

1 CORINTHIANS

2 CORINTHIANS

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

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1 Corinthians

Greeting

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother **Sosthenes**,

²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and **ours**:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving

⁴I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—⁶God **thus confirming** our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be **blameless** on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Church Divided Over Leaders

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,^a in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you **agree** with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹My

^a¹⁰The Greek word for *brothers and sisters (adelphoi)* refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family; also in verses 11 and 26; and in 2:1; 3:1; 4:6; 6:8; 7:24, 29; 10:1; 11:33; 12:1; 14:6, 20, 26, 39; 15:1, 6, 50, 58; 16:15, 20.

brothers and sisters, some from **Chloe's** household have **informed** me that there are **quarrels** among you. ¹²What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas^b"; still another, "I follow Christ."

¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except **Crispus** and **Gaius**, ¹⁵so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, **lest** the cross of Christ be **emptied** of its power.

Christ Crucified Is God's Power and Wisdom

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the **intelligence** of the **intelligent** I will **frustrate**."^c

²⁰Where is the wise person? Where is the **teacher** of the law? Where is the **philosopher** of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews **demand** signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is **wiser** than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human **strength**.

^b12 That is, Peter ^c19 Isaiah 29:14

²⁶Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were **influential**; not many were of **noble birth**.²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.²⁸God chose the **lowly** things of this world and the **despised** things—and the things that are not—to **nullify** the things that are,²⁹so that no one may boast before him.³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and **redemption**.³¹Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”^d

2 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I **proclaimed** to you the testimony about God.^e ²For I **resolved** to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.³I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and **persuasive** words, but with a **demonstration** of the **Spirit’s** power,⁵so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.

God’s Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

⁶We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the **mature**, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.⁷No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God **destined** for our glory before time **began**.⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.⁹However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has **conceived**”^f— the things God has **prepared** for those who love him—

¹⁰these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit **searches** all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, **explaining** spiritual **realities** with **Spirit-taught** words.⁹ ¹⁴The person without the Spirit does not **accept** the things that come from the Spirit of God but **considers** them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are **discerned** only through the Spirit. ¹⁵The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶for,

"Who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?"^h

But we have the mind of Christ.

The Church and Its Leaders

3 Brothers and sisters, I could not **address** you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not **solid** food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and **quarreling** among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere **humans**? ⁴For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I **planted** the seed, Apollos **watered** it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants

⁹13 Or *Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual* ^h16 Isaiah 40:13

nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be **rewarded** according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's **field**, God's building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If anyone builds on this foundation **using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw**, ¹³their work will be **shown** for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the **quality** of each person's work. ¹⁴If what has been built **survives**, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵If it is **burned** up, the builder will suffer **loss** but yet will be saved—even though only as one **escaping** through the **flames**.

¹⁶Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit **dwells** in your midst? ¹⁷If anyone **destroys** God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is **sacred**, and you together are that temple.

¹⁸Do not **deceive** yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He **catches** the wise in their **craftiness**";ⁱ ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile."^j ²¹So then, no more boasting about human **leaders**! All things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas^k or the world or life or death or the present or the **future**—all are yours, ²³and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

ⁱ19 Job 5:13 ^j20 Psalm 94:11 ^k22 That is, Peter