Discovering the Treasures of the Word

1 Corinthians Part One Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-9

1.	Paul opens this epistle in his customary way. What information does he provide about himself that he considers important for the Corinthians to know? See verse 1.
2.	What do you learn about who an <i>apostle</i> was and what he did from the following verses? See Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3:14-15; Acts 1:21-22; Galatians 1:1; 1 Timothy 2:7.
3.	Paul says he was called by <i>the will of God</i> . How would that knowledge give Paul courage and determination in light of the many trials and persecutions he endured?
4.	God didn't call you as an apostle, but <i>His will</i> is specific for you too. What are some aspects of your life you know to be clearly ordained as <i>the will of God</i> ? See Matthew 22:35-38; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 1 Peter 2:15.
	a. What are some other specific ways you live out God's will in your life? For example: not being anxious, being faithful in your marriage.

Discovering the Treasures of the Word

5.	How does knowing God's will for <i>you</i> bring peace in the midst of the many distractions, pressures, and choices found in the world?
6.	Not much is known about the Sosthenes named here in verse one. There is a Sosthenes mentioned in Acts 18:17 who was a ruler in the synagogue in Corinth, but whether these men are one and the same cannot be determined. Yet what do we know for sure about the Sosthenes of verse 1?
7.	Who was Paul writing to (verse 2)? What details do we learn about the recipients of his letter in verse two?
8.	What does it mean to be <i>sanctified</i> [Strong's #37]? Now look up 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:26; 2 Timothy 2:21 for further insight into what this word means.
9.	Every believer has been called by God to be a saint, but what does that mean? Look up <i>saint</i> [Strong's #40]. The first usage of the word <i>saint</i> in the Bible is found in Psalm 16:3, then in Psalm 34:9. How do those verses, along with Ephesians 2:19, give you insight into what it means to be called to be a saint?
10.	How does that name–saint–affect your thinking and how you live your life for the Lord?

Discovering the Treasures of the Word

11.	After Paul's greeting, he gives the Corinthian believers a special benediction. What is it (verse 3)?
12.	When we desire someone to receive God's <i>grace</i> , what is it that we hope for them? See Psalm 84:11; Romans 5:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:10; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 2:7; Hebrews 4:16.
13.	When we desire someone to receive <i>peace</i> from God, what is it that we hope for them as well? See Psalm 29:11; Isaiah 26:3; Luke 1:79; John 14:27; Ephesians 2:17-18.
14.	A blessing like this in verse 3 sums up all the good things we desire for others to have. How can you use this blessing or a similar one in your life this week?
	Grace! tis a charming sound, harmonious to the ear; Heav'n with the echo shall resound and all the earth shall hear. 'Twas grace that wrote my name in life's eternal book; 'twas grace that gave me to the Lamb, who all my sorrows took. Grace taught my wand'ring feet to tread the heav'nly road; and new supplies each hour I meet, while pressing on to God. Grace taught my soul to pray, and made mine eyes o'er-flow; 'twas grace which kept me to this day, and will not let me go.

Discovering the Treasures of the Word

O let Thy grace inspire my soul with strength divine; may all my pow'rs to Thee aspire, and all my days be Thine. Chorus: Saved by grace alone! This is all my plea; Jesus died for all mankind, and Jesus died for me. ~Philip Doddridge and Augustus Toplady¹ 15. What was Paul thankful for concerning the Corinthians in verse 4? 16. How did Paul see the grace of God at work in the Corinthians' lives according to verse 5? 17. What happened as the Corinthians exhibited God's work in their lives? See verse 6. For another example of this work see 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10. 18. What else do we discover about the grace bestowed upon the Corinthians according to verse 7? 19. What kinds of gifts was Paul referring to? See 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:7-13; 1 Peter 4:10-11.

¹ Kenneth W. Osbeck, *Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel Publications, 1990), 171.

Discovering the Treasures of the Word

20.	What will Christ do when He is revealed according to verse 8?
21.	In light of Paul's comments in verse 8, why is Paul's reminder about God's faithfulness in verse 9 helpful?
22.	And what did that faithful God do for the Corinthians–and for every believer (verse 9)?
23.	What does the word <i>fellowship</i> [Strong's #2842] mean? Also look up 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1; 3:10; 1 John 1:3, 6 to gain further insight into this word's meaning.
24.	Kenneth Osbeck states, "An intimate fellowship with our Lord should produce at least three basic differences in our living: More humility—a greater realization of our finiteness and the need for dependence upon God; More happiness—a realization that this life has purpose and dignity as we represent God. And then a promised eternity in heaven with our Lord; More holiness—a greater desire to be a worthy representative for God and to live a life of absolute purity." And it is this kind of <i>fellowship</i> with Jesus Christ to which you have been called. <i>This is God's purpose for you</i> . To what degree are you making this a priority in your life?

² Ibid, 288.

Discovering the Treasures of the Word

a.	What things hinder you from maintaining sweet fellowship with
	Jesus?

b. What are some specific ways you can protect and promote your fellowship with the Lord?

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. Chorus: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.