

The Gift Of God's Grace – 1Corinthians 1:4-9

Bible Study ~ 11/9/16
Grace Church of Lockeford

The Corinthian church was having problems. The majority of problems were caused by an improper understanding of Spiritual gifts. Paul begins his letter to this church by discussing where gifts come from as well as their purpose and duration. He first explains the source of gifts...

The Gift Of Grace Comes Through Christ v. 4

Paul thanks God for what the gift of His grace (given through the person and work of Jesus Christ) is doing in the believers in Corinth. He gives this thanksgiving, always. Whenever Paul's mind turns to these believers He is thankful for their salvation. The grace given to them by Christ. Grace is God freely giving His favor where it is undeserved. This is a reference to salvation. Paul is thanking God for their salvation. The important point here is that it comes through Christ, it does not come through man, through education, or through service. Grace is a gift and it is given through Christ Jesus. Paul also discusses what this grace has accomplished.

The Gift Of Grace Brings Enrichment v. 5

First Paul states that they are enriched in everything. Enriched – *πλουτίζω ploutizō make rich. To be made rich – to be caused to become very wealthy in resources (whether figurative or literal).* We are wealthy in Christ! Everything that we are is enriched by knowing Christ. There is nothing in our lives that is not made better through our relationship with Him! Then he gives two specific examples of things that are enriched by Christ.

In Utterance v. 5a

Utterance – *λόγος logos word; message. Message (communication) – a communication that is most often spoken, but can come through other means.* Our words. Our message and communication is enriched by Christ. Think about the things that consume the conversation of unbelievers. They are most often things of no lasting value. Christ gives us something to talk about!

In Knowledge v. 5b

Knowledge – *γνώσις gnosis knowledge. Cognitive content – the sum or range of what has been perceived, discovered, or learned.* There is nothing to truly know until we know Christ! Reasoning apart from Christ is empty at best and damaging at worst! He is the source of all knowledge.

The Gift Of Grace Confirms The Testimony v. 6

Our Testimony – *μαρτύριον martyrion witness; testimony. Testimony (witness) – the verbal evidence of a witness by which something is affirmed to be true.* The enrichment of our words and knowledge gives evidence for our conversion to Christ. It is Confirmed – *βεβαιώω bebaioō establish; confirm. To be verified (state) – to be or become proven to be true.* This transformation of our speech and our knowledge proves the truth of our new position in Christ! This too is a gift of His grace! It affirms that we have truly been transformed by His gift of grace in Christ Jesus! What a blessing is the confirmation of our testimony!

The Gift Of Grace Is Complete v. 7a

Come short - *ὑστερέω hystereō lack; fall short of. To miss (lack) – to be without or lack.* Paul is confident that because of the gift of God's grace and their enrichment, and testimony they will not lack any gift. This word "gift" is normally used to refer to the gifts of the Holy Spirit received by the believer at salvation. When Christ gives us a gift we are not going to fall short. He doesn't short change His children! The gift we receive is complete. But the gifts of the spirit are backed by what has already been revealed. The grace, riches, testimony.

The Gift Of Grace Carries Anticipation v. 7b

Eagerly waiting – *ἀπεκδέχομαι apekdechomai await eagerly. To await eagerly – to expect or hope for something expectantly or eagerly.* When we have received the gift of His grace and all these things that go with it, there is awakened in us an eager desire for His coming. His Revelation – *ἀποκάλυψις apokalypsis revelation.*

Revelation – communication of knowledge (previously hidden) to man by a divine or supernatural agency; especially communications that proceed from God or Christ. This is what we desire. The unveiling of Christ! His revelation at His second coming. Paul attaches this anticipation of His coming with the gifts. The use and exercising of gifts is most effective in conjunction with the anticipation of His coming. This eager desire for Him to come causes us to live differently. To have the testimony that he spoke of in v. 6.

The Gift Of Grace Assures Security v. 8

Christ will also confirm us to the end. Confirm – βεβαιῶ bebaioō *establish; confirm. To establish (settle) – to make someone or something settled securely and unconditionally (in or on something).* Christ will establish us to the end. What end? The end of all things. When He is revealed (as v. 7 describes) at His coming. But that is not all He will do! He will not just establish us until the end comes. He will do so in a way that we might be blameless! Blameless – ἀνέγκλητος anegklētos *blameless; above reproach. Unaccusable – not subject to, deserving, or worthy of a charge of wrongdoing.* This blamelessness is a product of God’s confirmation. He establishes us, and because He establishes us we will be blameless in the day of our Lord!

The Gift Of Grace Is Given By A Faithful God v. 9

All of this is possible because of who our God is. He is faithful! Faithful – πιστός pistos *reliable; faithful; believing. Faithful – characterized by steadfast affection or allegiance (to someone or something).* Our God can be depended on. He is faithful to His own, to those He has called. He has summoned us into the fellowship of Christ! Fellowship – κοινωνία koinōnia *fellowship; participation. Participation fellowship – the act of sharing in the activities or privileges of an intimate association or group; especially used of marriage and churches.* We have the privilege of sharing in the intimacy of the body of Christ. This is made possible through the calling of God which is done through the gift of His grace. In the rest of the passage Paul uses “our Lord Jesus Christ”. Here he uses “Jesus Christ our Lord”. He is master!

What incredible blessings we have in Christ! Grace, enrichment in word and understanding, a solid testimony, spiritual gifts, the anticipation of His coming, the expectation of being blameless before Him, and the calling of God into fellowship with Christ! Our God is faithful!

Challenge: As God gives limitless grace, serve Him with the anticipation of His coming.

v. 4

Thank – εὐχαριστέω eucharisteō *give thanks. To thank – to express gratitude or show appreciation (to someone).*

Always – πάντοτε pantote *always; at all times. Always – at all times; all the time and on every occasion.*

Grace – χάρις charis *grace. Grace – goodwill freely disseminated (by God); especially to the benefit of the recipient regardless of the benefit accrued to the disseminator.*

Given – δίδωμι didōmi *give; grant. To be granted – to be or become in one’s possession, whether physically or abstractly.*

v. 5

Everything – πᾶς pas *every; all. Each – (used of count nouns) every one considered individually.*

v. 7

Gift – χάρισμα charisma *gift. Present (grace) – a present given as a sign of beneficent favor.*

v. 8

End – τέλος telos *end. End (point of time) – the point in time at which something ends.*

Day – ἡμέρα hēmera *day. Day (event) – a day assigned to a particular purpose or observance.*

v. 9

Called – καλέω kaleō *call; summon; name. To be summoned (state) – to be or become subject to an authoritative demand for one’s presence or participation.*