

Introduction: Some historical data: Taking 30 A.D. as the date for the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, Paul’s two-year ministry in Corinth, during which he was the founding (“home mission”) pastor, takes place 50-52 A.D. The letter we know as I Corinthians, written from Ephesus, was composed and sent ca. 54-55 A.D. Paul doesn’t provide us with epistles with handy dates on them! This letter is one of the most fascinating in the New Testament and it shows what it is like to build a Christian congregation in a very worldly setting! Today we work through (albeit superficially) the first of sixteen chapters of this epistle from Paul.

I. SALUTATION 1:1-3

- A. Paul and his partner
- B. The Corinthian recipients of Paul’s letter
- C. The grace and peace formula

II. THANKSGIVING 1:4-9

- A. Gratitude and its reason
- B. The Corinthian Christians described
- C. One very big promise
- D. The faithfulness of God

III. DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH 1:10-17

- A. Paul’s appeal for unity
- B. Paul’s description of the disunity in Corinth
- C. Paul’s argument against disunity in Corinth
- D. Paul’s mission, simply stated

IV. CHRIST THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD 1:18-31

- A. The wisdom and power of the world
- B. The wisdom and power of the cross
- C. The poverty and riches of the Corinthian believers
- D. The complete adequacy of Christ
- E. The right way to brag

Conclusion: Why not memorize your favorite verse from our study passage?