

FIRST CORINTHIANS

Background

Dr. Robert (Bob) Gromacki

- A. Writer: Paul (1:1; 16:21)
- B. City of Corinth
 - 1. Located on the isthmus that formed a land bridge between the Aegean and Adriatic seas
 - 2. Situated 40 miles west of Athens, Corinth was the capital of the southern province called Achaia
- C. Establishment of the church (Acts 18:1-18)
 - 1. Occurred during Paul's second missionary journey
 - 2. Key People: Aquila, Priscilla, Silas, Timothy
 - 3. Ministry lasted for 18 months
 - 4. Both Jews and Gentiles saved
- D. Time and place of writing
 - 1. From Ephesus during Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 18:23 – 19:10 and 1 Cor. 16:8)
 - 2. A.D. 52 – 55
 - 3. Sources of information about the Corinthian Church
 - a. Apollos (1 Cor. 1:12; 16:12)
 - b. Household of Chloe (1 Cor. 1:11)
 - c. Three members of the church (1 Cor. 16:17)
 - d. Letter sent from the church to Paul (1 Cor. 7:1)
- E. Purpose in writing
 - 1. To correct the problems mentioned in personal reports (1 Cor. 1 – 6)
 - 2. To address the moral and doctrinal issues revealed in the letter (1 Cor. 7 – 16)

GREETING AND PRAYER
(1:1-9)

- A. Author (1:1)
- B. Readers (1:2)
- C. Blessing (1:3)
- D. Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:4-9)
 - 1. For grace (1:4)
 - 2. For enrichment (1:5)
 - 3. For confirmation (1:6-7)
 - 4. For preservation (1:8)
 - 5. For faithfulness of God (1:9)

NATURE OF CHURCH DIVISIONS
(1:10-17)

- A. Divisions are contrary to the apostolic word (1:10-11)
- B. Divisions exalt personalities (1:12)
- C. Divisions are unreasonable (1:13)
- D. Divisions stress the outward (1:14-16)
- E. Divisions do not exalt the cross (1:17)

NATURE OF HUMAN WISDOM
(1:18-25)

- A. Human wisdom cannot understand the meaning of the Cross (1:18-20)
- B. Human wisdom cannot save (1:21-23)
- C. Only Christ can save (1:24-25)

NATURE OF DIVINE CALLING
(1:26-31)

- A. It is not based on the position of man (1-26)
- B. It manifests divine interest (1-27)
- C. It is contrary to human expectations (1:27-28)
- D. It removes human pride (1:29)
- E. It will result in the glorification of God (1:30-31)

THE MISSION OF PAUL
(2:1-5)

- A. His method (2:1)
- B. His message (2:2)
- C. His manner (2:3)
- D. His means (2:4)
- E. His motive (2:5)

THE WISDOM OF GOD
(2:6-13)

- A. It can be known only by the mature (2:6)
- B. It is a mystery (2:7-8)
- C. It goes beyond human expectations (2:9)
- D. It has been revealed (2:10-11)
- E. It can be known through the Holy Spirit (2:12)
- F. It can be taught by persons to persons (2:13)

THE CLASSIFICATIONS OF MAN
(2:14 - 3:4)

- A. Natural (2:14)
- B. Spiritual (2:15-16)
- C. Carnal (3:1-4)

METAPHORS FOR BELIEVERS
(3:5-17)

- A. We are a farm (3:5-9)
- B. We are a building (3:9-15)
- C. We are a temple (3:16-17)

MOTIVATIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS
(3:18 – 4:7)

- A. In relation to self – Let us not be deceived (3:18-20)
- B. In relation to others – Let us not exalt them (3:21-23)
- C. In relation to the Word of God – Let us be faithful stewards (4:1-5)
- D. In relation to abilities – Let us be thankful (4:6-7)

MARKS OF CARNAL BELIEVERS
(4:8-21)

- A. They find their satisfaction in this world (4:8-10)
- B. They have not been persecuted for Christ's sake (4:11-13)
- C. They do not follow the example of godly people (4:14-17)
- D. They resist spiritual authority (4:18-21)

CHURCH DISCIPLINE
(5:1-13)

- A. Act of sin (5:1)
- B. Attitude of the church (5:2)
- C. Attitude of Paul (5:3-5)
- D. Appeal of Paul (5:6-13)

DISPUTES BETWEEN BELIEVERS
(6:1-11)

- A. Believers bring shame to the cause of Christ when they ask the unsaved to arbitrate personal disputes (6:1-3)
- B. Believers have the capacity to judge themselves (6:4-6)
- C. Believers can only lose when they go before unsaved arbitrators (6:7-8)
- D. Believers should understand the destiny of the lost (6:9-10)
- E. Believers should rejoice in their salvation (6:11-12)

THE BODIES OF BELIEVERS
(6:12-20)

- A. Our bodies should be controlled (6:12-13)
- B. Our bodies have a divine purpose (6:13-14)
- C. Our bodies are joined to Christ (6:15)
- D. Our bodies should not be violated (6:15-18)
- E. Our bodies are temples (6:19)
- F. Our bodies are owned by God (6:20)