



**Sermon Series: God's Glorious Church in Real Life**  
**Sermon Title: Where It All Began**  
**Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; Acts 18:1-17**  
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Sunday, August 23, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

*1 Corinthians 1:1-3 -*

### I. PAUL, THE APOSTLE

Note: Paul was not saying, "I'm an Apostle, clap for me!", but "I'm an Apostle, listen to me!"

A few reasons why it was/is important to understand and recognize Paul's Apostleship:

1) It established his God-given authority and credibility to speak to these issues.

*"Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." (Acts 9:15-16)*

2) It would help to counter and combat the lies of false teachers.

*"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds." (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)*

3) It helped to heighten and emphasize the reader's responsibility to embrace what is written.

*1 Corinthians 9:1-2; 1 Corinthians 14:37-38;*

*"There are some things in them [in Paul's writings] that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures." (2 Peter 3:16b)*

Note: We have a privilege and responsibility to read, heed, love, and submit to God's word!

*Psalms 119:15-16, 105, 160; Isaiah 66:2b -*

Who is Sosthenes? Why does Paul mention him?

## II. THE CHURCH IN AND CITY OF CORINTH

- 1) The city of Corinth, during Paul's time, was an important, wealthy, and modern city.
- 2) The city of Corinth was saturated with drunkenness and sexual sin. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- 3) The Church at Corinth was battling against the influence of false religions and false teachers.

*1 Corinthians 1:22-24 -*

- 4) The Church at Corinth belonged to God. (1 Corinthians 1:2)

Acts 18:1-4 - Here we meet Priscilla and Aquila, and we see Paul hard at work preaching.

Acts 18:5-8 - As usual, many rejected the Gospel, but some Jews and Corinthians believed!

Acts 18:9-11 - Here we see encouraging truth: Have no fear! Keep speaking! God will save!

Acts 18:12-17 - God defends and protects His people.

Note: We can say with confidence that the church in Corinth was established somewhere between 50-52 AD. And, most likely, Paul wrote the letter known as 1st Corinthians around the year 55 AD, during his 3 year stay in Ephesus.

- 5) The Church at Corinth was long on potential but short on maturity. (1 Corinthians 1:2-3)

Note: The word "saint" means "holy one" or "set apart one".

### **Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...**

1. Why does Paul often begin his letters by mentioning the fact that he is an Apostle?
2. Did Paul know and believe that he was writing authoritative truth? How do you know?
3. In the first three verses, what does Paul say is true of the Corinthian believers? How would this have been an encouragement to them and how should this be an encouragement to us?
4. What do we know about the city of Corinth? What were some of the unique characteristics and challenges of the city?
5. How did Jesus encourage Paul (in Acts 18:9-10)? How can this be an encouragement to us?