

## 1 Corinthians 1:1-18 • “The Power of the Cross”

### Saul / Paul / 2nd Missionary Journey/ Corinth

#### Acts 18:1-18

After this Paul left Athens and **went to Corinth**. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And **he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade** he stayed with them and **worked, for they were tentmakers by trade**. And **he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks**.

When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, **Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus**. And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. **From now on I will go to the Gentiles.**” And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. **Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord**, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians **hearing Paul believed** and were **baptized**. And **the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision**, “Do not be afraid, but **go on speaking** and **do not be silent**, for **I am with you**, and no one will attack you to harm you, **for I have many in this city who are my people.**” And **he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them**.

But when **Gallio was proconsul** of Achaia, the **Jews made a united** attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.” But **when Paul was about to open his mouth**, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. **I refuse to be a judge of these things.**” And he drove them from the tribunal. And they all seized **Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue**, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

**After this, Paul stayed many days longer** and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila.

While in Ephesus, Paul writes to the church in Corinth.

The church in Corinth was a chaotic mess. Paul had to address these issues: quarreling, divisions, incest, arrogance, legal cases before unrighteous judges, sexual immorality, marriage, divorce, widows, confusion about food offered to idols, divisions over corporate worship, social snobbery at the Lord's Table and elevating one spiritual gift above others.

Q: Are these issues unique to only the church in Corinth?

Paul's means of dealing with all of these issues? - The Gospel.

1Corinthians 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

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

1Corinthians 1:2 To the **church of God** that is in Corinth, to those **sanctified** in **Christ Jesus**, **called to be saints together** with **all those** who in every place **call upon the name** of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, both their Lord and ours:

1Corinthians 1:3 Grace to you and peace **from** God our Father and the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

1Corinthians 1:4 I give **thanks to my God** always for you **because of the grace of God** that **was given** you in **Christ Jesus**,

1Corinthians 1:5 that in **every way** you were **enriched in Him** in all speech and all knowledge—

1Corinthians 1:6 even as the **testimony** about **Christ** was **confirmed** among you

1Corinthians 1:7 **so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Romans 12:4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members **do not all have the same function,**

Romans 12:5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Romans 12:6a **Having gifts that differ** according to the grace given to us, **let us use them...**

1Corinthians 12:7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**

1Corinthians 1:8 who will **sustain you to the end, guiltless** in the day of our **Lord Jesus Christ.**

1Corinthians 1:9 **God is faithful,** by whom you were **called into the fellowship** of his Son, **Jesus Christ our Lord.**

1Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, **brothers,** by the name of our **Lord Jesus Christ,** that **all of you agree,** and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be **united in the same mind** and the same judgment.

1Corinthians 1:11 For it has been reported to me by **Chloe's people** that there is **quarreling** among you, **my brothers.**

1Corinthians 1:12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

1Corinthians 1:13 **Is Christ divided?** Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Mark 3:24 If a kingdom is **divided** against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

1Corinthians 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except **Crispus** and **Gaius**,

1Corinthians 1:15 so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name.

1Corinthians 1:16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

1Corinthians 1:17 For **Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel**, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, **lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power**.

1Corinthians 1:18 For the **word of the cross** is folly to those who are **perishing**, but to us who are **being saved it is the power of God**.

Christ sent Paul to preach the Gospel.

The Gospel is Good News because of the cross.

No cross, no Good News, no power (mighty means) to save.

No Cross, No Gospel.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the **gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

1Peter 2:24 He himself **bore our sins in his body on the tree**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed**.

Colossians 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

Colossians 1:22 **he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death**, in order to present you **holy and blameless and above reproach before him**,

The Cross of Christ is why we are set apart as Holy.

The Cross of Christ is why we are progressively being made Holy.

The Cross of Christ is why we have peace with God and constant grace from God.

The Cross of Christ is why Jesus sustains us as guiltless.

The Cross of Christ is why we can wait well

for the revealing of our *Lord Jesus Christ*.

The Cross of Christ is why we look forward to the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
without any fear.

and

The Cross of Christ is the only reason and the only way we can be united, without  
divisions with all of our brothers and sisters who in every place call upon the name  
of our Lord Jesus Christ

1Corinthians 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and  
him crucified.