

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 “Grace for Victory As A Saint”

- Paul spent approx. 18 months here on his 2nd missionary journey.

Acts 18:1-18

1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to **Corinth**.

2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.

3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus is the Christ*.

6 But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, “Your blood *be* upon your *own* heads; I *am* clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

7 And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain *man* named Justus, *one* who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.

8 Then **Crispus**, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;

10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”

11 And he continued *there* **a year and six months**, teaching the word of God among them.

12 When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to **the judgment seat**,

13 saying, “This *fellow* persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.”

14 And when Paul was about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you.

15 But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look *to it* yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such *matters*.”

16 And he drove them from **the judgment seat**.

17 Then all the Greeks took **Sosthenes**, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before **the judgment seat**. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

18 So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila *were* with him.

- It was toward the end of Paul's three years in Ephesus that he wrote this letter to the church in Corinth, because Paul had received word of some of the problems that had developed in the church in Corinth after he left.
- **Paul's 3rd missionary journey found him once again in Corinth for a short time.**

Acts 20:2-3 Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

1 Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

- "Paul" – lit.: "small"
 - He once was "Saul"
 - The greatest on all from the tribe of Benjamin
 - Tall, handsome, the first human king of Israel.
 - Many boys of the Benjamites were named after Saul in hope of them becoming a great, tall, beautiful giant of a man.

- "*to be*" – (*italics*) not found in any manuscripts – added to bring clarity
- Paul was undeniably an Apostle – **called** by Jesus Himself.
- Paul understood it was only by God's grace.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

9For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, **yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**

- Paul argues his case as an Apostle later in this same letter:

1 Corinthians 9:1-2 Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? **2** If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

- **SOSTHENES.** The chief ruler of the synagogue at Corinth, and successor (or possibly colleague) of the converted *CRISPUS.
 - He was assaulted in court after Gallio disallowed a Jewish prosecution of Paul (Acts 18:17), either in an anti-Semitic demonstration by Greeks (as Western Text) or in Jewish spite against an unsuccessful or lukewarm spokesman.

- The latter might indicate pro-Christian sympathy: did ‘Paul sow, Apollos water’ (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6)?
 - ‘Sosthenes the brother’ is co-sender of 1 Corinthians (1:1)
 - **Sosthenes is not the commonest of Greek names.**¹
- **Sosthenes – the enemy of the Cross, the most unlikely to be saved!**
 - **Never stop praying for those that seem impossible to save.**
 - **Now, he’s “(our) brother”**

Romans 5:6-11

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if **when we were enemies** we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11 And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

2 To the church of God which is **at Corinth**, to those who are sanctified **in Christ** Jesus, **called (to be) saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **“at Corinth”**
- **“in Christ Jesus”**
 - Did you know that Jesus doesn’t care what your address is, He simply cares if you’re **“in HIM!”**
- Paul, **“the called one,” (Apostle)** speaking to the:
 - **“sanctified ones”** – set apart for a holy purpose
 - **“called saints”** – anointed for a specific purpose
 - **How difficult to live a sanctified, called and saintly life in such a city!**
 - **Did God make a mistake in planting this people in that:**
 - **Time**
 - **Location**
 - **Ministry**
 - **Challenges?**

cf. *confer* (Lat.), compare

¹Wood, D. R. W., & Marshall, I. H. (1996). *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed. /). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press.

- **Did not God give us the tools to succeed in our purpose:**
 - **Grace**
 - **Peace**
- **Paul** (“little”)– called by **Grace**
- **Sosthenes** (“safe in strength”) – called by **Grace**
- **The Saints** – called by **Grace** – lest any man boast
- **Grace** that brings:
 - Peace with God – through the power of the Cross
 - Peace of God that passes all understanding