**"THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS"**

**Chapter One**

**OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER**

1) To understand how division is unacceptable is the Body of Christ and to avoid our church from reaching this stage!!!

2) To see why our boasting should be only in the Lord

**SUMMARY**

In his opening remarks Paul expresses gratitude that the Corinthians

had been enriched by God, came behind in no gift, and were eagerly

waiting for the revelation of the Lord (**1-9**). He immediately begins

dealing with the first problem, that of division which manifested

itself in what we might call "preacheritis" (**10-17**). Discerning that

the underlying cause concerns the exaltation of human wisdom, Paul

demonstrates the folly of boasting in such (**18-31**).

**OUTLINE**

**I. INTRODUCTION (1-9)**

 **A. GREETINGS FROM PAUL AND SOSTHENES** This Sosthenes was a Jewish leader who, when his plans to attack Paul ended in an embarrassing rejection by the Roman ruler Gallio, was beaten and rejected by his own people. It is not far fetched to think that this man that was beaten and isolated may have been one that Paul himself would have approached, showing compassion. In so doing maybe this onetime enemy of Paul became a friend of the church and a brother. Paul probably would have had a special sympathy for Jewish leaders persecuting the church, for that was Paul’s own history back when he was Saul. **(1-3)**

 1. To the church at Corinth, and those who in every place call on

 the name of Jesus (**2**)

 2. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus (**3**)

 **B. THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S GRACE TOWARDS THEM (4-9)**

 1. Enriching them in all knowledge, even as Christ's testimony

 was confirmed in them (**5-6**)

 2. Coming short in no gift as they eagerly await the revelation

 of the Lord Jesus Christ (**7**)

 3. Who will confirm them so they may be blameless (**8**)

 4. For God is faithful, who called them into the fellowship of

 His Son (**9**)

**II. THE NATURE OF THE DIVISION AT CORINTH (10-17)**

 **A. AS REPORTED TO PAUL (10-12)**

 1. His plea for unity (**10**)

 2. For those of Chloe's household have reported contentions among

 them (**11**)

Chloe….Reference to Chloe is found in the New Testament in Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth. Members of the house of Chloe brought the divisiveness of the teaching and preaching among certain members of the young Corinthian church to Paul's attention. Paul wrote the letter to deplore their dissention, immorality, and wrong thinking, and to answer the Corinthians's questions about marriage and virginity and the sacrificial offerings made to idols. He addressed their moral infractions and helped them better understand the Resurrection of Christ, as well as the Resurrection of the dead.

He had founded the community in or about A.D. 51. The community was established in the ancient city of Corinth, a crossroads of trade in the Mediterranean. It was a virtual melting pot of different people espousing various ideas, including those of pagan cults, and moral depravity was commonplace.

Paul acknowledges that word had reached him from the “house of Chloe,” suggestive of a house church that Chloe's family may have owned and occupied. Paul wasted little time with pleasantries in his letter. He tackled the issue of divisiveness head-on.

In the letter, Paul also addresses the problem of moral disorders emerging in the young church. Women who had participated in the church's fellowship and prayer without their veils or head covering were on Paul's agenda. Women may have also wanted to address the gathering, and possibly weren't permitted; they may have been arguing over the right to speak before the gathering.

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. (1 Corinthians 1:10–11)

A member had engaged in a sexual relationship with his father's wife. Other church members talked about it openly, as though they were giving praise for the great freedom Christianity ensured. However, Paul insisted that the man had to be removed, and that no Christian should associate with anyone who was immoral (1 Corinthians 5:1–13).

They had legal battles in the pagan courts, and some even may have participated in cult prostitution. Paul did not hesitate to exert his authority when necessary, but he dealt with each the issues using Christian purity and values as his guide.

Chloe, who most likely kept the house church, is not mentioned again in the Scriptures.

**The Main problem was…Interpretation of Scripture!!!**

**Every one who felt was led of God to minister in word..had their own version of what scriptures were saying.**

**Some were so swell headed and wanted to be better than the next.**

**They were so heavenly minded they became earthly no good!**

 **B. PAUL'S INITIAL REACTION (13-17)**

 1. Rhetorical questions to illustrate the absurdity of what we

 would call "preacheritis" (**13**)

 2. Gratitude that he personally baptized few of them (**14-17**)

 a. Lest any should accuse him of baptizing in his own name

 (**14-15**)

 b. Administering baptism was not his chief calling anyway

 (**16-17**)

**There were a lot of heady and high minded preachers in the church!!!**

**III. THE FOLLY OF BOASTING IN HUMAN WISDOM (18-31)**

 **A. GOD WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE (18-25)**

 1. Granted, the message of the cross is foolish to some, but not

 to the saved (**18**)

 2. But God will the destroy the wisdom of the world (**19-20**)

 3. God chose to use His foolishness and His weakness to save

 those who believe (**21-25**)

 a. Because the world through its wisdom knew not God (**21a**)

 b. So God chose to save mankind through a "foolish" message

 about Christ crucified (**21b-24**)

 c. But even God's "foolishness" and "weakness" is wiser and

 stronger than men (**25**)

 **B. THE CORINTHIANS' OWN CALLING DEMONSTRATES THIS TRUTH (26-29)**

 1. Not many of them were "wise, mighty, or noble" These were the true believers(**26**)

 2. But God has chosen those things that are "foolish, weak, base,

 despised, and which are not", so that no flesh should glory in

 His presence (**27-29**)

 **C. INSTEAD, BOAST IN THE LORD (30-31)**

 1. He provides for us the true wisdom, plus righteousness and

 sanctification and redemption (**30**)

 2. We should glory only in Him (**31**)

**END CHAPTER 1**