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1 Corinthians

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1 CORINTHIANS

Greeting

1 Paul, called as an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Sosthenes our brother:

²To the church of God at Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called as saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord — both their Lord and ours.

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

Thanksgiving

⁴I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that you were enriched in him in every way, in all speech and all knowledge. ⁶In this way, the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you, ⁷so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; you were called by him into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Divisions at Corinth

¹⁰Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, that there be no divisions among you, and that you be united with the same understanding and the same conviction. ¹¹For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by members of Chloe's people, that there is rivalry among you. ¹²What I am saying is this: One of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in Paul's name? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶I did, in fact, baptize the household of



Stephanas; beyond that, I don't recall if I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ will not be emptied of its effect.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved.

¹⁹For it is written,

**I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent.**

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn't God made the world's wisdom foolish? ²¹For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached. ²²For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. ²⁴Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, ²⁵because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Boasting Only in the Lord

²⁶Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. ²⁷Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. ²⁸God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world — what is viewed as nothing — to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, ²⁹so that no one may boast in his presence. ³⁰It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us



— our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption —³¹ in order that, as it is written: **Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.**

Paul's Proclamation

2 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, announcing the mystery of God to you, I did not come with brilliance of speech or wisdom. ²I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³I came to you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵so that your faith might not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.

Spiritual Wisdom

⁶We do, however, speak a wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷On the contrary, we speak God's hidden wisdom in a mystery, a wisdom God predestined before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age knew this wisdom, because if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But as it is written,

**What no eye has seen, no ear has heard,
and no human heart has conceived —**

God has prepared these things for those who love him.

¹⁰Now God has revealed these things to us by the Spirit, since the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except his spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God. ¹³We also speak these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but



in those taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people. ¹⁴ But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. ¹⁵ The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything, and yet he himself cannot be evaluated by anyone. ¹⁶ For

**who has known the Lord's mind,
that he may instruct him?**

But we have the mind of Christ.

The Problem of Immaturity

3 For my part, brothers and sisters, I was not able to speak to you as spiritual people but as people of the flesh, as babies in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink, not solid food, since you were not yet ready for it. In fact, you are still not ready, ³ because you are still worldly. For since there is envy and strife among you, are you not worldly and behaving like mere humans? ⁴ For whenever someone says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not acting like mere humans?

The Role of God's Servants

⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ According to God's grace that was given to me, I have laid a foundation as a skilled master builder, and another builds on it. But each one is to be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than what has been laid

