Through the Lens of Faith: A Study of 1 Corinthians

Pleasant View Church of Christ
Lesson 3 – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Why does Paul identify himself as an Apostle? (1:12; 9:1-27)

Paul's authority - *Rom, I & II Cor, Gal, Eph, Col, I & II Tim, Titus*

Apostle
ἀπόστολος (apostolos)
Literally "One Sent"
The connotation is of a commissioned envoy or full ambassador of the one who sent them

Called by the Will...
Acts 9:15, 22:14-15, 26:16-18; Gal 1:11-12; Eph 3:1-13

1 **Paul**, **called by the will** of **God** to be an **apostle *of Christ Jesus***, and our brother *Sosthenes*, <- **Acts 18:17** – Could this be the same ***Sosthenes*** who was the ruler of the synagogue in Corinth?

Church (Mt 16:18)
ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*)
Literally "Called out of"
(1) ἐκ ek = "From out of"
(2) καλέω kaleō = "To call"
Called out of the world and into Christ (Sanctified)
Rom 1:1-7; 2Th 2:13-14
Only *people* can be "called" or "sanctified"

2 To the **church *of God*** that is in **Corinth**, to those ***sanctified*** in **Christ Jesus**, ***called*** to be **saints together** with all those who in every place ***call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ***, both *their Lord and ours*:

Saints Together
Salvation is **social!** We can experience it ONLY as part of the whole people of God.
1Jn 1:3; 6-7

Saints = *Believers (Not Dead Christians)*
Rom 1:7, 2Cor 1:1, Eph 1:1, Col 1:2

Sanctified – Set apart for service (Made holy)
1Co 6:11; Heb 10:14

Call Upon the Name of our Lord...
i.e. calling on God to do something for us that we cannot do for ourselves: ***Acts 2:17-21 (Joel 2:28-32); Rom 10:8-13; Acts 22:12-16***

Called – Those who accept God's invitation
Rom 1:6-7; 8:28; Eph 4:1; 1Th 2:12; 1Ti 6:12; 1Pe 1:15; 2:9

Church of God
Phrase used only by Paul:
1Co 10:31-32; 15:9; 2Co 1:1; Acts 20:28

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

Paul's Common Greeting
Rom, I & II Cor, Gal, Eph, Philem

Grace & Peace
Rom 5:1-2; Eph 2:2-10

Salvation can ONLY be received from God through Jesus Christ!

Thanks to My God
Rom 1:8–9; Eph 1:15–16; Phil 1:3–5; Col 1:3–8; 1 Thess 1:2–3; 2:13; 2 Thess 1:3–4; 2:13–14; 2 Tim 1:3; Phlm 4–6

4 I give ***thanks to my God*** always for you because of the **grace of God** that was given you in **Christ Jesus**, **Grace** = *Paul prays for "grace" while acknowledging the "**grace of God**" they have received*

5 **that** ***in every way you*** were **enriched** in him in all ***speech*** and all ***knowledge***—

Enriched = *ALL are **spiritually impoverished** before receiving the grace of God (**Matt 5:3**)*

In Every Way / Not Lacking
Paul also acknowledges they have been **fully equipped for Service** in God's Kingdom
***Eph 2:8-10**

6 even as the ***testimony about Christ*** was **confirmed** among you—

Confirmed = *Likely a reference to Paul's ministry among them (**Acts 18:1-18; Heb 2:4**)*

Speech
Understanding the Gospel message well enough to speak accurately about it
1Th 1:6-10

Knowledge
Knowledge of divine truth as reveled in the Gospel of Christ
Phil 3:8-11

7 **so that** you are ***not lacking in any gift***, as **you wait** for the revealing of our **Lord Jesus Christ**,

Wait = *waiting for the Lord requires service (**Matt 25:14-30**)*

You Wait
Matt 24:36 - 25:46
(**24:36**) But **concerning that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only
(**24:42**) Therefore, **stay awake**, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming

