



GRACE
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
love. truth. grace.

**“We are identified with Jesus Christ in His
crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and heavenly seating”**

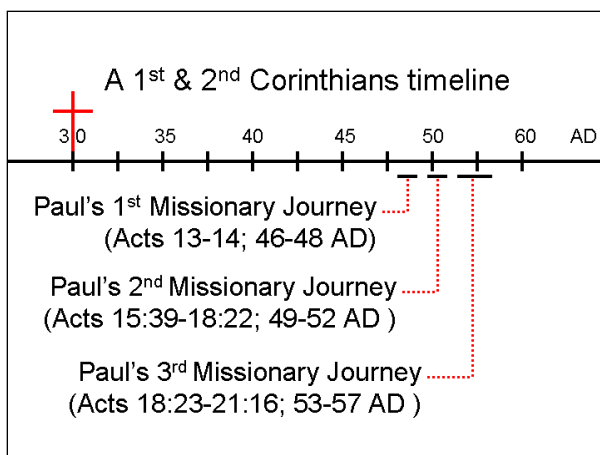
1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (NASU)

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

2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus,
saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their
Lord and ours:



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

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ
Jesus, 5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, 6 even as
the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift,
awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end,
blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, through whom you were called
into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.





Paul: A man of contrasts

- Born as Saul, the Jew (Acts 7:58)
- Steeped in the Law (Philippians 3:5)
- Persecuted the church to the point of death (Acts 8:1, 3; 9:1; 22:4; 1 Timothy 1:12-16)
- Born again as Paul, a believer (Acts 9)
- A steward of Grace (Ephesians 3:1, 2)
- Founded & then established the 1st churches in Gentile lands (Acts 13-28), including Galatia

Paul's Earthly Resume

- Born a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin (Romans 11:1; Philippians 3:5)
- Born in Tarsus, raised in Jerusalem (Acts 22:3)
- Educated in Judaism under Gamaliel, the son of Simeon, the son of Hillel (Acts 5:34, 22:3)
- Roman citizen (Acts 16:37,38; 22:25-29; 23:27)
- Tentmaker by trade (Acts 18:1-3)
- Likely fluent in Greek, Latin, Hebrew & Aramaic
- Aggressive persecutor of the church (Acts 8:1-3)

But beyond that...

- Paul had a special assignment as an apostle: the apostle to the Gentile lands (Acts 9:15; Romans 15:15,16; Galatians 2:7-9; Ephesians 3:8)
- Paul conveyed some teachings not disclosed by the other apostles:
- Believers have the 'adoption of sons'
- The body of Christ
- Believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit
- Believers have all been identified & united with Christ
- Listing & explaining the spiritual gifts
- Jews & Gentiles are both "in Christ" & dead to the Law

Apostle (*apostolos*)

- The word apostle (*apostolos*), in New Testament times, meant 'a special messenger' – he was not just a *general* messenger by occupation (as the Greek word *angelos* conveyed)
- The English word "ambassador" conveys much of the meaning of *apostolos* – a messenger sent for a *special purpose* & having a *delegated authority* from the One who sent him

The necessary qualifications of an apostle

- Received his gift & office by a sovereign decision of God: *1 Corinthians 1:1*; *Ephesians 1:1*
- Had to have been an eyewitness of the resurrected Jesus Christ: *Acts 1:22*; *1 Corinthians 9:1*
- Endowed with power to perform signs, wonders & miracles: *2 Corinthians 12:12*
- Had success in evangelism: *1 Corinthians 9:2*; *2 Corinthians 3:1-3*; *Galatians 2:7-9*
- Had the capacity to suffer patiently – to persevere in trial: *2 Corinthians 12:12*
