First century personal correspondence contained three elements:

- 1. Who the author is,
- 2. Who the recipients are, and
 - 3. the greeting

Prime location



1 Corinthians 1:1-2 (NASB)

- 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
- (1) who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus,
- (2) saints by calling, with
- (3) all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

(NASB)

- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Apostle will have to speak plainly as to the disorder in this assembly, but behind all his plain words of condemnation his earnest desire is that they may enjoy the blessings of grace and peace from "God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ". Vv.3

- ⁴ I (continually) 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, (of doctrine)

This grace had enriched them with every spiritual blessing in Christ and given them "all word of doctrine" and "all knowledge" of the doctrine.

⁷ so that you are **not lacking in any gift**, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,

GOD'S GUARANTEE

⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However unfaithful the saints may be, Paul can give thanks that "God is faithful", by whom believers are......

⁹ God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship (with) of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- A fellowship of which Christ, as Lord, is the bond, and which embraces all that call upon His Name.
- This is true Christian fellowship, and the only one that Scripture recognizes.