

LESSON 1

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1–9



1 What's the best church you ever attended? What made it such a good church?

2 What were some of the problems this church faced?



Read the Introduction to 1 Corinthians, the map “Corinth and Ephesus” (chapter 1), 1 Corinthians 1:1–9, and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:2 ☐ 1:3 ☐ 1:7 ☐ 1:7–9

3 Why did Paul write this letter to the church in Corinth?

4 What was the city of Corinth like?

5 Why did Paul begin his letter with such a positive opening?

6 List five problems that Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians. Which of these are of interest to you?

7 Paul reminded the Corinthians of what God had done for them in the past (1:4–9). What are the benefits of remembering God’s work in your life and in the life of your church?



The first-century church was far from ideal, especially in Corinth. Pressured by a pagan culture, the Christians there were divided by conflicts and immorality. Though the church at Corinth was gifted, it was spiritually immature. In many ways, it was like some young churches today. Problems brought discouragement. Paul wrote to this church to bring them hope and to confront the problems plaguing them. They needed to change, and God was able to help them. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians will encourage us, too, whether our problems are at church or at home.

8 What problems do churches today have that are similar to those faced by the Corinthian church in the first century?

9 What problems do churches encounter today that they did not face in the past?



10 If Paul were to write a letter to your church, what might he commend?

11 What would he want to correct?

12 What can you do about the problems confronting your church?

13 Pray each day this week for your church. Ask God what you can do to help strengthen your church. What church leaders, members, and attenders can you pray for this week?



A Besides the Corinthians, to whom does this letter apply (1:2)? Which needs of the Corinthian church are also needs in your church?

B What were some of the good qualities of the Corinthian church (1:2–9)? Where did they get these qualities? What good qualities does your church have?

C Why did the Corinthians “eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1:7)? What does this mean for you? How does it apply to your responsibilities and commitments?

D What could the Corinthian Christians count on (1:8, 9)? How might this assurance affect a Christian? How does it affect you?

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