

In What Do You Boast? (1 Corinthians 1)

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Introduction: Consider the background of Corinth

- A. Located on a narrow rock of land called the "isthmus" that connected Greece and Achaia.
 - 1. Old Corinth was destroyed by the Roman consul L. Mummius, B.C. 146.
 - 2. Rebuilt 100 years later by Julius Caesar as a Roman Colony.
- 3. The population was about 600,000. It was a wealthy city with all nationalities visiting there.
- B. One main source of revenue was derived from the Temple of Venus (Goddess of Love or Licentious Passion) where 1,000 or more priestesses, dedicated to harlotry, worked.
 - 1. Another impact on the character and wealth of Corinth was that of the Isthmian games that were conducted near the city. Paul frequently refers to these games.
 - 2. The citizens are described as "dishonest, litigious, speculative, suspicious, factious, volatile, and excessively egotistic."
 - 3. Paul entered it Corinth alone and was joined by Silas and Timothy about 3 months later. Paul found there Aquila and Priscilla and lived with them since their trade (tentmakers) was the same as his. He reasoned in the Jewish synagogue until his companions arrived. He was in Corinth 1 1/2 years. **(Acts 18:1-17)**
- C. The church had many problems but asked Paul for help.
 - 1. To correct matters Paul sent Timothy and Erastus to Corinth **(Acts 19:21-22; 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10)**.
 - 2. Before their return the church in Corinth wrote Paul asking questions regarding many things. 1 Corinthians is Paul's response to those questions.
- D. There are ways we indicate what is really important to us.
 - 1. If you are with someone long enough, you learn what is important to them.
 - 2. What is really the most important thing to you?

I. What Did God do for Paul and the Corinthians? (1:1-9)

- A. Would you have considered Paul the right man for the job? **(1 Cor 1:1; 1 Tim 1:12-16)**
- B. Would you consider the Corinthians likely candidates to obey the gospel? **(1 Cor 6:9-11)**
- C. We all must be humbled and full of praise for what God has done for us.
 - 1. He called us. **(1 Cor 1:1-2)**
 - 2. He has given us His grace. **(1 Cor 1:4)**
 - 3. He has enriched our minds. **(1 Cor 1:5)**
 - 4. He will confirm us to the end. **(1 Cor 1:8)**
 - 5. He will be faithful. **(1 Cor 1:9)**

II. A Fruit of Improper Boasting - Division (1:10-17)

- A. Satan often attempts to pervert that which is a gift from God. **(1 Cor 8:1-2; 1 Tim 3:6)**
- B. What are preachers for? **(1 Cor 3:5)**

1. The Corinthians used preachers as a focal point. All division needs a rallying point.
 2. What should they have seen in these preachers? **(1 Cor 3:21-23)**
- C. What is Baptism for? **(1 Cor 1:14-17)**
1. It is not for any glory to the baptizer! **(Jn 4:1-2)**
 2. Many do view Baptism as a show to glory in.
- D. How do we deal with division? **(1 Cor 1:10)**
1. Consider the three questions of verse 13.
 2. What do you have that you did not receive? **(1 Cor 4:6-7)**
- III. The Basis of the Christian's Boast - The Cross of Christ (1:18-31)**
- A. There are two systems that are in conflict: Spirituality and Carnality. **(1 Cor 1:18)**
1. One is man centered -- the other God centered. One is physical - the other spiritual.
One has the majority - the other the minority.
 2. One contains the lost - the other the saved.
- B. Things in which the world boasts.
1. "Wisdom" **(1 Cor 1:19-21)**
 - (a) In fact this is only an appearance of wisdom.
 - (b) What did Rome glory in?
 - (c) What did this glory blind them to?
 2. "Signs" **(1 Cor 1:22)**
 - (a) There are many "worldly religions".
 - (b) There are ways to obtain emotion without commitment.
 - (c) What did this glory blind them to?
 3. What was the final position of these people? They fought God! Guess who will win?
 - (a) If they had known they would not have fought God! **(1 Cor 2:7-8)**
 - (b) Could you be doing this? Is your wisdom Godly or worldly?
- C. How does the world view Christianity? **(1 Cor 1:23-28)**
1. It is foolish, weak and despised. Please do not try to win the world through worldly wisdom. They will only mock you. (Ex. Brother Hall visiting man on plane)
 3. The world's wisdom destroys those who hold it.
 - (a) Stumbling Block **(v. 23)**
 - (b) God's weakness is more than a match. **(v. 25)**
 - (c) Their end is shame **(v27)**
- D. What then do we boast?
1. Not in our selves. **(V26-28)**
 2. Our boast is in God! **(v29-31)**
- Conclusion:** Who do you think you are? What has God done? **(Psa 8:3-4, 9)**
- A. Let God be your boast! **(Gal 6:14)**
 - B. Will you let God be with you?