

Abounding Grace Christian Church

A Study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians – Part 2

I. Exposition of Chapter One (continued).

A. **Verse 2 (cont.)** – “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:”

1. The word “**church**” never refers to a material building or a denomination. It refers to the assembling together of God’s people. Kevin J. Conner writes:

“In essence therefore, the Church (The Ekklesia) is a body of people, not so much assembling because they have chosen to come together, but because they have been chosen to come together to assemble, because God has called them to Himself; not so much to share their own thoughts and opinions, but assembling to listen to the voice of God. It is the ‘called out company’, and ‘assembled together’ people (Revelation 5:9). It consists of living people, an organism and not a mere organisation.”¹

2. “...who are sanctified in Christ Jesus...” - The word “**sanctified**” means; “**to render or declare sacred or holy, consecrate.**”² Verlyn D. Verbrugge writes:

“Paul then describes this church as ‘those sanctified in Christ Jesus.’ The word ‘sanctified’ is a perfect passive participle of the verb *hagiazō*, which denotes that these believers have been sanctified in the past and now stand in a holy relationship with the Lord. In Paul’s thinking, when people believe in Jesus as Lord they not only become justified, but they also become sanctified—i.e., set apart from the world and dedicated to God. With all that was going on in the church in Corinth, it might seem strange to call this group of believers ‘sanctified,’ but Paul allows his theology to rule here rather than his observations. This is the way we should view all who are in Christ—as fellow believers justified and sanctified in Christ Jesus.”³

3. “...called *to be* saints...” – The word “**saints**” means; “**set apart by (or for) God, holy, sacred**”⁴ Contrary to some church traditions, every true Christian is a saint.

4. Note, this wasn’t exclusive to the Corinthian believers for Paul adds; , “...with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours...”

B. **Verse 3** – “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” - This is typical of Paul’s greetings to the churches he wrote to. Dr. Thomas Constable writes:

“Grace was the common Greek salutation meaning ‘greetings’ or ‘rejoice.’ In Greek peace is equivalent to the Hebrew *šālôm* meaning ‘favor,’ ‘prosperity,’ and ‘well-being.’ It is interesting that those two words of salutation always occur in this order in the New Testament. Theologically God’s grace is the basis for and leads to man’s peace”⁵

C. **Verse 4** – “I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,” – Paul is grateful for God’s grace working in the Corinthians. Despite the fact that the Corinthian church had a lot of problems, Paul recognized God was working in them by His “**grace**” which means; “**to show kindness to someone, with the implication of graciousness on the part of the one showing such kindness**”⁶ Andrew Murray – 1828-1917 wrote:

“Grace is not only the power that moves the heart of God in its compassion toward us, when He acquits and accepts the sinner and makes him a child. It is also the power that moves the heart of the saint and provides it each moment with just the disposition and the power which it needs to love God and do His will.”⁷

¹ Kevin J. Conner, *The Church in the New Testament* (Conner Ministries, 2020), 36.

² Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Novi Testamenti* (New York: Harper & Brothers., 1889), 6.

³ Verlyn D. Verbrugge, “1 Corinthians,” in *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: Romans–Galatians (Revised Edition)*, ed. Tremper Longman III & Garland, David E., vol. 11 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 260.

⁴ Alexander Souter, *A Pocket Lexicon to the Greek New Testament* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1917), 3.

⁵ Thomas L. Constable, “1 Thessalonians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 690.

⁶ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 748.

⁷ Andrew Murray, *Covenants and Blessings* (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House Publishing, 1984), 110,111.

D. Verse 5 – “...that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,

1. The word “**enriched**” means; “**to cause someone to have an abundance of that which is of value or worth**”⁸
2. Paul specifies that they were enriched in two areas. First in “**all utterance.**” The word “**utterance**” means; “**the word or that by which the inward thought is expressed,**”⁹ The Greek word (*logos*) is found 17 times in this epistle and is also translated as “**preaching**”, “**speech**”, “**word(s)**”, and “**saying**”. The other area they were enriched in was in “**knowledge.**” This word means; “**knowledge of an especial kind and relatively high character, Lk. 11:52; Rom. 2:20; 1 Tim. 6:20; more particularly in respect of Christian enlightenment,**”¹⁰ Dr. Stanley Horton asserts:

“This grace was being manifest in two special ways, in speaking (including tongues, interpretation, and prophecy) and in the rich knowledge (including the gift of the word [message] of knowledge) that their speaking revealed.”¹¹

E. Verse 6 – “...even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,...” – The way the NLT translates this verse “**This confirms that what I told you about Christ is true.**” In other words, the utterances and knowledge given by God confirmed the Gospel message. Dr. Thomas Constable writes:

“The Corinthians’ reception of these gifts had endorsed the truthfulness of the gospel. Giving these gifts was one of the ways that God validated (‘confirmed’) the gospel message in the early history of the church (cf. Gal. 3:2-5; Heb. 2:3-4).”¹²

F. Verse 7 – “...so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

1. The word “**gift**” is found seven times in this letter (1:7; 7:7; 12:4, 9, 28, 30, 31). It is the Greek word “**charisma**” which is where we get the word “**charismatic.**” So, a “**charismatic church**” is a church which believes that the charismatic gifts are still available today. It’s important to point out that no where in the Scriptures does it teach that they ever ceased.
2. “**...eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,**” – This is speaking of the second coming of Christ. It states that they were “**...eagerly waiting.**” Grant Richison writes;

“The Greek word is a double compound word...meaning to wait with enthusiasm, to await ardently....Oh, what a day it will be to see the Savior unveiled before our eyes. Christians eagerly anticipate the coming of Christ. This is active anticipation of looking forward to the coming of Christ.”¹³

3. This implies that the Church is to expect these gifts to be in operation until the Lord returns. Dr. Stanley Horton confirms this when he writes:

“The Corinthians recognized that the charismatic gifts of the Spirit were by grace through faith. They also expected them to continue until Jesus comes. So may we, for the time of His coming is not revealed even yet (Acts 1:7; Mark 13:32–33;”¹⁴

G. Verses 8-9 – “...who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

1. Paul ends his introduction by encouraging the Corinthians that the Lord Jesus will “**confirm**” to the end, or until Jesus comes again. The word “**confirm**” is the same Greek word as in **verse 6** and means; “**to cause someone to be firm or established in belief—to cause to believe, to establish in belief.**”¹⁵
2. The reason Paul could say this with confidence is because “**God is faithful...**” – God is trustworthy, reliable and dependable.

⁸ Louw and Nida, 600.

⁹ H.G. Liddell, *A Lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott's Greek-English Lexicon* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996), 476.

¹⁰ William D. Mounce, *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 11. 13.

¹¹ Stanley M. Horton, *I & II Corinthians: A Logion Press Commentary* (Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 1999), 20.

¹² Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on 1 Corinthians* (<http://www.soniclight.com>: Sonic Light Publication, 2025), 20.

¹³ Grant Richison, *Verse by Verse through the Book of 1 Corinthians* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, 2007), 1 Co 1:7.

¹⁴ Horton, 22.

¹⁵ Louw and Nida, 376.