

# “Don’t Miss the Intro”

How to Study the Bible

Rev. Ted Wood

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

July 15, 2022

“<sup>1</sup> Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,<sup>2</sup> To the Church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup> Grace and peace from God Our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

## 1. 1 Corinthians 1:1. Who is Paul?

a. Paul is “called” (a summons) “... by the will of God.”

i. **Confirmed by Ananias.** Acts 9:15. “...he is a chosen (same word as 1 Cor. 1:1) instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”

b. “An Apostle ...”

i. A witness of the resurrection. Peter said: “<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” Acts 1:21-22.

ii. Paul’s witness of the resurrected Christ. Acts 9:1-8, 10, 17.  
*the Holy Spirit.*”

1) Not Paul’s autobiographical testimony, but Luke’s description to Paul’s witness:  
Also see: Muratorian fragment (175). Irenaeus, Against Heresies (180), 2 Timothy 4:11. Colossians 4:14. Philemon 24. The “we” verses in Acts

iii. Paul’s insistence on being an Apostle. “*Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord?*” <sup>2</sup> ... you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 9:1-2.

• 1 Timothy 2:7. *I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

• *In seven of 9 letters to congregations, Paul’s first words are “Paul, and apostle ...”*

iv. The Resurrection, more than the Atonement, was the leading evangelistic theme in the sermons and teaching in the Book of Acts.

1) Why does Paul insist on his apostleship? Apostolic authority = Word-of-God authority. “<sup>19</sup>... the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ...” Ephesians 2:19-20.

## 2. 1 Corinthians 1:2. To whom is Paul writing?

a. “The church of God in Corinth ...”

i. “The church ...” *ekklēsia* = “out from” + “to call”, called out from the world and to God.

## “Don’t Miss the Intro”

- b. **“... together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours ...”** Not just the congregational “church of God in Corinth”, but the “Church of God in everyplace” ... and at all times: The Body of Christ.
- i. The Bridegroom and the Bride: “... a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’<sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound (mega musterion), and I am saying that it refers (speaks) to Christ and the church.” Eph 5:31f.
- c. **“...called to be saints ...”**
- i. “saints” = “the holy ones”; those made holy, set apart, hallowed, purified.
  - ii. How is Lev. 19:2 -- “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy” -- accomplished?
  - iii. Ephesians 1:4. “He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”
- d. **“... those sanctified in Christ Jesus ...”**
- i. 1 Corinthians 6:11. “... you were washed, you were sanctified (made holy), you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
  - i. Hebrews 2:11. “... the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family.”
- e. **Saints “on earth as it is in heaven.” Now (in the heavenlies), but not yet (in this age).**
- i. Hebrews 10:10. 14. “... we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all ... by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”
  - ii. 1 Thessalonians 4:7. “God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.”
  - iii. 2 Timothy 1:19. “He has saved us and called us to a holy life ...”
  - iv. Hebrews 12:14. “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”
  - v. Col 1:21-23. “... <sup>22</sup>now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation <sup>23</sup>if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.”
    - The critical importance of enduring, persisting, abiding, remaining. “He who endures to the end will be saved.” Matthew 10:22; 24:13. Mark 13:13.

### 3. 1 Corinthians 1:3. **“Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

#### a. **Why the expression “grace and peace to you” or “grace to you and peace”?**

- i. Why the qualities of “grace” and “peace”?
- ii. Why weren’t other qualities added, as is done in 1 & 2 Timothy, and 2 John: “grace, mercy and peace”