Sustain You / Guiltless
Jesus **sustains us** to the end and **cleanses us** to appear guiltless before Him in judgment! (**Col 1:22**)

8 who will ***sustain you*** to the end, ***guiltless*** in the **day of our Lord Jesus Christ**. <- **1Th 4:16**

Paul expresses confidence in their steadfastness "to the end"

9 **God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the ***fellowship of his Son***, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul's confidence is based on God's faithfulness (Phil 1:6)

Corinth
Acts 18:1-18; 20:2-3
Capital of the **Roman Provice of Achaia** located on the isthmus between Attica and the Peloponnesus in Greece.
Visited by **Paul** in his second (**Acts 18:1-18**) and third (**Acts 20:2-3**) missionary journeys.

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Why Does Paul Identify Himself as an Apostle?

1 Corinthians 1:12 (ESV)
12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

1 Corinthians 9:1–27 (ESV)
1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

3 This is my defense to those who would examine me. 4 Do we not have the right to eat and drink? 5 Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? 6 Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? 7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?

8 Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? 10 Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. 11 If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? 12 If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

13 Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? 14 In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

15 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. 16 For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. 18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

19 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

[24] Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. [25] Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26] So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. [27] But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Paul's Authority (Apostle)

693 ἀπόστολος (*apostolos*), ου (*ou*), ὁ (*ho*): n.masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 8938; Str 652; TDNT 1.407—**1.** LN 53.74 **apostle**, a special messenger of Jesus Christ, a restricted group, the exact number variously reckoned (Mt 10:2; Ac 1:2, 26; Ac 14:14; 1Co 12:28, 29); **2.** LN 33.194 **messenger**, envoy, one sent (Jn 13:16; 2Co 8:23; Php 2:25+)[1]

652. **ἀπόστολος apostolos**; from *649; a messenger, one sent on a mission, an apostle*:—apostle(19), apostles(52), apostles'(5), messenger(1), messengers(1), is sent(1).[2]

Romans 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

Galatians 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, an apostle— not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

[1] Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.
[2] Thomas, R. L. (1998). In *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Foundation Publications, Inc.

1 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

Titus 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

Called by the Will of God

Acts 9:15 (ESV)
[15] But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

Acts 22:14–15 (ESV)
[14] And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; **[15]** for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

Acts 26:16–18 (ESV)
[16] But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, **[17]** delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you **[18]** to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Galatians 1:11-12 (ESV)
[11] For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. [12] For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:1–13 (ESV)
[1] For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— [2] assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, [3] how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. [4] When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, [5] which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. [6] This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow

heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. 13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Sosthenes

Acts 18:17 (ESV)
17 And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

Church

1711 ἐκκλησία (*ekklēsia*), ας (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ DBLHebr 7736; Str 1577; TDNT 3.501—**1.** LN 11.32 **congregation**, an individual assembly of Christians (or OT believers Ac 7:38; Heb 2:12), usually with leaders who conform to a standard, and have worship practices, with members interacting, more or less local (Mt 18:17; 1Ti 3:5; 1Co 11:16–22; Jas 5:14; Rev 1:4; 1Pe 5:13 v.r.); **2.** LN 11.33 **church**, the totality of all congregations of Christians at all times (Mt 16:18); **3.** LN 11.78 **assembly**, gathering of persons for a purpose, even riotous (Ac 19:32, 39, 40)[3]

1577. **ἐκκλησία ekklēsia**; from *1537* and *2564; an assembly, a* (religious) *congregation*:—assembly(3), church(74), churches(35), congregation(2).[4]

Romans 1:1–7 (ESV)
1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

[3] Swanson, J. (1997). In *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Logos Research Systems, Inc.
[4] Thomas, R. L. (1998). In *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Foundation Publications, Inc.

