

“Grace That Is Greater”
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
1/3/21
Message 1

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Grace That Is Greater”

- **A NEW YEAR -**

- We have Come to the end of 2020 and have begun a New Year - 2021
- **Question – How Many of you make New Year’s Resolutions?**
 - Suggestion - Here is some Good Resolutions to make!!!
 - Make more time to be with God – Devotions – Prayer
 - Be at Church in Fellowship More – Mid Week Study
 - Now of those who make Resolutions...
 - How Many of You keep them?
 - How Many of you Fail?
 - It’s Not Easy...
- **Question – Don’t Raise your hand**
 - How Many of you FAIL God?
 - We Try our Hardest BUT just Fall Short
 - Just can’t seem to get it right?
 - You are NOT ALONE
 - If we are Honest we all feel like that...
 - The Church at Corinth was LIKE THAT
 - It was a HUGE MESS
 - But maybe even worse –
 - SOME don’t even appear to Be Trying to Please God –

- They have become completely Carnal
- BUT What we are about to see in this GREAT Book
 - Even though they were Carnal (Worldly)
- God's Love for them is SO much GREAT – His Grace That Is Greater

• **Background**

- **1st Corinth**
 - **Brief - Information**
 - Corinth
 - Was located in southern parts of Greece
 - Was a large city - 700,000 people
 - Was a Roman Colony on Grecian Soil
 - Was also a wealthy city – because of Its Location
 - It was called the “VANITY FAIR” Of the Roman Empire
 - It sat at the base of a 4 mile stretch of land that stood between the **Adriatic & Aegean Seas**
 - Because of its 2 seaports Corinth became a major Commercial center.
 - To avoid sailing 200 extra miles around Southern Greece
 - Sailors would put their boats on rollers / roll them 4 miles
 - This made Corinth a convenient & popular stopping place for these sailors - looking to get drunk & indulge in one night stands

• **Show Pictures**

- **Sin of Corinth**
 - Because it was a “Resort Type” of city
 - It attracted those seeking pleasure from all over the region.
 - The city of Corinth was also filled with Evil

- Shrines & Pagan Temples
- The most popular was the Temple of Aphrodite
 - "Goddess of love"
 - It Employed 1000 temple prostitutes who went out every night soliciting business in the name of worship
- The City Was so BAD
 - Paul Wrote the book of Romans there
 - Man demise - turned from worship the creator but creatures & practice every immoral thing / homosexuality
 - All Paul only had to look out His window
 - In Rome at the time they had a saying to describe those who lives were Characterized by living Loose / immoral / drunkenness
 - They said you are behaving like a Corinthian.
 - Many Have Compared it to SF It
 - Reports from pastor that have done ministry in SF – It's a VERY DARK (Evil) PLACE
- **2nd Establishment of the Church in Corinth**
 - Paul founded the church on his "Second Missionary Journey" - Acts 18
 - Spent 18 months there
 - Review - Paul's Second Missionary Journey
 - **Show Picture 2nd Missionary Journey**
 - **1st Paul and Silas strengthen churches in Syria and Ci-li-ci-a (Acts 15:40–41).**

Acts 15:40–41 (NKJV)

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.
41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

- **2nd Timothy Joins Paul**

Acts 16:1–3 (NKJV)

- 1** Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek.
2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.
3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.

- **3rd They Apostles go over to Phrygia and the Galatian country, forbidden to preach in Asia (Acts 16:4–6)**

Acts 16:4–6 (NKJV)

- 4** And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem.
5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.
6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.**

- **4th Approaching Mys-i-a, they wish to enter Bi-thyn-ia (Buh-THAI-nee-uh) (Acts 16:7)**
- **5th Barred from Bi-thyn-ia, (Buh- THAI-nee-uh) they go to Troas (Acts 16:7–8)**

Acts 16:7–8 (NKJV)

- 7** After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.
8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

- **6th The Macedonian call at Troas (Acts 16:9–10)**

Acts 16:9–10 (NKJV)

- 9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”
10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

