

Bible Study Guide for I Corinthians 1:1-9

Day 1 – Acts 18:1-18

No New Testament church is more like a modern church than the church at Corinth. In his dealings with this body of believers, Paul's words are so relevant to us today that you may think he has been reading your mail or has visited your home recently.

The first letter written by the apostle Paul to the church in Corinth (see **I Cor. 5:9-13**) has been lost. Paul's instructions included in that letter had been misunderstood so he wrote another letter (known as **I Corinthians** today) to clarify those ideas. Also, a delegate from Corinth had come to Paul with news of problems within the church that he addressed in this letter. As we study this book, we will see Paul, as pastor and counselor, demonstrate great wisdom and compassion as he strives to lead the Corinthian believers to holy and mature Christian living in the midst of a corrupt society. The principles that Paul endorsed for how Christianity was to deal with individual purity, social and family problems, are extremely relevant to twentieth-century Christians as well.

Some background of the city of Corinth itself would help us understand the particular lifestyle and problems faced by the believers in the city. Because of its location on a narrow, four-mile wide strip of land connecting northern Greece with the Peloponnesus peninsula in the south, Corinth became a center of world trade and commerce making it a very busy and wealthy city. It was also a center of pagan worship to the goddess Aphrodite – the goddess of love. At one time, thousands of prostitutes served in her temple during the day and flooded the streets at night. So widespread was Corinth's reputation for sexual promiscuity that the Greeks coined a word to describe it: to *corinthianize* meant literally "to behave like a Corinthian" or to live a depraved lifestyle. But, in spite of her reputation, Paul came to the city with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Read **Acts 18:1-18** for the story of how the church in Corinth was first established.

1. Imagine yourself in Paul's place as he entered the city. How do you think he might have felt? Does **I Corinthians 2:3** give a clue?
2. In what life-situation do you find it most difficult to witness of your relationship with Jesus Christ?
3. Read God's words to Paul in **Acts 18:9, 10**. Personalize these verses to Paul by placing your name in the text. Perhaps you would like to write out the verses and/or memorize them with your name included.

Day 2 – Acts 18:1-18

1. Consider Paul's ministry/work in Corinth by reviewing **Acts 18:1-18**.
 - a. With whom did he live and work? How would this have been a blessing from the Lord?