

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-9

1. Paul opens this epistle in his customary way. What information does he provide about himself that he considers important for the Corinthians to know? See verse 1.
  
2. What do you learn about who an *apostle* was and what he did from the following verses? See Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3:14-15; Acts 1:21-22; Galatians 1:1; 1 Timothy 2:7.
  
3. Paul says he was called by *the will of God*. How would that knowledge give Paul courage and determination in light of the many trials and persecutions he endured?
  
4. God didn't call you as an apostle, but *His will* is specific for you too. What are some aspects of your life you know to be clearly ordained as *the will of God*? See Matthew 22:35-38; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Peter 2:15.
  - a. What are some other specific ways you live out God's will in your life? For example: not being anxious, being faithful in your marriage.

5. How does knowing God's will for *you* bring peace in the midst of the many distractions, pressures, and choices found in the world?
  
6. Not much is known about the Sosthenes named here in verse one. There is a Sosthenes mentioned in Acts 18:17 who was a ruler in the synagogue in Corinth, but whether these men are one and the same cannot be determined. Yet what do we know for sure about the Sosthenes of verse 1?
  
7. Who was Paul writing to (verse 2)? What details do we learn about the recipients of his letter in verse two?
  
8. What does it mean to be *sanctified* [Strong's #37]? Now look up 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:26; 2 Timothy 2:21 for further insight into what this word means.
  
9. Every believer has been called by God to be a saint, but what does that mean? Look up *saint* [Strong's #40]. The first usage of the word *saint* in the Bible is found in Psalm 16:3, then in Psalm 34:9. How do those verses, along with Ephesians 2:19, give you insight into what it means to be called to be a saint?
  
10. How does that name—*saint*—affect your thinking and how you live your life for the Lord?

11. After Paul's greeting, he gives the Corinthian believers a special benediction. What is it (verse 3)?
  
12. When we desire someone to receive God's *grace*, what is it that we hope for them? See Psalm 84:11; Romans 5:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 2:7; Hebrews 4:16.
  
13. When we desire someone to receive *peace* from God, what is it that we hope for them as well? See Psalm 29:11; Isaiah 26:3; Luke 1:79; John 14:27; Ephesians 2:17-18.
  
14. A blessing like this in verse 3 sums up all the good things we desire for others to have. How can you use this blessing or a similar one in your life this week?

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Grace! tis a charming sound, harmonious to the ear; Heav'n with the echo shall resound and all the earth shall hear.

'Twas grace that wrote my name in life's eternal book; 'twas grace that gave me to the Lamb, who all my sorrows took.

Grace taught my wand'ring feet to tread the heav'nly road; and new supplies each hour I meet, while pressing on to God.

Grace taught my soul to pray, and made mine eyes o'er-flow; 'twas grace which kept me to this day, and will not let me go.

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