- **7th Ministry at Philippi; Paul and Silas imprisoned (Acts 16:11–40)**
- **8th Ministry at Thessalonica; persecution aroused (Acts 17:1–9)**
- **9th Persecution continues at Be-re-a; Paul goes to Athens; Silas remains (Acts 17:10–15)**
- **10th Paul preaches on Mars’ Hill (Acts 17:22–31)**
- **11th Ministry at Corinth**

- Paul joined by Silas and Timothy (Acts 18:1–17)
 - Paul also writes 1 and 2 Thessalonians
- **12th Paul takes Aquila and Priscilla and goes to Ephesus (Acts 18:18–19)**
- **13th Brief stay at Ephesus (Acts 18:19–21)**
- **14th Leaving Aquila in Ephesus, Paul sails of Caesarea (Acts 18:21, 22).**
- **15th Brief Stop in Jerusalem (Acts 18:22)**
- **16th Heads Back to Antioch (Acts 18:22)**
- **Sin in The Church of Corinth**
 - THIS IS A CORRECTIVE LETTER-!!!
 - The SIN – Overview
 - 1st They Lost Sight of the Lordship of Jesus
 - As a Result
 - Instead of making an impact on Corinth
 - The pagan city of Corinth was impacting the church
 - Sin Was DEEP in the Church
 - They stopped BEING SEPARATE
 - Our Call “In the World not OFF the World”
 - 2nd It was NOT Legalism - It was License - the opposite of legalism
 - That was the problem
 - *Stedman; “The Corinthians had accepted the grace of God but had taken grace to such an extreme that they didn’t think it mattered to God how they lived their lives.”*
 - The Sin Detailed
 - 1st Carnal Divisiveness Not Removed - I Corinthians 1:10-4:21
 - 2nd Moral Discernment Not Practiced - I Corinthians 5:1-6:20

- 3rd Marital Difficulties Not Resolved - I Corinthians 7:1-40
- 4th Lifestyle Disagreements Not Settled - I Corinthians 8:1-10:33
- 5th Male / Female Distinctions Not Honored - I Corinthians 11:1-16
- 6th Spiritual Devotion Not Experienced - I Corinthians 11:17-34
- 7th Ministry Differences Not Accepted - I Corinthians 12:1-14:40
- 8th Essential Doctrines Not Believed - I Corinthians 15:1-58
- 9th Conclusion - I Corinthians 16:1-24
- Are they even SAVED?
 - Just a quick look at the letter and we would wonder if they were even saved!!!
 - Yes as we will see
 - *Alan Redpath "It is possible for a Christian to live on a carnal level instead of on a spiritual level. It is possible to walk after the flesh even though we are converted to walk in the Spirit. It is possible to be saved, but to be saved as by fire: one day to stand before the judgment seat of Christ stripped of everything but our soul's salvation."*
 - Although this is a corrective letter –
 - It is filled with GRACE and understanding of our position in CHRIST

• **This Morning We will look at 5 wonderful truth in Grace That Is Greater**

- The Scope Of God Grace vs. 1-2
- The Source Of God's Grace v. 3
- The Sacrifice Of God's Grace v. 4
- The Supply Of God's Grace vs. 5-7a
- The Security Of God's Grace vs. 7b-9

The Scope Of God Grace vs. 1-2

• **First: Paul's Apostleship v. 1**

1 Corinthians 1:1 (NKJV)

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

- **1st Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God v. 1a**
 - **1st Who is Paul?**
 - Paul was born Saul! (Saul means "asked")
 - Most likely he was named after King Saul!
 - They were both from the tribe of Benjamin
 - The tribe of Ben was described as a ravenous wolf!
 - Saul fit that description, until he became Paul!!!
 - He was responsible for killing many Christians
 - While on his way to kill more Christians, "on the road to Damascus"!!!
 - Jesus came to him and appeared to him and asked him why are you persecuting Me? And was there converted!
 - His name was changed to Paul, (means little) he was sent by the Spirit to be an apostle to the gentiles. (Acts 9:15)
 - **2nd What is an Apostle?**
 - The word "apostle"
 - Refers to "an official emissary sent to deliver a strategic message.
 - Much like a member of the State Department sits down with someone from a foreign regime, and relays a Presidential message, they're functioning like an apostle.
 - Paul had a message FROM GOD
 - **3rd Now are there Apostles today? NO**
 - We are all disciples but I believe that the title of an apostle was only for these men at this time!
 - McGee, gives requirements for apostleship!
 - The apostle receives their commission directly from the living lips of Jesus.

