

THE CHURCH BEFORE GOD
I COR. 1:4-9

Introduction:

- A. The church at Corinth must be viewed from three perspectives.
 - 1. The world.
 - 2. God.
 - 3. The church's view of itself.

- B. The world sees what we do.
 - 1. They saw the schism, the quarrels.
 - 2. The adultery, the spiritual gifts.

- C. The Lord sees what we are.
 - 1. Paul knew there was more to this church and its sins and problems.

- D. The church may see itself differently.
 - 1. The church at Laodicea.
 - 2. Rev. 3:14-22.

I. THEY KNEW THE GRACE OF GOD. V4

- A. They received the grace of God.
 - 1. Grace cannot be forced.
 - 2. Grace cannot be earned.

II. THEY WERE AN ENRICHED CHURCH. V5

- A. enriched = to be made rich, to possess in abundance.
 - 1. They were not rich in money.
 - 2. Can be rich in other things.

- B. They were enriched in all things by two things.
 - 1. "in all utterance."
 - 2. logos - the word spoken.

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3. "in all knowledge."
4. gnosis - the knowledge or understanding of a thing.
5. "from the words on your lips to the understanding of your heart."
 - a. There are many who know doctrine but do not love the truth.

III. THEY WERE A GIFTED CHURCH. V6,7

- A. They were a testimony of the grace of God and the power of the gospel. v6
 1. "confirmed in you."
 2. Made steadfast, established, to make firm.
- B. They had all the spiritual gifts. v7.
 1. Still were failing!
 2. Gifts did not bring to perfection.

IV. THEY WERE A PROTECTED CHURCH. V8,9

- A. v8.
 1. confirm = make steadfast.
 2. blameless = not accused, with nothing laid to one's charge.
- B. They could depend upon God! v9.
 1. "God is faithful."
 2. He called us to this fellowship.