1 Corinthians 12 and 14. What are you most eager to learn about the gifts? Why?
7. From verse 7b, what were these Christians *eagerly waiting* for?
 - a. Read 1 John 2:28 and 3:3. As we await our Lord Jesus' return, what should characterize our lives?

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

1. God not only confirms our salvation but He *confirms* (establishes and sustains) us (verse 8). For what length of time will the Lord do this?
 - a. Describe how you have personally experienced God's sustaining work in your life.
 - b. According to this verse, why does He do this? See also Jude 1:24.
 - 1.) Define the word *blameless*.

2. Using verse 9, how can we be sure we will be participants of the 1 Corinthians 1:8 promise? Write your answer in three words in big, bold print.
 - a. Pause and think about God's *faithfulness*. Sometimes we gain a deeper understanding of a word by looking at its opposite (antonym). Write a few opposites of the word *faithful*.
 - b. What does it mean to you that *God is faithful*?

3. What has God *called us into*? Verse 9
 - a. Describe the privilege of fellowship (or friendship) with Jesus according to John 15:15.
 - 1.) What are some other benefits? (Use Scripture if you have time).

DAY SIX: Review 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

1. As you reread these verses observing again the phrases containing the name of Christ, which one impacts you the most and why?
2. Briefly explain, as if talking to a new believer, the meaning of the following words:
Saint

Grace

Fellowship
3. Complete this sentence. *God is faithful; therefore* _____
_____.
4. Comment on how this study of 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 has spoken to you.

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely;
and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Scripture References for Lesson 1

Day Four

- 6** Romans 12:6-8 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Cor. 12:8-10 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Ephes. 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

- 7** 1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Day Five

- 1b** Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

- 3a** John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Day Six

1 Thessalonians 5:23,24 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.