- The apostle saw the Savior after His resurrection.
- The apostles exercised a special inspiration.
 - They expounded and wrote Scripture (John 14:26, 16:13 / Gal. 1:11-12)
- They exercised supreme authority. (John 20:22-23 / 2 Cor. 10:8)
- They were given a universal commission to find churches (2 Cor. 11:28)

▪ **4th By the will of God**

- Paul was "an apostle... by the WILL of God..."
- You don't run for election to become an apostle...
- You don't earn the position by climbing the ladder...
- The only way to be an apostle is if God wills it!
- Lesson: What are you by the WILL of God
 - God has called each of us to do and be something by the will of God!!!
 - You are His ambassador on this planet!!!

▪ **5th Lesson – A Work Of God's Grace**

- As we saw in the introduction – GOD SENT the Apostle Paul to them!!!
- A Work of GREAT GRACE

○ **2nd Sosthenes our brother v. 1b**

- This man Sosthenes is perhaps mentioned in Acts 18:17
- As the head of a Corinthian synagogue who was beaten because he protected Paul.
- When Paul first came to Corinth
 - The ruler of the synagogue was a man named Crispus.

- Crispus believed on the Lord with all his household (Acts 18:8), and was saved.
- So he was fired from – or quit – his job as ruler of the synagogue!
- His replacement was a man named Sosthenes
- He was beaten for bringing Paul before the civil court at Corinth (Acts 18:12–17).
- Perhaps this same Sosthenes in Acts 18:17 is now with Paul
- So Paul calls attention to the man with him whom the Corinthian Christians would know:
- Sosthenes our brother.

• **Second: In Paul's Address To Them v. 2**

1 Corinthians 1:2 (NKJV)

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:

- **1st To The Church Of God**
 - Greek word for church (ekklesiai)
 - An “assembly” of people, typically gathered together for a specific purpose
 - Called OUT –
 - To Be Separate
- **2nd To those who are Sanctified in Christ Jesus**
 - Sanctified – (Greek Hagiazō)
 - To dedicate, separate, set apart for God; to purify, make conformable in character to such dedication
 - This is the verb form of the word “holy”.
 - “Sanctifying” something makes it “holy”.
 - A “saint” is someone who is “holy”, someone who is “sanctified”

- Every believer has been set apart by God and for God for His good pleasure and purpose
- That cake has been "sanctified" for that person's use only.
- This word can be confusing because it carries several different ideas.
 - Initially- It's DONE
 - When you first accepted Christ, God put a "stamp" on you and declared you "holy", or "separated for His use".
 - This means to be set apart
 - Process -
 - There is also a process that we go through as believers where we are learning more and more what it means to walk in "holiness".
 - In this life we will never become "sinless"
 - But we sure ought to be learning to "sin less".
 - This is something we work at every single day.
 - Finally -
 - There will be a day when in heaven we will be completely "sanctified", or completely delivered from the presence of sin.
 - That's the day we receive new bodies, bodies that do not have a sin nature attached.
 - We will no longer be tempted by sin and we will be "sinless".
- **3rd They're Saints**
 - The word Saint (Greek - Hagios (hag'-ee-os)).
 - It means holy, to be set apart! To be set aside for the sole use of God.
 - Interesting that as messed up as this church was... God called them "saints"
 - Every believer is a "saint" at the moment of conversion

- It is not something you earn; it is something you are...its your position
- **4th Both theirs and ours**
 - Based on the common Lordship of Jesus Christ.
 - The Corinthian Christians are called... saints, but this isn't exclusive to them.
 - They are saints together with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Source Of God's Grace v. 3

