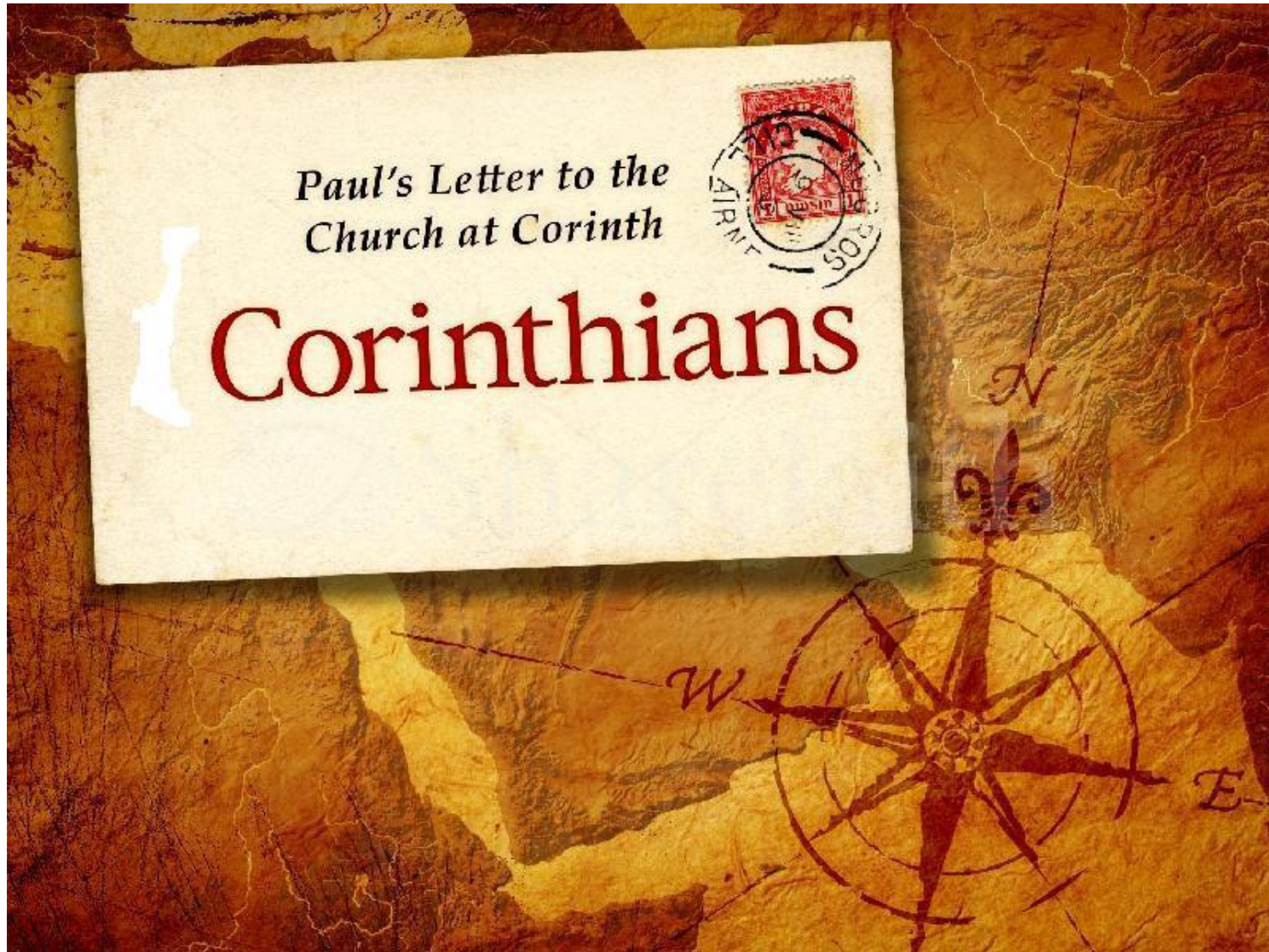


# Welcome to Holly Hills Bible Church

Service to start  
at 10:20 AM

# 1 Cor. 1:13-17 Has Christ Been Divided?



# The Problem of Divisions



<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you.

<sup>12</sup> 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."

<sup>12</sup> 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."



Now I mean this

lit: what I mean is this

**Paul will now tell us the issue of these quarrels!**

that each one of you (Corinthians) is saying (or asserting)

- lit: each and everyone of you
- involves the whole church
- what follows is the issue in the Corinthian church

<sup>12</sup> 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."



apparently every Corinthian had picked his man

"I am of Paul," ( lit: I am identifying with Paul)

and "I of Apollos,"

and "I of Cephas,"

and "I of Christ."

