

**Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians – Part 1 (early 54)****1 Corinthians 1****Address and Greeting**

1 Paul, called *as* an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,  
2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:  
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Thanksgiving for Corinth's Spiritual Gifts**

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus,  
5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge,  
6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you,  
7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Reaction to Chloe's Report of Factions in the Church**

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.  
11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you.  
12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."  
13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?  
14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,  
15 so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.  
16 Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.  
17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

**The Foolish Wisdom of the Cross**

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

"I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,  
AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." [[Isa 29:14](#)]

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?  
21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.  
22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;  
23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,  
24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.  
25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**God's Choice of the Foolish**

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

29 so that no man may boast before God.

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD." [[Jer 9:24](#)]

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**Chronological Notes**1) Date.<sup>1</sup>

- A) According to 1 Corinthians 16:8, Paul wrote his second letter to the Corinthians (called 1 Corinthians or Corinthians B) during his third missionary journey when he was well into his 2½ year stay in Ephesus (Summer 52 to Summer 54). The fact that he wanted to stay in Ephesus "until Pentecost" indicates that he was writing early in the year, and so a date in early AD 54 is most likely.

2) Paul and the Corinthians.<sup>2</sup>

- A) Paul's history with the Corinthians is complex, but it is possible to reconstruct the course of the apostle's dealings with this difficult congregation from the available evidence in Acts and 1 & 2 Corinthians with reasonable certainty. As the following list shows, Paul made at least three visits to Corinth and wrote at least four letters, only two of which have been preserved in the Christian canon. The sequence of these visits and letters is as follows:

- (1) First visit—Paul started the church in Corinth in late 49–Summer 51 (Acts 18:1–11).
- (2) Paul wrote the "previous letter" in c. 52 or 53 (1 Cor 5:9–11; "Corinthians A").
- (3) Paul wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus in early 54 (1 Cor 16:8; "Corinthians B").
- (4) Second visit—the "painful visit" c. Summer 54 (2 Cor 2:1; see 12:14; 13:1–2).
- (5) Paul wrote the "severe letter" c. Summer 54 (2 Cor 2:4; 7:8; "Corinthians C").
- (6) Paul wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia in Fall 54 (2 Cor 7:5; 8:1; 9:2; "Corinthians D").
- (7) Third visit in the Winter 54/55 (Acts 20:2).

<sup>1</sup> Andreas J. Kostenberger, L. Scott Kellum, Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown* (B&H Academic, 2009): 469–70.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 469.