

Good Morning

and

***Welcome to Genesis the Church.
This Morning We Continue our Journey
In the N.T. Epistle of I Corinthians!***



The Text:

1 Corinthians 3:1-9!

The Title:

A Gentle Scolding!

The Theme:

***The Sin of Self-Centeredness
Brings Shame Upon the Name
of Our Savior!***

As we continue our journey through the book of I Corinthians, we again focus our attention on the prosperous Greek city of Corinth!

The city's wealth and importance was the direct result of its prime location. It was located in the center of the civilized Roman world.

Main land route between Macedonia to Achaia.

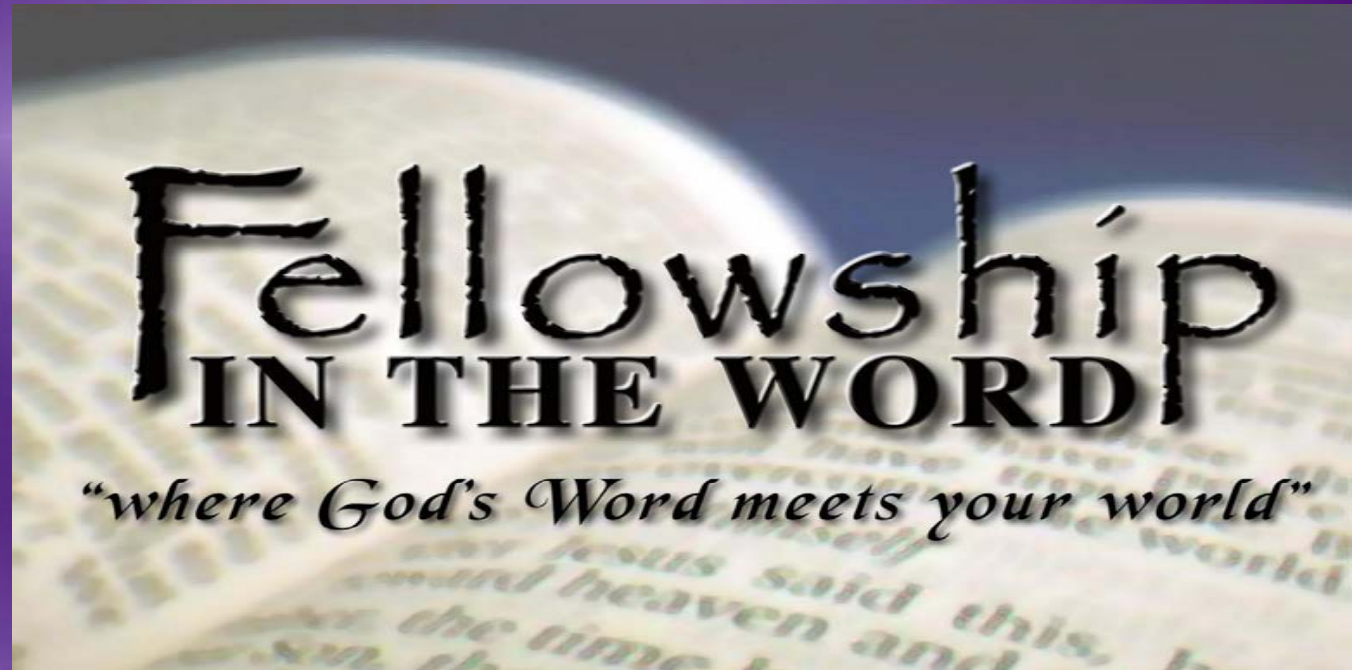
Number one seaport for ships traveling east / west.

Continually filled with sailors, soldiers, merchants, politicians.

