

SESSION 1 : 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

INTRO TO FIRST CORINTHIANS

INTRO:

- We are starting systematic study with the church
- It will be combined with youth
- My job today is to introduce to this book

1. History and Background

- a. There was another letter written but was lost (5:9)
- b. This was written from Ephesus about after 8 years after church plant
- c. City of Corinth:
 - i. Trade center
 - ii. Cultural center
 - iii. Very religious
 1. Ritual prostitution (big temple, about 1000 women priests)
 - iv. Sports
 - v. Situation in Corinth is very similar to what we have
- d. Church Situation:
 - i. Founded on 2nd Missionary journey (Acts 18)
 - ii. City influenced the church
 1. Sexual Sins (chapter 5)
 2. Lawsuits (Chapter 6)
 - iii. Church interested in Worldly wisdom (1:18)
 - iv. Misuse of spiritual gifts (ch. 12-14)

- v. No Love (ch. 13)
- vi. Lack of spiritual growth (3:1)

2. Called to be Holy

- a. Key words:
 - i. Called
 - 1. Smaller group from bigger group
 - a. Ex. wedding invitation, church meeting
 - ii. Church of God
 - 1. This is God's church
 - 2. Ekklēsia - meeting called to decide city' business
 - 3. Church must influence the world not the other way around
 - iii. Sanctified & Called to be saints
 - 1. A saint is anyone who has been saved and then they are set apart for holy use.
 - iv. Therefore, we are called to influence - that is the main goal of the church
- b. Despite all problems Paul still calls them holy
 - i. Same thing with us
- c. Gathered at ANY place
 - i. Church is people NOT building
 - 1. We are temple of God (3:16)
 - 2. 2-3 gathered in Jesus name he is among us (Mat. 18:20)
 - ii. Some theologians said they had small groups
 - 1. Divisions (verses 11-17)
 - 2. Chloe's household (verse 11)
 - 3. "And every day, in the temple and at home, they ceased not to teach and to preach Jesus as the Christ." Act 5:42

3. Work of Grace in us

- a. This is Paul's prayer (verses 4-9)
- b. Paul lists all the blessings that we get because of grace:
 - i. Word
 1. ...and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel (Eph 6:19)
 - ii. Knowledge
 1. Found 29 times in the NT
 2. First Corinthians 10 times, Second - 5
 3. Mostly in negative way
 - a. Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. (1Co 8:1)
 4. Lesson: even something good given by God can be severely misused
 - iii. Testimony of Christ
 - iv. Spiritual Gifts
 1. It's possible to be gifted but be spiritual babies
 - v. Hope of Second Coming
 - vi. Assurance of Salvation
 1. God equipped enough for us to make it
 2. For he is FAITHFUL (verse 9)
 - vii. Fellowship with Jesus

CONCLUSION:

- Please notice the language:
 - All spiritual blessings we got are because of Jesus
 - Christ in the center (Христоцентричність)