1 Corinthians 1:3 (NKJV)

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

First: Grace to you and Peace

- **The greeting including grace and peace is typical of Paul's letters**
 - Grace –
 - God's
 - Riches
 - At
 - Christ's
 - Expense
 - Peace
 - Shalom - harmony, tranquility
- **Always GRACE & PEACE**
 - You can't have the PEACE of God without the GRACE of GOD

Second: The Lord Jesus Christ:

- The SOURCE – Jesus
 - Can't Happen without Jesus

The Sacrifice Of God's Grace v. 4

1 Corinthians 1:4 (NKJV)

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,

- **First: I thank my God always**

- Paul will later spend most of this letter rebuking sin and correcting error
- Yet he is still sincerely thankful for God's work of GRACE in the Corinthian Christians

- **Second: For the grace which was given to you by Jesus Christ**

- **Everything good the Corinthian Christians have from God has come to them by grace.**
 - Grace means that God gives freely, for His own reasons.
 - The sacrifice of God's grace was the result of Jesus Christ lowering Himself for our sakes

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV)

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

- God's grace should produce thankfulness...not license

The Supply Of God's Grace vs. 5-7a

- **First: They were Enriched – v. 5**

1 Corinthians 1:5–7 (NKJV)

5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,

- **1st Enriched - The word that speaks of Spiritual wealth**
 - Notice Paul says that we have been enriched in everything by Him
 - Haven't you found that to be true that your relationship with Jesus
 - He has enriched our lives in every way - in every area
 - Marriage
 - Friendships
- **2nd All Utterance**
 - In regard to speaking for God (cf. Acts 4:29, 31; Eph. 6:19; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15)

- Believers are able to speak when God wants them to because of His enablement.
- **3rd All Knowledge**
 - In Order to Speak
 - God provides believers with all the knowledge they need in order to speak effectively for Him (cf. 2:9; Matt. 11:15; 2 Cor. 4:6; Col. 1:9, 10)
 - In Life in General
 - BC - We were in the dark - everything was a mystery
 - But now it has all been revealed in Him
 - Found true meaning of life / knowing Jesus / walking /growing / serving
 - Haven't you found - a lot wiser - since known Him - study His word

Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Psalms 119:105 (NKJV)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

• **Second: We are given a testimony v. 6**

1 Corinthians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,

- **1st They heard the testimony of Christ, they received it by faith**
 - The fact that they had these gifts was a confirmation of God's work in their lives

• **Third: We have been gifted v. 7a**

1 Corinthians 1:7 (NKJV)

*7 **so that you come short in no gift**, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

- They Had Gifts from The Holy Spirit
 - Paul says the Corinthians were not lacking in gifts - Gifts were Flowing
 - Corinth was behind in no gift but they were messed up

- Paul thanks God for the gifts among the Corinthians, even though they were causing some trouble.
- He recognizes that the gifts were not the problem, but wrong attitudes and beliefs about the gifts.

The Security Of God's Grace vs. 7b-9

• **First: The Result Of That Security v. 7b**

1 Corinthians 1:7b (NKJV)

7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

- **1st The Corinthians were Premillennial**
 - **Premillennial**
 - Is the Only position that is Eagerly Awaiting Jesus' Return
 - They were expecting the imminent return of Jesus to resurrect and rapture the church
 - It speaks of waiting with anticipation & also activity - being active
 - No Christian couch potatoes
- **2nd Lesson –**
 - Is that a description of our life? Eagerly waiting
 - What is our life about?
 - What am I pursuing?
 - What takes up my time?
 - Is it reflective of a heart that is eagerly awaiting the coming of our Lord?

