**Sermon Title: The Founding of the Church in a Christ-less Culture, Part 2**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to recognize the reality of the church in a Christ-less culture.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 attributes related to the founding of God’s church.**

**Introduction:**  Wherever Jesus is not Lord, carnality or fleshly living will always be the result. The Corinthian Christians are allowing the paganism of their past and of the current culture are destroying their Christian testimony and the harmony of the church, divisiveness and immorality are evident. The person and work of Jesus Christ is the message that is designed to transform their lives.

**I. The Greeter’s Authority. V.1**

**II. The Greeted’s Attributes. V.2**

**III. The Greeting Applied. V.3**

**I. The Greeter’s Authority. V.1**

A. The **authority** of an Apostle. V.1a

 It was 1 year after Jesus resurrection in 33 A.D. that Saul who is now Paul was converted in 34 A.D. (**Acts 9**). Paul was called by the will of God to be an apostle of Jesus Christ. Some would have been questioning Paul’s calling and authority, which he addresses in 2 Corinthians as an apologetic defense of his ministry.

 An apostle was someone who was given authority directly by Jesus Christ and sent out as His messenger. Paul explained the significance of this office in (**Chapter 9; 15:1-11;**

 **2 Corinthians 10-12; Galatians 1**). Some of the problems in the Corinthian church would be a result of challenging the authenticity of Paul’s authority.

 B. The **assistance** of a fellow servant. V.1b

 Sosthenes is probably the same person mentioned in Acts 18:17.

 **Acts 18:17** Then all the Greekstook Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

 He was the ruler of the synagogue in Corinth, but was converted and now possibly is serving as an assistant or even recording secretary for Paul.

**II. The Greeted’s Attributes. V.2**

 A. The 1st attribute is that God is the **Originator** of the church. V.2a

 The Greek word ekkelesia “called out assembly”

 **1 Corinthians 6:20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your bodyand in your spirit, which are God's.

 **Ephesians 4:11-13** And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, **13** till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

 1. The biblical makeup of God’s church are the **elected**.

 Election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies.

 [**John MacArthur Study Bible NKJV, p.2194**]

 (**Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-11**)

 **2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

 **1 Peter 1:1-2** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2** elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

 2. The biblical makeup of God’s church are the **regenerated**.

 Regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given. [**Ibid., p.2194**]

 **John 3:3-8** Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." **4** Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" **5** Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **6** "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** "Do not marvel that I said to you,`You must be born again.' **8** "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

 **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

 3. The biblical makeup of God’s church are the **justified**.

 Justification before God which is an act of God by which He declares righteous those who through faith in Christ, repent of their sins and confess Him as Sovereign Lord.

 [**Ibid. p.2195**] (**Acts 3:19**)

 **Luke 13:3** "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

 **Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

 **Isaiah 55:6-7** Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. **7** Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

 **Romans 10:9-10** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

 **1 Corinthians 12:3** Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

 **2 Corinthians 4:5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

 B. The 2nd attribute is the **owned** are sanctified in Jesus Christ. V.2b

 The description “sanctified” emphasizes the reality of the Christian life. The church is being plagued by ethical problems and questions in and outside the church, therefore, Paul emphasizes the message of holiness throughout the book, because of what Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, and ascension accomplished, and also Jesus is Lord of their lives.

 Paul encourages his readers here by reminding them that by God’s grace they have already made a definite, distinct, and definitive break with sin, the world system and self, to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. This goal of practical holiness and purity is realistic because of what God has already done in their inner man.

 **Romans 6:11-14** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. **13** And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. **14** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

 **Galatians 5:24-25** And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

 C. The 3rd attribute is the **outworking** of saints. V.2c

 By calling every true believer a saint. The word saint (that is holy ones) calls attention to the unique status of God’s people as those set apart by God Himself. Paul often uses this term when addressing the members of the churches. Saints reflect the Lord’s authority over their lives.

 “According to Scripture, every true believer in Jesus Christ – whether faithful or unfaithful, well known or unknown, leader or follower – is a set apart person, a holy one, a saint positionally.” [**John MacArthur Commentary Corinthians, p.5**]

 Every true believer is both sanctified and a saint unto God by justification and is therefore declared to be holy. This sanctification is positional and instantaneous and should not be confused with progressive sanctification.

 D. The 4th attribute is the **objective** is true for all ages. V.2d

 This is added to remind us that all believers are connected in a spiritual life to other believers everywhere, this was to increase their and our sense of responsibility to holy living.

 **2 Peter 1:1** Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

**III. The Greeting Applied. V.3**

 A. The greeting impact of **grace**. V.3a

 These both speak of the attributes for believers to believers, because it speaks of blessing and benefits that only believers possess.

 B. The greeting impact of **peace**. V.3b