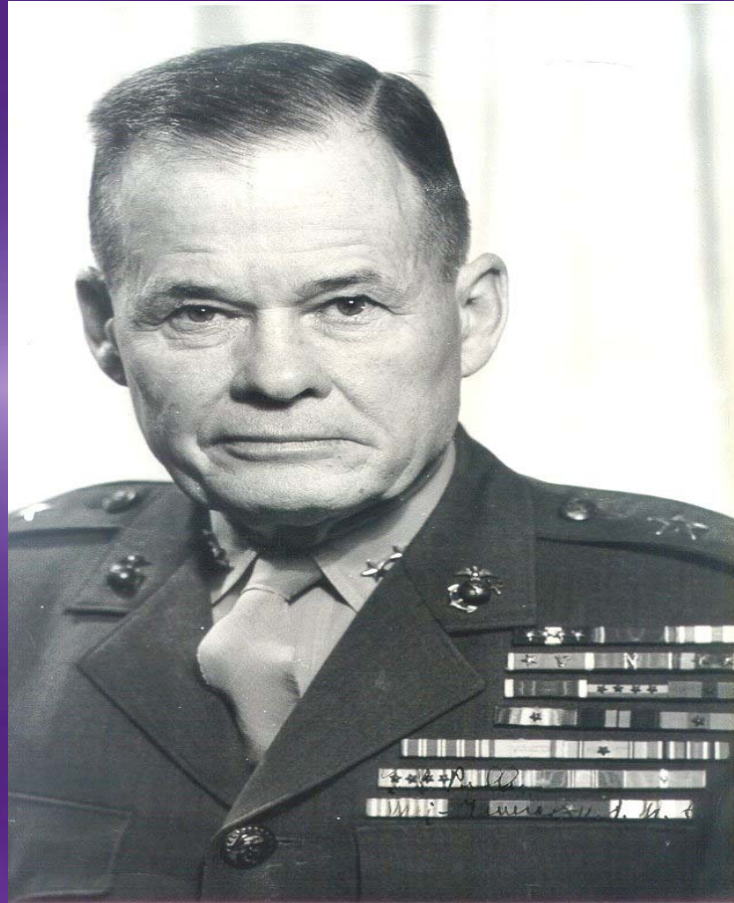
Its most notable attraction was the temple of Aphrodite.

Let's Get Familiar With Today's Text!

Let's Read I Corinthians 3:1-9!



Marine General Chesty Puller



Overview Of Our Journey

- I. (1:1-17) The **Conflict** in the Church!
- II. (1:18-2:16) The **Cause** of the Conflict!
- III. (3:1-4:5) The **Consequences** of
the Conflict!



Overview Of This Section

- III. (3:1-4:5) The **Consequences** of
the Conflict:
- A. (3:1-9) The believer's
growth is **stunted**.



Overview Of This Section

III. (3:1-4:5) The Consequences of
the Conflict:

B. (3:10-4:5) The believer's

rewards are stolen.



Our Sermon Outline for Today

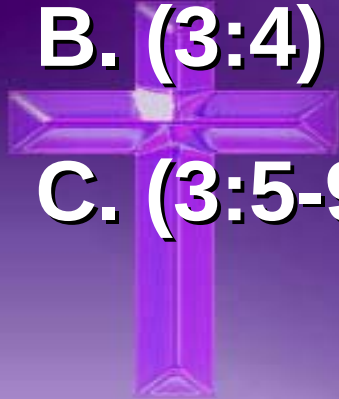
III. (3:1-4:5) The Consequences of the Conflict:

The Believer's Growth is STUNTED!

A. (3:1-3) The Characteristics leading to division.

B. (3:4) The Consequences of the division.

C. (3:5-9) The Cure for the division.



Let's Review

Last time we compared the world's impact in Corinth to the world's impact on the church today (Humanism, Narcissism, Materialism, Hedonism) . And we talked about how the thinking of the world then, is no different from the world's thinking today. To help and encourage us in the battle, Paul quoted from the book of Isaiah in 2:9 & 16!

Let's Review

This morning Paul will continue his teaching by reminding us that division and conflict within the church is not caused by external situations, but rather by internal sin. When our focus turns from upward to inward we destroy our testimony outwardly!

