

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

AUTHOR: Paul, the Apostle.

DATE: Probably A.D. 54-56 on Paul's second missionary journey.

TO WHOM WRITTEN: The church of God at Corinth, to those set apart in Christ Jesus (1:2).

PLACE WRITTEN: Ephesus.

PURPOSE: Paul wrote for three reasons: (1) to draw the church back together in a spirit of unity; (2) to deal with moral laxity in the church; and (3) to answer questions concerning marriage, Christian liberty and rights, public worship, spiritual gifts, and the resurrection from the dead.

SPECIAL FEATURES - MAJOR THEMES:

1. ***The City of Corinth***
Corinth was the capital of Achaia. It was a large city, integrated and very wealthy. But Corinth was also morally corrupt and desperately needed the gospel.
2. ***The Church at Corinth***
Great numbers of converts came to Christ, from the most sinful backgrounds imaginable. The Gentile converts at Corinth paint a clear picture of the kind of success Paul experienced in city after city.
3. ***Paul's Contacts with the Corinthian Church***
Paul visited the Corinthian church, and he is seen rebuking, teaching, and praying among the believers.
4. First Corinthians, along with Second Corinthians, is ***The Epistle That Reveals Paul's Personal Character***. Charge after charge is levelled against his character, and in each case he forcefully and successfully answers the charge.
5. First Corinthians is ***The Epistle Written to Answer a Church's Specific Questions***.
6. First Corinthians is ***The Epistle That Answers the Problems Confronted by a Pioneer Church***.
7. First Corinthians is ***An Epistle Written to a Carnal Church***.
8. First Corinthians is ***The Diversified Epistle***. Paul deals with more different subjects in First Corinthians than he does in any other epistle.

FIRST CORINTHIANS PORTRAIT OF CHRIST: Jesus Christ is our Wisdom (1:18).

OUTLINE OF FIRST CORINTHIANS:

- I. The Greeting, 1:1-9
- II. The Division in the Church, 1:10-4:21
- III. The Moral Laxity in the Church, 5:1-6:20
- IV. The Questions Concerning Marriage, 7:1-40
- V. The Questions Concerning Christian Liberty and Personal Rights, 8:1-11:1
- VI. The Questions Concerning Public Worship, 11:2-34
- VII. The Questions Concerning Spiritual Gifts, 12:1-14:40
- VIII. The Questions Concerning the Resurrection of the Dead, 15:1-58
- IX. The Final Thoughts, 16:1-24