

## **Lesson One**

The central theme of the book of First Corinthians is *unity in the church*. Paul had a close relationship with the church in Corinth. He preached there during his second missionary journey as seen in Acts 18. The Lord told Paul at the beginning of his ministry in Corinth that He "had many people in this city." (Acts 18:10). Paul stayed in Corinth for some time and then Apollos continued in Corinth working with the church.

Paul wrote to a church that was terribly divided and compromised by carnality. His letter sought to heal those divisions and instruct those Christians in what they had to do to be united. Our first lesson will cover Chapter 1 of the epistle.

- 1. Who does Paul identify the Corinthians with in v. 2?
- 2. What is the basis of the Christian's salvation? vv. 8-9. For what purpose where we called? v. 9.
- 3. What does Paul command the Corinthians to do in v. 10?
  - a. Why did he command unity? v. 11.
  - b. Why is unity among Christians important to God? John 17:20-23.
- 4. How does Paul show that division cannot be consistent with the Christian faith? v. 13.
- 5. How does the world respond to the gospel? vv. 18-21. Was there any real difference in how the Jewish culture and the Greek culture reacted to the gospel? v. 22.
- 6. Did the Corinthians share a common background? v. 26.
- 7. Why did Paul emphasize in v. 17 that his first purpose was to preach the gospel? vv. 14-16.
- 8. What do Christians agree on? v. 24. What do Christians have in common? vv. 30-31.