This Morning Paul Will Administer Some TOUGH LOVE!

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 / Paul's Goal is to Cause Us To Mature!



The World's View of Maturity

- 1. When 6am is when you get up, and not when you go to bed.*
- 2. When you realize that going to church doesn't make you any more a Christian than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.*
- 3. When you discover that for every action there is an equal and opposite government program that you're paying for.*

The World's View of Maturity

- 4. When you finally accept that you DO look like your passport picture.*
- 5. When you realize that after eating well and staying fit you'll die anyway.*
- 6. When you realize that no husband has ever been shot while doing the dishes and taking out the garbage.*
- 7. When you accept that becoming "middle aged" is when broadness of mind and narrowness of waist changes places.*

Webster's Dictionary Definition of Maturity

Maturity is the state or quality of being mature, full grown, ripe, or fully developed. To be mature is to be perfect, complete, or ready for the task at hand.

In this section Paul will remind us that being young is to be experienced but once, but for some, immaturity never seems to leave.

Paul Builds on the Previous Section

2:10 – The Revelation Given:

It is the Holy Spirit that reveals the wisdom and power of God.

2:11-12 – The Reality of the Revelation:

Just as the flesh knows the nature of a man, so too the Spirit knows the nature of God.

2:13-14 – The Result of the Reality:

Those who are spiritual proclaim the things of God and those who are of the flesh reflect the true nature of a man.

2:15 – The Reason for the Result:

Only those saved can appraise what is spiritual.



Our Journey Continues

III. (3:1-4:5) The Consequences of the Conflict:

A. (3:1-9) The believer's growth is Stunted.

1. (3:1-3) The Characteristics leading
to division.

a. (v.1) Paul's Rebuke is exercised.

b. (v.2) Paul's Realization is expressed.

c. (v.3) Paul's Reasoning is explained.

Our Journey Continues

III. (3:1-4:5) The Consequences of the Conflict:

A. (3:1-9) The believer's growth is Stunted.

1. (3:1-3) The Characteristics leading
to division.

2. (3:4) The Consequences of the division.



Our Journey Continues

A. (3:1-9) The believer's growth is **Stunted**.

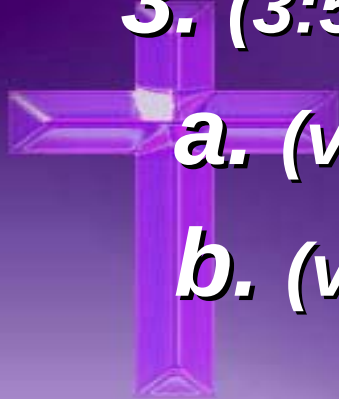
1. (3:1-3) The **Characteristics** leading
to division.

2. (3:4) The **Consequences** of the division.

3. (3:5-9) The **Cure** for the division.

a. (vs.5-6) Paul **Clarifies** the cure.

b. (vs.7-9) Paul's **Conclusion**.



Summary

We (Paul, Apollos, Peter) are God's laborers!

You (the Corinthians) are God's field / building!

God (Himself) is the owner / architect!

**As believers we should see the hand of our God
in everything! Question. Do you?**

T. S. Elliot

Focusing on Today's Culture

But it seems as if something has happened that has never happened before. Though we know not just when, or why, or how, or where. That men have left God! Not for other gods they say, but for no gods. And this has never happened before ... that men both deny God and worship God professing first reason, and then money and power, and what they call life, or race, or dialectic (the examining of logic or reason).

T. S. Elliot

“The church disowned and power overthrown and bells upturned ... what have we to do? But stand with empty hands and paws upturned in an age that advances progressively backwards!

You know today we have grown so accustomed to the darkness that we no longer realize that the light of Christ in our lives is flickering and in many cases gone out. Today we live in a dark age!”



The Apostle Paul

Focusing on the Christian Culture / I Corinthians 3:16f!

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

