

## **BLESSINGS FROM CORINTH** **(Acts 18:8-11)**

Corinth was the major commercial center of the Roman Empire. Famous for its wealth, intellectual centers and its gross immorality. Corinth was the home to twelve pagan temples including the Temple of Aphrodite. At this time Corinth was the Hollywood, Las Vegas, and New York rolled into one.

In this immoral and materialistic society God had Paul plant a church that became an exact copy of what the American church would become some two thousand years later. In his first nine verses of the first letter to this church after his departure Paul says “this is who you were, but this is who you are in Christ, so live accordingly.” These blessings for the Corinthians are a reminder for us today.

### **PART OF GOD'S FAMILY**

**I Corinthians 1:2** Paul addresses them as “the church of God.” The word church means “the called out ones.” We have been called out of our sinful state and ways to become members of God's family.

**Acts 2:47** God Himself cared enough about you and me to get the Gospel message to us so that we could make the wisest decision of our lives and become adopted into His wonderful family.

**I Peter 2:9** Peter describes the church as “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people.” We have been called out of the world around us by God in order to praise Him.

### **SANCTIFIED IN CHRIST**

**I Corinthians 1:2** To be sanctified is to be set apart for God's purpose. We are sanctified in three ways, positionally, progressively, and ultimately. *Positional Sanctification-* **Heb. 10:10-12** We have been sanctified and set apart to be saved by the one time sacrifice of Christ. *Progressive Sanctification-* **Galatians 5:22** Progressive Sanctification is the process of dying to self and sin and living for Christ. *Ultimate Sanctification-* **I John 3:2** As we live in this body we wrestle with sin but there is coming a day when we will be with Jesus and our sinful nature will be left behind and we will be like Him.

### **RECIPIENTS OF HIS GRACE**

**I Corinthians 1:4** Grace of course is the unmerited favor of God toward us. The reason we are the church of God, the reason we are sanctified, the reason we are called saints is because of God's grace.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** First of all there is God's saving grace, grace that allows us to become His family.

**II Corinthians 12:7-10** Secondly, there is God's sustaining grace. Grace that can strengthen us, encourage us, and enable us to have a peace and spiritual joy in times of conflict and adversity.

### **ENRICHED BY CHRIST**

**I Corinthians 1:5** God showers His children with so many blessings in this life to serve Him and to enjoy our spiritual life while preparing for heaven.

**James 2:5** God has chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of His kingdom.

**I Corinthians 2:16** He has given us the mind of Christ that we may be rich in knowledge and understanding spiritual things that the world cannot know.

**I Corinthians 12:1-6** God has enriched His children with spiritual gifts in order that we can be a blessing to others and have good works to offer at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**I Corinthians 1:9; I John 1:3** Paul says that we have been called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ. John tells us that we can have fellowship with each other, with the Father and with Jesus Christ. The world cannot have the type of comfort, caring, and watch care that every believer can have in Christ.