



**From Riches to Rags
Study Guide
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
March 7, 2010**

Opening Questions:

1. Ever get into a “my-dad-can-beat-up-your-dad” type of argument when you were a kid? What happened?
2. Did you ever belong to (or aspire to) a gang, political action group, fanatical fan club, prestigious committee or exclusive circle of friends? How did (or would) you get in?

Bible Study:

1. Read Acts 18:1-11.
 - a.) How long did Paul spend in Corinth?
 - b.) How did Paul present the gospel in Corinth?
 - c.) Why do you suppose Paul was afraid to stay in Corinth?
2. If you have a Bible, dictionary, or access to the internet, look up Corinth. See if you can learn why this city was:
 - a.) A strategic commercial harbor.
 - b.) An intellectual place.
 - c.) A hotbed of heathenism.
 - d.) A center of athletics.
3. What does the term ‘Corinthianize’ mean?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-9.
 - a.) Give your own title to verses 1-3 and 4-9. How are these two paragraphs related?
 - b.) List the good points in favor of the Corinthian church.
 - c.) Answer the following:
 - i. How does Paul establish his authority as an apostle?
 - ii. Who was Sosthenes?
 - iii. How does Paul describe the Corinthians?

- iv. Why does Paul thank God for them?
- v. How complete were the gifts given to the Corinthians?
- vi. What is the ground of Christian assurance?

Application Questions:

1. What songs, movies and TV shows reflect today's ideas of love? How do they contrast with the love Paul had in mind? What is one particular way this view of love challenges you today?
2. Which of the problems of the Corinthian church do you sense are prevalent today: Misguided loyalties? Spiritual pride? Abuse of Christian freedom? Sexual misconduct? How have you been affected by these problems?
3. Which of these problems and their solutions do you want to explore together in your group study? To get the most out of 1 Corinthians, what will you put into it? How will you apply yourself to the group disciplines (of study, prayer, shared leadership, outreach, confidentiality, accountability, etc.)?