

Outline "The Universal Grace of God's Church" 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

Worship Service – April 27, 2025

Introduction

- 1 Corinthians is considered the most "letter-like" letter.
- Structure: Sender → Recipient → Greeting → Thanksgiving & Prayer → Main Body → Conclusion — a typical letter format of that era.
- Understanding the background of Corinth and its church enriches our reading.

Background of Corinth and the Corinthian Church

- A key transportation hub connecting Rome and Turkey; a city of prosperity and chaos.
- Multiculturalism, multiple religions, rampant idolatry, and sexual immorality.
- The church faced issues such as factionalism, moral corruption, and misunderstandings about marriage.
- Nevertheless, it was a lively church full of spiritual gifts.

Main Points

1) God's Church is the "Universal Church" (vv. 1–3)

- The Corinthian church was a part of God's Church along with all Christians.
- We are not just a local church but members of a global church.
- Awareness of the universal church protects us from pride, division, and compromise.

Question: Are you living with an awareness that you are a member of the universal church?

2) You Have Been "Made Rich" (vv. 4–7)

- Despite its problems, the Corinthian church was made rich in "all speech" and "all knowledge" through Christ.
- We too have been richly blessed with the Word and knowledge of the truth.
- Let us give thanks for our richness and use our gifts as we wait for the Lord.

Question: Are you giving thanks for the richness God has given you and using your gifts?

3) The Lord Will "Keep You Firm to the End" (vv. 8–9)

- The Lord protects, sanctifies, and grows the church and believers until the end.
- Even when facing problems, do not despair! Trust in the Lord's ongoing work.
- Through fellowship with Christ, we are sanctified and will be blameless.

Testimony: Pastor John Quincy Adams' experience — a journey of deepening sanctification through fellowship with the Lord.

Question: Are you deepening your fellowship with the Lord? Are you cherishing your daily devotion?

Conclusion

- We are members of the universal church.
- We have been richly blessed by the Lord.
- The Lord will firmly sustain us to the end. Let us stand on this hope and promise, deepen our fellowship with the Lord daily, encourage one another, and rejoice in the grace given to us.

★ Time of Response

【Write your response to today's message】

- I will walk with the awareness that I am a member of the universal church.
- I will give thanks for the richness given by the Lord and use my gifts.
- I will treasure my fellowship with the Lord and grow daily.

(Please fill in the "My Response" section of the bulletin with your own words.)