

Sunday, June 14, 2015—I Corinthians 1:8—Confirmed Blameless Unto the End

Introduction

- Last week we continued our study of I Corinthians 1 by looking at verses 6 and 7. In summation, we observed the following points:
 - It was through the sign gifts of “utterance,” i.e., tongues and “knowledge” that the testimony of Christ was “confirmed” in the Corinthians.
 - The Corinthians “come behind” or lack in no gift. There was not any spiritual gift that the Corinthians were found wanting with respect to.
 - The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to gather his church unto himself (I Thess. 4:13-18) is the coming of the Lord that the Corinthians were waiting for.
- This morning we want to finish our consideration of the sentence that began in verse 4 by looking at verse 8.

I Corinthians 1:8

- **Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- *Who shall also*—who is this referring to? Jesus Christ. The entirety of this sentence has been taken up with a discussion of the various things that Jesus Christ had given the Corinthians.
 - Verse 4—“the grace of God which is given you **by Jesus Christ.**”
 - Verse 5—“. . . ye are enriched **by him** (i.e., Jesus Christ in the context), in all utterance, and in all knowledge.”
 - Verses 6 & 7—further elaborate on the “enrichment” the Corinthians received in verse 5. These saints came “behind in no gift” i.e., there was no lack or want for spiritual gifts in Corinth.
- *Also*—the English word “also” means “likewise; in like manner,” according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*. So in the context, what Jesus Christ is going to do for the Corinthians in verse 8 is like or in addition to what he did for them in verses 4 and 5.
- *Confirm you unto the end*—the thing that Christ is going to do for the Corinthians “also” is to confirm them “unto the end.”

- *Confirm*—this is a translation of the same Greek word rendered “confirmed” in verse 6. There are many meanings of the English word confirmed, according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*. They include:
 - 1) To make firm, or more firm; to add strength to; to strengthen; as, health is confirmed by exercise. 2) To fix more firmly; to settle or establish. 3) To make firm or certain; to give new assurance of truth or certainty; to put past doubt. 4) To fix; to radicate; as, the patient has a confirmed dropsy. 5) To strengthen; to ratify; as, to confirm an agreement, promise, covenant or title. 6) To make more firm; to strengthen; as, to confirm an opinion, a purpose or resolution. 7) To admit to the full privileges of a Christian, by the imposition of hands.
- The expression “shall also confirm” is in the future tense. Therefore, the emphasis is on the fact that the action, in this case the confirmation of the Corinthians, will without a doubt take place in the future. Jesus Christ “shall also confirm” the Corinthians unto the end.
- In other words, Jesus Christ is the active agent in the confirmation of the Corinthians just as he was in giving the grace of God (v. 4) and enriching them in spiritual gifts (vs. 5-7). In this context, everything is based upon the Corinthians sanctified position in Christ Jesus in verse 3. The Corinthians received none of these blessing of their own accord or action they are all freely bestowed upon them by Jesus Christ.
- *End*—in the context what “end” is Christ confirming the Corinthians unto? The end of their “waiting for the coming of our Lord Christ” in verse 7. Jesus Christ is going to confirm them unto the end of the dispensation of grace when the Lord returns to catch away the church to meet him in the air. The coming of the Lord is the “end” unto which the Corinthians “shall also” be confirmed.
- *that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ*—the words “that ye may be” are in italic indicating that they were added by the King James translators to complete the thought in English. This expression provides the purpose and the intent for what Paul just said. Christ is confirming the Corinthians unto the end so that they may be “blameless in the day of Lord Jesus Christ.”
- *Blameless*—the Greek word translated “blameless” occurs 5 times in 5 verses in the Greek text supporting the King James Bible. It is variously translated as “blameless (4x) and unreprieveable (1x).
 - Colossians 1:22—“unreprieveable”
- The English word “blameless” means “without fault; innocent; guiltless; not meriting censure,” according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*.

- Ephesians 1:4—where is the only place that a believer could be said “blameless” or without fault, innocent or guiltless? In Jesus Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:3-7—positionally in Jesus Christ all believers regardless of how carnal they are “blameless” before God.
- Ephesians 5:27—the expression “without blemish” comes from the same Greek word rendered “without blame” in Eph. 1:4. God only see his church as being in Christ the spotless Lamb of God who died in our place to satisfy the offended justice of God against our sin.
 - Galatians 3:27
 - Philippians 3:9
- Colossians 1:22—believers were reconciled in verse 21 so that we might be presented as “holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight,” in verse 22.
- I Corinthians 1:1-9—are designed to remind the Corinthians of their sanctified position in Jesus Christ.
- I Corinthians 1:10—Paul is going to beseech the Corinthians on the basis of their established sanctified position in Christ that they walk in practical sanctification or in a manner that is consist with their position.
- Positionally the Corinthians are in Jesus Christ and are therefore “blameless.” Practically, however, their state is not measuring up to their standing. Therefore, they are in need of practical reproof.
 - I Timothy 3:16
- *in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ*—this confirming ministry of Christ on behalf of the Corinthians will continue so that the Corinthians will be found “blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Had that day arrived yet when Paul penned this epistle? No. Does is still lie in the future for you and I as members of the body of Christ? Yes.
- Notice the progression of thought.
 - Verse 7—what are Corinthians waiting for? The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Verse 8—Chirst shall confirm the Corinthians unto end. The end of what? Their waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. When will that be? When the day of our Lord Jesus Christ arrives.

- These verses establish that the day of the Lord Jesus Christ is what the Corinthians are waiting for because that is the day in which the Lord will come and the end unto which Christ, shall confirm the Corinthians in a state of blamelessness.
- So what is the day of the Lord Jesus Christ? You have to wait till next week to find out.