



I Corinthians 1:1-9 New Revised Standard Version

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

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

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

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Notes: _____



“Imperfection is the prerequisite grace. Light only gets in through the cracks.”

-Philip Yancey

We live in a world that discourages imperfection. Pick up a magazine or watch any number of television ads and one will find all types of products, practices, and promises aimed at making a person healthier, wealthier, and wiser. We work hard to accentuate the positives in our lives and make certain others know what we are best at doing. While at a different time and place, the Apostle Paul addressed matters of inadequacy and personal pride when writing to the Christians in Corinth. It would seem from reading what has come to be known as I Corinthians there were issues on the table which created division, feelings of inferiority, and even spiritual arrogance. Knowing the dangers of such attitudes and habits, Paul took a firm yet loving approach to recalling the grace of God to which all of humanity is indebted; grace which leaves no room for pride.

1. It is by grace that we are set apart for God’s special use.

2. It is by grace that we are equipped in order to carry out our calling.

3. It is by grace that we are able to complete our work without shame.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, without your grace my life is a mess. It is only through your grace that I am able to overcome my personal pride and feelings of spiritual superiority toward others. Forgive me for the times when I feel entitled to your love only to neglect others.