

1 Corinthians 1:3-9^{iv}

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

^{iv} About 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Paul adapts the customary introduction of ancient letters and combines the usual greetings, “grace” (Greek) and “peace” (Hebrew). More than good wishes, these words describe salvation as “grace,” God’s gift, and as “peace,” the harmony of the kingdom of God.

In the thanksgiving, Paul sets forth the themes of the letter. He gives thanks for the same spiritual gifts, “speech” and “knowledge,” that were causing so much division in the Corinthian community. Later in the letter he will deal with the misunderstanding and misuse of these gifts (chaps. 12 and 14). They are undoubtedly God-given and confirm “the testimony of Christ,” Paul’s preaching of the gospel. Here Paul carefully places the Corinthians’ present individualistic use of the gifts into a context of future revelation and shared responsibility in the community.