

Sunday, July 12, 2015—I Corinthians 1:9: Called Unto Fellowship

Introduction/Review

- Most recently in our series of studies in I Corinthians, we have devoted two messages to considering the nature of “the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” mentioned in I Corinthians 1:8. In doing so we observed that Paul uses a few different variations of that phrase to refer to the same thing.
 - “the day of the Lord Jesus”—II Cor. 1:14
 - “the day of Christ”—Phil. 1:10; 2:16
 - “the day of Jesus Christ”—Phil.1:6
- Just like the DOTL is a prophetic term, the day of Christ (DOC) is a Pauline term. Paul is the only Biblical writer to use this expression. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that it has a special meaning for the body of Christ.
- The DOC deals with the exaltation of Christ and his body in the heavenly places. The DOC consists of multiple events that are part of the presence of the Lord to the body of Christ just as the DOTL is the presence of the Lord for Israel. Therefore, the DOC includes the following events:
 - Catching up of the body of Christ (Phil. 1:6, 10; 2:16)
 - Day of redemption (Eph. 4:30, 1 Cor. 15:51-53)
 - Judgment seat of Christ (1 Cor. 1:8, 2 Cor. 5:10)
 - Body of Christ receives the reward of the inheritance in heavenly places (1Cor. 3:13-14, Col. 3:24, Eph. 1:3, 2:6, Col. 1:20)
 - Judgment upon those who persecuted the body of Christ while it was on earth (1 Thess. 1:6-10, 2 Thess. 2:2).
- This morning our goal is to continue with our exposition of the text by looking at verse 9.

I Corinthians 1:9

- **God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- Before we begin looking at this verse specifically lets look back over the preceding verses and note all the things that God had done for the Corinthians.
 - Verse 2—sanctified them in Christ Jesus and called them to be saints.
 - Verses 3-4—gave them grace.

- Verses 5-7—enriched them in spiritual gifts.
- Verses 8—will confirm them blameless unto to the end.
- *God is faithful*—in verse 9, Paul caps off the greeting to this epistle by summarizing God’s track record of dealing with the Corinthians by stating that “God is faithful.” The Greek word translated “faithful” in verse 9 occurs 67 times in the New Testament and is variously rendered: faithful (53x), believe (6x), believing (2x), true (2x), faithfully (1x), believer (1x), and sure (1x)
- According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* the English word “faithful” carries a host of meanings: Firm in adherence to the truth and to the duties of religion. 2) Firmly adhering to duty; of true fidelity; loyal; true to allegiance; as a faithful subject. 3) constant in the performance of duties or services; exact in attending to commands; as a faithful servant. 4) Observant of compact, treaties, contracts, vows or other engagements; true to one’s word. A government should be faithful to its treaties; individuals, to their word. 5) True; exact; in conformity to the letter and spirit; as a faithful execution of a will. 6) True to the marriage covenant; as a faithful wife or husband. 7) Conformable to truth; as a faithful narrative or representation. 8) Constant; not fickle; as a faithful lover or friend. 9) True; worthy of belief. 2Tim. 2.
 - I Timothy 10:13
 - I Thessalonians 5:24
 - II Timothy 2:2
 - II Timothy 2:11
 - I Timothy 3:1
- Numbers 23:19—why is God faithful? How do we know that we can have complete trust and confidence in God? Because God is not a man that he should lie.
- Titus 1:2—it is against God’s nature and character to lie.
- Revelation 21:8—lying is something that comes naturally to fallen man.
- I Corinthians 1:9—God is completely faithful 100% of the time.
- *by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord*—it is by God that the Corinthians “were called unto the fellowship of his Son.”
- The verb translated “were called” is in the aorist tense and the passive voice which means that at a given point of time in the past, God called the Corinthians into the fellowship of his son. How were the Corinthians “called?”
 - II Thessalonians 2:13-14—God calls the lost through the preaching of Paul’s gospel.
- Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:5—with respect to our salvation, God is the prime mover. The Godhead did what was necessary to accomplish the eternal salvation of the lost and calls men to be saved every time the gospel of the grace of God is preached.

- II Corinthians 4:4—the gospel of Christ has the capacity to shine the light of truth into the darkness of a man’s heart and soul, thereby calling them out of their darkened state.
- Colossians 1:13
- I Corinthians 1:9—we were called “unto the fellowship of his Son Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- The English word “fellowship” carries the following meanings according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*: 1) Companionship; society; consort; mutual association of persons on equal and friendly terms; familiar intercourse. 2) Association; confederacy; combination. 3) Partnership; joint interest; as fellowship in pain. 4) Company; a state of being together. 5) Frequency of intercourse. 6) Fitness and fondness for festive entertainments; with good prefixed. 7) **Communion; intimate familiarity.**
- II Corinthians 13:14—“communion of the Holy Ghost”
- Philippians 2:1—“fellowship of the Spirit”
- The first definition of the English word “communion” means “Fellowship; intercourse between two persons or more; interchange of transactions, or offices; a state of giving and receiving; agreement; concord.”
- Exodus 25:17-22—where would God commune with Israel? From between the cherubim on the top of the mercy seat in the holy of holies.
- I Corinthians 1:9—when we believe the gospel we are called into fellowship with the son of God the Lord Jesus Christ.
- How faithful is God? God has placed us into intimate fellowship with his son. There are no curtains separating us from the presence of God. We are in Christ and Christ is in us. We share in the glories of the Christ’s exaltation.
- This verse concludes Paul’s introduction to the book of I Corinthians. As we will see next week, beginning in verse 10, Paul begins to beseech the Corinthians on the basis of the facts established in verses 1 through 9.