

## **1 Corinthians 1:1-9<sup>iv</sup>**

Paul, called to be  
an apostle of Christ Jesus  
by the will of God,  
and our brother Sosthenes,  
To the church of God that is in Corinth,  
to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,  
called to be saints,  
together with all those who in every place  
call on the name of our LORD Jesus Christ,  
both their LORD and ours:  
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.

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<sup>iv</sup> **About the Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

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This reading is the first in a sequence of readings from this letter on the Sundays after Epiphany. Paul uses the standard introductory form of ancient letters when he identifies the sender and the recipients, followed by a greeting and thanksgiving.

In the thanksgiving, Paul sets forth the themes of the letter. He gives thanks for the spiritual gifts, "speech" and "knowledge" (v. 5), that were causing so much division and dissension in the Corinthian community. He will later deal with the misunderstanding and misuse of these gifts (in chapters 12 and 14), but they are undoubtedly God-given, the confirmation of "the testimony of Christ" (v. 6), that is, the preaching of the gospel.