determine their action in light of the coming day of Christ. Paul's point: Our eschatology influences our ecclesiology. As N. T. Wright suggests, what we believe about the end dramatically impacts what we do in the present. How do you reflect what you believe about the end?

### **Thankfulness**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Life Together writes: "If we do not give thanks daily for the Christian fellowship in which we have been placed, even where there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but much weakness, small faith, and difficulty; if on the contrary, we only keep complaining to God that everything is so paltry and petty, so far from what we expected, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow according to the measure and riches which are there for us all in Jesus Christ. How can you demonstrate thankfulness in your faith community?

# Sermon Notes





### New Cumberland Church of the Nazarene

Order of Worship Second Sunday after The Epiphany 15 January 2017

# We Gather to Worship God

Prelude Music Welcome Call to Worship Worship Reading

## We Listen to the Scriptures

Pastoral Prayer Offering

Scripture Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Sermon: Thankful

#### We Come to the Table

Passing the Peace of Christ Prayer of Consecration The Lord's Prayer We Eat and Drink Together Prayer of Thanksgiving

# We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life
Gossiping the Good Stuff
Doxology
Blessing and Sending

If you are a guest with us today,
Please take time to fill out a Connection Card.
The ushers will be picking them up
later in the service.
Thank You

Please visit us on our website, <u>www.ncnazarene.org</u> for details of events.

Also you will find, photos, monthly newsletters, bulletins, online giving and you can also send prayer request to the prayer chain.

#### JANUARY/ FEBRUARY CALENDAR

| Jan 15 All Church Common Meal               | 12:30PM |
|---|---------|
| Jan 17 Church Committee Meetings            | 6:30PM  |
| Jan 17 Church Board Meeting                 | 7:30PM  |
| Jan 27-28 District Festival of Life (Youth) | 5:30PM  |
| Feb 4 First Saturday Prayer then Breakfast  | 8:30AM  |
| Feb 11 Strength Finders 101                 | 8:30AM  |
| Feb 12 Market Street Breakfast Ministry     | 7:25AM  |
| Feb 14 Church Committee Meetings            | 6:30PM  |
| Feb 14 Church Board Meeting                 | 7:30PM  |
| Feb 21 Children's Ministry Meeting          | 6:30PM  |
|   |         |

Sermon Reflection Guide For personal reflection and communal conversation

### 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

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 kindjust 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.

## Corinthian Experiment

Paul had spent 18 months in Corinth establishing a Christian outpost. He used his familiar pattern of finding Jews and a local synagogue and beginning his missionary efforts. The Jews rejected Paul, and in Acts 18 he declared, "From now on I will go to the Gentiles." Many in the Corinthian community have no concept of a coming Messiah or the privilege of knowing Torah. They are truly the "unchurched"! What challenges come with kingdom building in places unfamiliar with the story of Christ and His Church?

### Identity

Strabo called Corinth "wealthy" because of its commerce since it is situated on the Isthmus and is master of two harbors, which lead straight to Asia and Italy. Scholars report that the city's addiction to depravity was legendary. "Paul faced the massive task of resocialization; seeking to reshape the moral imaginations of these Gentile converts into patterns of life constant with the ways of the God of Israel (Hays)." Challenging Paul was the task of reshaping the identity of people far removed from the high morality of the Jerusalem church. How might current identity impact the developing of a new identity?

### Called

In the church, we often reserve the term "call" for the ordained. For the laity, we frequently use terms like, "converted" or "saved." Here, Paul describes the Corinthians as sanctified, or "set apart," called to be saints. He reminds them that this calling is "into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." Whereas, converted suggests "being acted upon," calling suggests an active participation. How can the idea of calling challenge your participation in your community of faith?

## **Blameless**

Anegkletos translates "you may not be called to account." on the day the of the Lord. Paul pushes the Corinthians to live towards our final hope. Whatever issues this congregation faces, the Corinthians must