

## Bible Study

### 1 Corinthians – A Troubled Church

1. This letter to the church at Corinth indicates that Paul wrote it while he was in Ephesus (see 1 Cor. 16:8) during his third missionary trip (Acts 19:1-41, around A.D. 55). Paul had received information about what was happening at Corinth. Take a quick glance through this epistle. What are some of the issues Paul had to address?
2. 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 contains Paul's introduction of the letter. This follows the usual format of other letters. What is unusual about this introduction? (cf. Gal. 1:2, Eph 1:2, Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:2) Is Paul's expression a wish or a nice sentiment in v. 3?
3. Instead of complaining about their problems, Paul continues with a section of thanksgiving (vv. 4-9). Why does he give thanks for the church at Corinth? What has God done for these people? What will he do for them? (1 Thess. 5:23-24) How will they be blameless on the day of our Lord? (Rom. 8:33, 1 John 1:7; 2:1-2) What does it mean to say that God is faithful?
4. In 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, Paul gets into the first problem. What was reported to him? What does Paul want from the church (v. 10, see also Eph. 2:14-18; Phil. 1:27). What is the answer to Paul's rhetorical questions in v. 13? Why was Paul thankful?
5. What does Paul boldly state about the cross of Christ in 1 Corinthians 1:18-25? What good is the wisdom of this world to grasp what happened on the cross? (Eph. 3:4) Does the Jew or Greek find the message of Christ crucified appealing? (Mt. 12:38; Lk. 11:16; Acts 17:18, 21) Who is able to see the cross of Jesus for what it is? (Mt. 11:25-26)