- centered about their ego (I = ego – emphatic personal pronoun)
- apparently centered about personality
- Paul, Apollos, Cephas (Peter) were teaching the truth about Christ

# Today's Outline\*



A. Salutations to the Corinthian Church 1:1-9

B. The Problem of Divisions Stated 1:10-12

C. The Problem Addressed 1:13 to 4:21

1. Unity Is Achieved by the Person and Work of Christ 1:13-17

a. There Is Only One Christ, One Cross, One Baptism

b. Paul Sent to Preach the Gospel

2. Unity Is Achieved by Considering the True Nature of the Gospel

3. Unity Is Achieved by Viewing the Membership of the Church

4. Unity Is Achieved by Considering the Nature of True Wisdom

5. Unity Is Achieved by Considering the Nature of Christian Service



<sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

<sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

<sup>15</sup> so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.

<sup>16</sup> Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?



has Christ been divided?\*

interlinear: Christ has been divided? or Christ is divided?

divided – *merizō* - to divide, separate into parts  
(perfect tense)

Mark 6:41 --- He blessed the food and broke the loaves --- and He divided up the two fish among them all.

How to properly translate this verse?

The Christ has been divided into various parts, with the present result that He lies there broken up into fragments which are distributed among you. Wuest

\* negative answer is expected



<sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?



So by the Corinthians claiming that I am of Paul, I of Apollos, I of Cephas and I of Christ, they were dividing the true message of Christ.

Paul was not crucified for you, was he?

- only one cross – Christ’s cross
- only Christ’s death satisfies the demands of a holy God
- Paul being crucified would not enhance Christ’s cross



<sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

in – *eis* – into

lit: baptized into the name of Paul

**What does Scripture say?**

Matt 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ---”

Eph 5:20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus



<sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (cont.)

- Paul wants to make a point of the absurdity of being baptized into the name of Paul
- baptism is to be the outward sign that you have put your faith in Christ
- since only God sees your heart you are testifying to your reality of your faith in Christ

Paul will now discuss the value of water baptism in his ministry to the Corinthians.



<sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.

## Who were Crispus and Gaius?

**Crispus** – see Acts 18:8 Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians, when they heard, were believing and being baptized.

- Crispus believed in the Lord
- once he believed, then he was baptized

**Gaius** – see Rom 16:23a Gaius, host to me and to the whole church, greets you. ---

- Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia

Acts 19:29



<sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.

I thank God that I baptized none of you\* except

Why would Paul say this?

verse 15 tells us why

so that – with a purpose that

no one would say you were baptized in my name

Paul deliberately did not baptize his converts so there would be no question as to whose disciples they were.

Constable

<sup>16</sup> Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.



**Stephanas** - see 1 Cor 16:15 Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints)

Paul is apparently searching his memory of converts he baptized

- he can only remember 3 times that he baptized
- there may be others but he can't remember them
- Paul is leading up to an important point about his ministry

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.



For Christ did not send me to baptize

subject: Christ

verb: send - *apostellō* - to send on service, send on a mission

note: it is the negative of the verb: did not send

- so Paul's mission is not to be focused on the baptism of new believers
- Paul did baptize a few new believers as needed

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.



but to preach the gospel

Christ's mission for Paul was to preach the gospel

to preach the gospel - *euangelizō* - is almost always used of "the good news" concerning the Son of God as proclaimed in the gospel

- Gal 1:11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.<sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but *I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ*.
- 1 Cor 15:1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,<sup>2a</sup> by which also you are saved,



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.



Warning about preaching the gospel!

not in cleverness of speech

cleverness - *sophia* - human wisdom in the natural sphere

1 Cor 1:19 For it has been written I will destroy the wisdom of the wise ones and the understanding of the intelligent I will set aside (Interlinear)

- not within the realm of philosophical discourse Wuest
  - not with verbal eloquence Amplified
  - not in wisdom of word Darby
- the simplicity of the gospel is this: Christ died for our sins, Christ was buried, Christ was raised & Christ appeared

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.



so that – with a purpose that

the cross of Christ

- this is the first mention of “the cross of Christ”
- we will see it contrasted with man’s wisdom through the end of Chp. 2
- The doctrine of the cross is the teaching that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died a death wherein the guilt and penalty of man’s sin was placed on Him, making it possible for salvation to be extended to those who believe in Christ.

McCalley

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.



would not be made void.

made void - *keno* - to empty, make of no effect, to be emptied of its power

- used --- in reference to the cross of Christ, meaning the cross not accomplishing its purpose, i.e., salvation for unbelieving man Zodhiates
- If Paul were to use man's wisdom in presenting the cross of Christ his message would be ineffective and without the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Final Thoughts\*



Later (in Corinthians) Paul pointed out that the Corinthian Christians were viewing things through carnal eyes, namely seeing things as unsaved people do.

Paul did not emphasize or place confidence in the method of his preaching but the message of the Cross. He did not want to draw attention away from the gospel message to his style of delivering that message.

\* Constable

- Because He Lives
- Come and See
- I Exalt Thee



## 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

