

## **“Faithful to Keep”**

### **I Corinthians 1:1-9**

**From Paul to the Church in Corinth (1:1-3)...** In the first three verses of this letter, Paul introduces himself as the letter’s author and as an apostle of Christ Jesus. He is writing to the troubled church in Corinth which exists amidst a city that is busy, wealthy, diverse, and immoral. The church is faced with the challenge of being a holy people in an unholy city and of effectively evangelizing an unholy city.

**Paul’s Thanksgiving to God (1:4-9)...** The Apostle Paul gives thanks to God for three miracles among the Corinthian Church. First, he thanks God for saving them (1:4). It is always a miracle when anyone turns away from the Me-centered life to put faith in Jesus, but it was especially incredible amidst the metropolitan environment of Corinth. Secondly, Paul thanked God for the miracle of giving gifts of the Spirit to the Corinthian Church (1:5-7). Even though, as we will see later, these gifts were being abused, Paul acknowledged that they were from God. Lastly, Paul thanked God because he knew that God would be faithful to sustain this struggling band of disciples (1:8-9).

#### **Questions for Discussion & Reflection:**

- 1.** In what ways is the culture of American cities like that of Corinth? Why is this culture a challenge to the American church?
- 2.** Why can we be confident, despite the opposition of our culture, that some will believe? What should this lead us to do?
- 3.** Do you know what gift(s) God has given you?
- 4.** How does it encourage you to know that God is faithful to sustain the Christian to the end?