

A People and an Apostle for God's Own Possession

Pastor Nick Neves / 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

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

Paul does not always mention his apostleship in the greetings of his letters. Why would he state it here?

The occasion of Paul's station: he was _____ to it.

This calling involves a _____ to preach the truth.
(See Acts 9:15-16, 26:16-18)

This calling brings about a powerful _____ in Paul to respond obediently.
(see 1 Corinthians 9:16-27. Compare to Jeremiah 1:4-10, 20:7-9)

How does Paul's station as an apostle of Christ Jesus affect his relationship to the Corinthians?
(see 1 Corinthians 9:1-2, 4:14-16)

*What part might Sosthenes play in this greeting?

The author is not the only one who is in God’s possession...

1 Corinthians 1:2 – ² *To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:* ³ *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Look at the greeting in the earlier letter to the church at Thessalonica...

1 Thessalonians 1:1 – *Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.*

How has Paul changed the way He addresses the church in Corinth, and how might that be significant?

Paul was *called* to be an apostle. The church has a calling too – we are *called* to be _____.

In the original Greek, the word translated here as ‘saints’, ἁγίοις (hag-EE-oys), literally means _____. What is ironic about Paul describing the Corinthians in this way?

Paul doesn’t want the Corinthian believers to think of themselves as _____.

Verse 2 – *..called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:*

How is ‘orthodoxy’ important to the holiness and unity of God’s church?
Why is ‘orthodoxy’ sometimes viewed as a negative concept?

1 Corinthians 1:3 – ³ *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

We experience the peace of God best when we are humbly trusting in God’s grace, the same grace that has saved every member of the universal church regardless of time or location.