

Sermon Handout

From Chaos to Righteousness

Acts 18:11

I. Ministry in Corinth

- a. The Lord's prediction & instruction v. 9
"My people" *cf.* 15:14; Tit 2:14; I Pet 2:9 (Ex 19:5-6; Isa 43:20-21)
- b. Paul – his first lengthy stay (18 months)
 - i. Taught them the Word of God
Delivered to them what he received I Cor 11:23; 15:3
 - ii. Set forth the facts of redemption **and** their implications
I Cor 11:2; 7:10-11; 11:23; 15:3
 - iii. Leaves with Aquilla & Priscilla but writes letters from Ephesus
- c. Apollos of Alexandria
 - i. Doctrine improved by Aquilla & Priscilla in Ephesus vv. 24-26
 - ii. Ministers in Corinth with a recommendation vv. 27-28 (19:1)
 - iii. Is commended by Paul I Cor 1:11-13; 3:1-10
- d. Testimony of Clement of Rome (c. A.D. 66)
 - i. Your faith is known all over the world (*cf.* I Cor 1:4-7)
 - ii. Do not fall prey to seditious divisions (*cf.* I Cor 1:10-11)

II. Conditions in the Church of Corinth

- a. Peace in Corinth – no persecution that we know of
The church is left to grow and develop (*cf.* vv. 12-16)
- b. Correspondence with Paul (I, II Corinthians)
 - i. Information from Chloe, Stephanus, Fortunatus, Achaicus
 - ii. Divisions, immorality, pride, abuse of liberty
 - iii. Paul gives Christian love as the answer (Lev 19:18; Mt 22:34-40)
 - iv. Major doctrinal problems are absent (*contra* 15:12)
- c. Correspondence with Clement of Rome (after the death of Paul)
 - i. Once again, the Corinthians asked for help
 - ii. Reminded of their testimony, warned against pride & division

III. Lessons

- a. Doctrine is important, but danger lies in our attitudes & actions
- b. Godly heritage much be vigorously maintained in perpetuity
- c. No church may stand utterly alone; we are part of a greater whole
Crisis intervention (as here), but also spiritual maintenance.