

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed, and come prepared to share with the others in your group what you are learning as you invest time studying God's Word.

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops or explains previous clauses. Suggested themes in the text are provided in the box on the left. As the class progresses, you will have the opportunity to learn how to do this yourself.

I. Statement of Thanks
II. Basis of Thanks
III. Content of Grace
IV. Carrier of Grace
V. Purpose of Grace

VI. Work of Christ
VII. Reminder about God

1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,
5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—
6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—
7 so that you are not lacking in any gift,
as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful,
by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

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1. Why does Paul thank God?
2. What (Who) is the means by which they received God's grace?
3. According to verse 5, what is the content of God's grace to them?
 - a. What does 'enriched' mean?
 - b. What is the result of God enriching them in Christ? (see verse 7)
4. What is 'the testimony about Christ'?
5. Who sustains them?
 - a. What are they sustained from?
 - b. How sure is that sustaining?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

- c. According to verse 9, what is the basis for the surety of that sustaining?
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- 6. Why are they 'wait[ing]' for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ? What is 'the day of our Lord Jesus Christ'? Are these referring to the same future thing? (see Matt 25:31-34, 41; I Thes 5:1-4, 9-11; 2 Tim 4:8; 2 Pet 3:10-13. You may also want to look back at your notes from Pastor Bret's sermons on Matt 24-25 in November and December of 2015.)

❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 again.

- 7. In verse 9 there is another 'calling' (remember last week). Who is called?
 - a. Who does the calling?
 - b. Into what have they been called?
 - c. What does it mean to be called 'into the fellowship of his Son'? (Individually? Corporately?)

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8. According to these verses, how thorough is Christ's work in His followers?
9. Knowing that Paul is going to correct the Corinthians in some significant areas in the letter, how can he speak with such confidence about the thoroughness of Christ's work in them?
 - a. What encouragement should the Corinthian Christians find in Paul's words here?
10. All of the 'you's in verses 4-10 are plural. How does this shape your understanding of what Paul is saying to and about the Corinthian believers?
11. Look at verse 7. Do you think Paul expects their waiting to be passive or active? What is the difference?

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➤ Additional Reading:

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

12. According to these verses, why have we been given gifts and how are we to use them?

Read Ephesians 1:13-14 for additional words from Paul on the surety of God's faithful sustaining of believers.

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 again.

13. What did Paul expect his original audience to think, feel, and/or do after hearing his words?

a. What should we think, feel, and/or do as a result of our hearing his words?

14. If you are a follower of Jesus, as you struggle with areas of your life that need correction to be in line with God's Word, do you also keep in mind the thoroughness of Christ's work in you?

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15. As you have opportunity to correct other believers in following God's ways, do you keep in mind the thoroughness of Christ's work in them? Do you encourage them to remember it?

16. In observing other Christians, have you ever been tempted to feel like God has been stingy with the gifts He has given you? How do these verses answer that temptation?

- a. How does thinking about the unity of believers gathered together in the local church help shape your answer?

In preparation for Sunday, thank God for the grace that He has given to us in Jesus Christ. Pray also that we would rest in God's faithfulness and that we would live life together in "the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."