

INTRODUCTION

- * Today, we are beginning a new series of studies - a consideration of Paul's first epistle to the church of Corinth. As we will see throughout the book, the church of Corinth truly sat at the crossroads of clashing cultures ... and they struggled in knowing how to apply their new faith in the One True God in a world of hedonism and idolatry. Sound familiar?
- > THE CITY OF CORINTH
 - Located at the isthmus which connected the main body of Greece with the southern body ... and was a short-cut for east-west travel
 - It was the site of the Isthmian games ... and a melting pot of nationalities
- > THE CHURCH OF CORINTH
 - Comprised potentially of many nationalities ... this spawned a large cultural divide between Jews and Gentiles
 - They were dealing with the conflicting Libertine views of the Gentiles and the Legalistic views of the Jews
 - Additionally, due to their location they soon began to deal with many false teachers and doctrines.
- * As we study this letter, we will be touching upon many issues and doctrines with which the church is still struggling. Our struggles and temptations have not changed. It is our heart that needs to change and submit to the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- * The only way to properly deal with trials within the church is to remember exactly whose church it is!

INSTRUCTION**I. THE CHURCH IS E_____ BY GOD (cf. Acts 16:6-12; 17:1; 17:10-16; 18:1-17)****A. Paul's Path to Corinth****B. Paul's Ministry in Corinth****II. THE CHURCH IS C_____ BY GOD (v. 1-3, 9)****A. He Calls Us to S_____ for Christ (v. 1; cf. Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:4-16)****B. He Calls Us to H_____ in Christ (v. 2)**

1. UNDERSTANDING THE TERMS

a. Church (ἐκκλησία): literally, _____

b. Saints (ἅγιος): literally, _____ (cf. 1 Peter 1:13-19; Leviticus 11:44-45)

2. UNDERSTANDING THE CONDITIONS

a. Our _____: We Have Been Set Apart in Christ

b. Our _____: We Are Being Set Apart to Eternal Life (v. 8)

C. He Calls Us to F_____ with Christ (v. 9; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 1:3)**III. THE CHURCH IS E_____ BY GOD (v. 4-7)****A. ... With the Gift of Grace (v. 4; Ephesians 2:8-9)****B. ... With the Gifts of Grace (v. 5-7; 1 Corinthians 12-14)****IV. THE CHURCH IS C_____ BY GOD (v. 8-9)****A. The G_____ of the Confirmation (v. 8)****B. The B_____ of the Confirmation (v. 9)****INTROSPECTION**

- * TO WHOM DO YOU BELIEVE THE CHURCH BELONGS?
DO YOUR ACTIONS MATCH YOUR BELIEFS?
- * HOW FAITHFULLY ARE YOU USING THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TO SERVE HIM?
- * HOW IMPORTANT IS HOLINESS TO YOU?
IS IT YOUR DESIRE TO BE INCREASINGLY SET APART TO GOD?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?