[7] To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (ESV)
[13] But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. [14] To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Church of God

1 Corinthians 10:31–32 (ESV)
[31] So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. [32] Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God,

1 Corinthians 15:9 (ESV)
[9] For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

Acts 20:28 (ESV)
[28] Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Saints

Romans 1:7 (ESV)
[7] To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)
[1]Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)
[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:2 (ESV)
2 To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Sanctified

1 Corinthians 6:11 (ESV)
11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Hebrews 10:14 (ESV)
14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Called

Romans 1:6–7 (ESV)
6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,
7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28 (ESV)
28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Ephesians 4:1 (ESV)
1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

1 Thessalonians 2:12 (ESV)
12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

1 Timothy 6:12 (ESV)
12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Peter 1:15 (ESV)
15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV)
9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Called Upon the Name of Our Lord

Acts 2:17–21 (ESV)

17 " 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
18 even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.
19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;
20 the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.
21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Joel 2:28–32 (ESV)
28 "And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
29 Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Romans 10:8–13 (ESV)
8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same

Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. [13] For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Acts 22:12–16 (ESV)
[12] "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, [13] came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. [14] And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; [15] for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. [16] And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Paul's Common Greeting

Romans 1:7 (ESV)
[7] To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV)
[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)
[2] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:3 (ESV)
[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:2 (ESV)
[2] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1:3 (ESV)
[3] Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace & Peace

Romans 5:1–2 (ESV)
[1] Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:2–10 (ESV)
[2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— [3]

among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. [4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— [6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Thanks to My God

Romans 1:8–9 (ESV)

[8] First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. [9] For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you

Ephesians 1:15–16 (ESV)

[15] For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

Philippians 1:3–5 (ESV)

[3] I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, [4] always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, [5] because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Colossians 1:3–8 (ESV)

[3] We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, [4] since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, [5] because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, [6] which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, [7] just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf [8] and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 1:2–3 (ESV)

[2] We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

13 And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

2 Thessalonians 1:3–4 (ESV)

3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 (ESV)

13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 1:3 (ESV)

3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

Philemon 4–6 (ESV)

4 I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, 6 and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.

<u>In Every Way / Not Lacking</u>

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

<u>Enriched</u>

Matthew 5:3 (ESV)

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Speech

1 Thessalonians 1:6–10 (ESV)
6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Knowledge

Philippians 3:8–11 (ESV)
8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Confirmed

Acts 18:1–18 (ESV)
1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. 6 And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” 7 And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul
and brought him before the tribunal, 13 saying, "This man is persuading people to
worship God contrary to the law." 14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio
said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would
have reason to accept your complaint. 15 But since it is a matter of questions about
words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these
things." 16 And he drove them from the tribunal. 17 And they all seized Sosthenes, the
ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no
attention to any of this.
18 After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and
set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for
he was under a vow.

Acts 20:2–3 (ESV)
2 When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement,
he came to Greece. 3 There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against
him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through
Macedonia.

Hebrews 2:4 (ESV)
4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of
the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

<u>You Wait</u>

Matthew 24:36–25:46 (ESV)
36 "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven,
nor the Son, but the Father only. 37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming
of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and
drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39
and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the
coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and
one left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. 42
Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But
know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief
was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken
into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you
do not expect.
45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his
household, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whom
his master will find so doing when he comes. 47 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over
all his possessions. 48 But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,'
49 and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, 50 the

master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know [51] and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

[1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. [8] And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' [10] And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. [11] Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' [13] Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

[14] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15] To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17] So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18] But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20] And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24] He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' [26] But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29] For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30] And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

[31] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32] Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will

separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34] Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' [37] Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38] And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39] And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40] And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

[41] "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42] For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' [45] Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Day of Our Lord Jesus Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:16 (ESV)
[16] For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Sustain You / Guiltless

Colossians 1:22 (ESV)
[22] he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

God's Faithfulness

Philippians 1:6 (ESV)
[6] And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.