

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **Seeing God in the Mire (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)**

Date: **February 7, 2016**

In last week's sermon and small group study we learned that the Corinthian church was plagued with problems. Sexual immorality was rampant in the church in Corinth. Drunkenness at church functions was not unusual. Favouritism and partiality had caused divisions and factions throughout the body. Needless to say, the church was far from exemplary. Yet, in the middle of this mess, Paul finds some things to be thankful for. In this week's study we will learn how we can see God in the mire. Even when we find ourselves in the middle of the chaos, even when sin has wreaked its havoc all around us, we have reason to be thankful.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. In the introductory section of each of his epistles, Paul typically praises God's work in the church that he's writing to. How is Paul's introduction in verses 4-9 different than those of his other letters?
 - b. Paul finds reason to give praise to God for the Corinthian church. What does this tell us about how we must think about and treat other churches?
 - c. In verse 5, Paul says that in every way we have been *enriched*. What does this mean and how does this encourage you?
 - d. What does Paul mean when he says that we have been enriched in *all speech and all knowledge* (v. 5)?
 - e. What is significant about the word "*confirmed*" that is used in verse 6?
 - f. According to verse 7, is the Christian lacking anything spiritually? What does this tell us about God's generosity toward his children? Do we have any reason to be discontent with the blessings we've received in Christ?

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- g. We will be guiltless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. How is this possible?
 - h. After Paul reminds the Corinthian church that despite their sin they will be guiltless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, he reminds them that *God is faithful* (v. 9). Why do you think he does this?
2. 1 Corinthians 1:7 tells us that we are not lacking in any spiritual gift. Read Ephesians 1:3-14 and write down and reflect on each of the spiritual blessings that we have received in Christ.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important that we find reason to be thankful in the midst of chaos, misery, and trials?
2. What can we practically do each and every day to live lives characterized by thankfulness?
3. How should we think about and talk about other churches with one another? Why must we look for praiseworthy elements in other churches like Paul did with the Corinthian church?
4. What spiritual blessing that you have received in Christ (see Ephesians 1:3-14) do you find most encouraging? Why?
5. We have been given a legal guarantee that we will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Why should this further motivate us to pursue holiness and purity in our lives (see Romans 6)?

Accountability Questions

Is there an area of your life where you are lacking in thankfulness? How can this change?