

BLAMELESS on the Day – 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Opener: Getting ready for THIS day, our farewell from Noosa! We've been through many emotions this year: sad, confused, beautiful moments in ministry, terrified (about six weeks ago when looking at the calendar!)

Context: Advent the day of the Lord, Jesus' return

Big Question: why can we look forward to the day of the Lord with confidence?

Part One: v1-3 – Because we are in Christ

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:
³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because we are the people of Christ.

Just notice all the ways in which Paul says that in these verses!

V1 – he is **an apostle** of JC

V2 – the **church is sanctified, made holy**, in JC

V2 again – the letter is to everyone – incl us – **who calls on the name of JC**

V3 – Paul **wishes them with grace and peace** from God the Father AND the Lord JC!

Let's unpack each of those a bit more...

A) apostle - a personal ambassador – chosen and sent by JC

B) holy - 2 meanings: 1) set apart for God's special purposes, sacred; 2) morally perfect, just as God is morally perfect. Christians ARE the first one, set apart for God's purposes; and Christians are CALLED TO BE the second, morally perfect (Yes, we fail, to live up to it perfectly, but we have a gracious Father and a great saviour!)

C) calls on the name of: trusts in and asks for help from

D) grace and peace – forgiven through Jesus and know peace with God because of him

Being in Christ means you are under his banner, his protection, your name is on the door. It means he has promised to never leave you nor forsake you.

Illustration: When Parramatta wins the premiership next year, I will proudly wear my hat, but I won't be welcome at the post-match party, because I'm not in the club, not a member! I'm just a hat-wearer!

Application: If you are a Christian, you are in the club. Jesus has won the victory. He has beaten sin, death and the devil! It's even better than beating Manly! He wants to share with you the spoils of victory: his perfect life, eternal life, life with God in heaven.

Part two: v4-9 – Because Jesus has given us

everything we need to be confident

⁴I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge-- ⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

What has he given us?

1) v4 – grace – God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense. Would he have sent Jesus to the Cross if it wouldn’t work? NO WAY! You can bet your life that it worked, it has made us right with God. We are totally acceptable in God’s sight and guaranteed a place in heaven.

2) v5-6 – enriched in speaking and knowledge because in you, the gospel is seen to be right! People see that you are changed. The Gospel works!

3) v7 - every spiritual gift: like preaching, teaching the Bible, caring for others, etc etc

4) v8 – his promise to keep you strong to the end >>> blameless on the day of the Lord! It doesn’t mean you never do anything wrong, but when Jesus returns, he has dealt with all your bad bits. They will never be counted against you.

5) God has called you into fellowship with Jesus and he is 100% faithful – he will never let you down or break his promise.

Illustration:

James Bond movies>>> “Q” always gives Bond everything he needs for the mission. You see that his watch has a built-in circular saw, and you wonder, how will he need that?! Lo and behold he gets tied up with a rope and uses his watch to cut through it!

Application: God has given us everything we need in Jesus. He wants us to be with him forever, **and he will make it happen!**

Conclusion: The Day of the Lord is coming! Jesus will return.

1) It’s a bad day for his enemies, but a great day for his friends. We will be with the Lord forever!

2) We are children of the day and of the light; let’s live like it!

3) The day will come like a thief, so be ready!

4) We can face that day with confidence, because Jesus is everything we need.