• **Second: The Reassurance Of That Security v. 8**

1 Corinthians 1:8 (NKJV)

8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **1st There is an “end” game**
 - You can read the playbook – It's the last book of the Bible

- When Jesus resurrects or raptures you, you will be presented “blameless”
- You will be given a new, glorified physical body; you will be without sin; you will be rewarded.
- **2nd In the meantime Jesus “will also confirm you to the end”**
 - “Confirm” is a legal, technical term that means something like guarantee
 - What God has begun in you He guarantees that He will finish

• **Third: The Reason For That Security v. 9**

1 Corinthians 1:9 (NKJV)

9 *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

- **1st “God is faithful”**
 - He who began a good work...the beauty of His grace
 - Notice that God does this, so we can have fellowship with Jesus
 - This is why we’re saved – to know Christ!
- *Stedman; “This is the key verse of 1 Corinthians. The rest of the letter centers on this one statement. Paul wants the Corinthians to understand that God has called them to a special relationship. The failure to maintain this relationship is the reason for all of the problems in the Corinthian church. In failing to understand the relationship they had with Jesus, they had fallen prey to a list of problems that the apostle was about to deal with: divisions, scandals, lawsuits, immorality, drunkenness, quarreling, and more.”*

Closing

- The Corinth Church Lost Sight Of...
 - Lordship
 - Their position in Christ
 - Paul Is seeking to Correct - He First Reminds them of GRACE
 - Grace, grace, God's grace
 - Grace that will pardon and cleanse within
 - Grace, grace, God's grace
 - Grace that is greater than all our sin

Communion

- Paul gives us 4 guidelines to follow as it relates to participating in communion

- **First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)**

- V. 24 *This do in remembrance of Me*
- But Christ specifically mentions - Remember MY DEATH
- Because everything that we have and are as Christians is centered in His death .
- WHAT ARE WE TO REMEMBER
 - **1st we must remember what He did**
 - Body bruised and beaten
 - Blood Shed
 - Intense Pain
 - Misery
 - He Left Heaven / NEVER forget WHO He is!!!
 - **2nd We need to remember why He died**
 - WHY because He loved us
 - He was our substitute
 - He paid the Price that was owed to us / paid the penalty
 - Blood shed - remission of sins
 - Blood access into - God's presence - / Blood made clean & New

- **Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28**

1 Corinthians 11:27–28 (NKJV)

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:31–32 (NKJV)

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

- **Examine yourself / have you fallen?**

- We need to examine ourselves to make sure our hearts are right - that we are partaking in a worthy manner
- Unconfessed Sin
- Compromise
- Bitterness
- Every time WE come to the Lord's Supper, We should examine ourselves

Psalm 139:23–24 (NKJV)

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;
24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- **Come to Jesus! This can be your 1st communion**
 - How ABC

• **Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26**

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NKJV)

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

- In Reverence
- In His Compassion
- In His Victory
- In His 2nd Coming

• **Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34**

1 Corinthians 11:33–34 (NKJV)

33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.
34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

- Paul closes this chapter By exhorting the Church to get their act together
- BE ONE
- UNITY
 - What is Unity
 - Unity is BASED on Theology / Biblical Truth NOT Feelings and Emotions
 - We can NOT be united with those outside the FAITH

- Can't Be united with a Mormon / they don't believe Jesus is God
- Can't Be United with those who are False Teachers
- NOW We must LOVE but there can't be UNITY
- MUST have Unity in the Faith
 - We MUST have unity with those WHO stand God's Truths
 - This is NOT something we can say well one day... or only if they...
NO we must be UNITED
- **Sadly OVER the YEARS**
 - Seen Over the Years I have SEEN SO MUCH DISUNITY
 - I have seen many good churches split for NO good reason
 - Nothing was wrong except for PRIDE got in the way
 - Disagreements in Philosophies only
 - Illustrations from Auburn
 - Watched churches fall apart
 - They would come to us
 - We were the
 - Flavor of the week...
 - Church of the month
 - Gossip WAS ALWAYS at the CORE
 - Gossip about each other
 - Gossip about the pastor
 - We Must Engage in Community
 - Illustration

- Moving to CP we Noticed a lack of community / a lot different from Auburn
- Lot of People move here to get away from...
 - Now that may or may not be okay for a community
 - But it's not okay for the Body of Christ
 - We must engage with each other
 - IT IS NOT HEALTHY to ONLY engage once a week with the body of Christ
- So BLESSED to See how our body responded to Wayne and Cindy
 - So you can see it is SO CRITICAL THAT WE STAY UNITY

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*