

Intro: Core Value 4 – We receive our identity from the Father, living in the settled confidence that we are much-loved children, accepted in the Beloved.

Trip to Greece (25th anniversary) – October 2012

Visit to Athens – Acts 17:19-21

Photo of Mars Hill – Paul preaches the unknown God
In the shadow of the Parthenon – Temple of Athena
Converts Dionysius the Aeropagite and Damaris, but no real following emerged

Visit to Corinth – Acts 18 – Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla 1st time

Photos of Agora, Bema, road, Temple of Apollo
Many Corinthians believed and were baptized
Paul stays another year and a half, then journeys to Ephesus
Sense of appreciation for Corinthian believers

I Corinthians 1:1-9 (The Message) – *Intro to a letter in which Paul would address many serious issues that are plaguing the church*

I, Paul, have been called and sent by Jesus, the Messiah, according to God's plan, along with my friend Sosthenes. I send this letter to you in God's church at Corinth, believers **cleaned up by Jesus** and **set apart** for a **God-filled life**. I include in my greeting all who call out to Jesus, wherever they live. He's their Master as well as ours!

May **all the gifts and benefits** that come from God our Father, and the Master, Jesus Christ, be yours.

Every time I think of you – and I think of you often! – I thank God for your lives of **free and open access to God**, given by Jesus. There's no end to what has happened to you – it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The **evidence of Christ** has been clearly verified in your lives.

Just think – **you don't need a thing, you've got it all!** All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale. And not only that, but **God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track** until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. **God**, who **got you started** in this **spiritual adventure**, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. **He will never give up on you. Never forget that.**

1. Cleaned up by Jesus – delivered from a life of darkness and demon worship
 - a. We can't clean ourselves up – Christianity is not a self-help course
 - b. The Blood of Jesus is the agent of cleansing

- i. Deals with the penalty for sin
 - ii. Also sets us free from slavery to sin! Awakens a new desire in us for holiness.
2. Set apart – the reality of consecration – a process!
 - a. Our lives no longer belong to us
 - b. We exist for God and His good pleasure – our destiny!
 - c. What did this look like for people reared in paganism?
3. A God-filled life! (These were people who were considered fuel for the fires of hell.)
 - a. Not a God-blessed life, or a God-touched life
 - b. Every part of our lives and who we are is filled with God Himself!
 - c. Exodus 33 – Moses’ conversation with God as they are about to head on their journey
 - i. Don’t send someone else to lead us; lead us yourself
 - ii. I know you well; you are special to me! I know you by name.
 - iii. I will do this because of the above
 - iv. Show me your glory!
 - d. Dan Mohler – When you squeeze us, you get God all over you!
4. **All** the gifts and benefits that come from God are ours!
 - a. This is the inheritance that we have in Christ
 - b. We are joint heirs with Him; everything He gets, we get! (Rom 8:17)
5. Free and open access to God! (These people had been total strangers to the covenant, living in total darkness.)
 - a. We do not need a go-between. We have full access through Jesus!
 - b. No further payment for sin is required.
 - c. We do not need to fear His presence.
6. You have everything you need through Jesus Christ!
 - a. Nothing is missing, nothing is lacking in Him
 - b. Philemon 1:6 – faith become effective by acknowledging every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus – acknowledge – act in the knowledge of
 - c. We are to live out of the knowledge that everything we need we already have in Christ
7. God Himself is right there with you to keep you steady and on track
 - a. God takes upon Himself the task of keeping us
 - b. Our responsibility is to respond – let Him keep us
 - c. He can be trusted – He is the Great Shepherd – He leads us perfectly
8. God got you started on this spiritual adventure
 - a. This wasn’t our idea, it was His
 - b. This isn’t religion and rules – this is the greatest adventure a human being could ever experience!
9. God will never give up on us. Never forget that!

Introduce Eileen Espenshade

Jan 9th

Thank you that I will never be too much for You. I will never get too big or burdensome or needy for You. I will never need You more than You can handle, I will never be able to drain You. You have more than enough for EVERY creature that You have created in the past, present, and future, all together at the same time. You are endless, limitless, and infinite. You invite me to come to You every time, anytime, all the time, always and forever. I am not too much for You! WE are not too much for You.

I do not have to wait my turn with You!!! I do not have to worry about You- whether or not You are drained, taken care of, too busy, ok...etc. I do not have to manage You. You are the great I AM. You are complete, You are abundant, You are LIFE itself!

I can rest, relax, let go and fall into You. You are able, capable, trustworthy, and never failing. I have nothing that You need. You need NOTHING from me to be who You are, to be completely You. You have everything I need and You invite me to You, again and again, and again . You never want me or expect me to "go it alone" "do it on my own" because You know I can't and You designed it that way! I don't need to be worthy, I just need to be wanting and willing. I don't have to take care of You!! And yet You love to take care of me. You offer me everything even though I have nothing to offer You! You are a TRUE, completely pure and perfect mother and father.

I am me! You give me permission to be a flawed person! I have permission to exist and live and relate and fail and succeed! I have open access to You, I have value in You. You are my truth, and foundation. You are my plumb line forever more! What freedom and assurance!! You are my freedom and safety and worth and salvation. You are greater than all and trustworthy to believe!

I have found Grace!!!! My heart and soul have found Grace. My heart, soul, and mind have found peace.

In the revelation of You, I find me...my true place and Your true Greatness. Freedom to be me and freedom FROM me

only and all because of You.









