

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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The Apostolic Church by A. B. Simpson

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A. B. SIMPSON

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CHURCH**

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BY

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REV. A. B. SIMPSON



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INTRODUCTION.

The first epistle to the Corinthians deals largely with the principles and life of the Church of Christ. It is a picture at once of Christ's ideal for His Church and the Church's failure to meet it. But the very faults of this particular church were overruled in God's providence as occasions for the profound teachings of the Holy Spirit respecting the true character, government and work of the Church. We have, therefore, in this epistle an outline for an apostolic Christian Church in its unity, purity, discipline, government, life, work, worship and glorious destiny. May these Outlines be used of the Holy Ghost to help us individually and collectively more perfectly to realize that divine ideal in our life and work.



UNITY OF THE CHURCH.

"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephass; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you, or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? . . . Therefore let no man glorify in men. For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephass, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." I. Cor. i. 12, 13; iii. 21, 22.

THE Church in Corinth had a most providential and even romantic inception. Sent by a special divine commission to Greece, the apostle had preached the Gospel in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea and Athens amid much persecution, and finally arrived at Corinth, the great metropolis of commerce and culture.

His work at first was greatly hindered by the opposition of the Jews, and he seems to have written to his friends in Thessalonica to pray for him that the Word of God might have free course and be glorified in this difficult field.

(II. Thess. iii. 1.) The prayer was answered in a most signal way.

First, the Jews bitterly opposed him, and so opposed him that he withdrew from them and turned to the Gentiles, beginning his work in the house of Justus, adjoining the Jewish synagogue. This was followed by a great outpouring of the Spirit of God, so that Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed, and many of the Corinthians also believed and were baptized.

Then God spoke to Paul in a special vision saying, "Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace, for I am with thee; and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee, for I have much people in this city." All this was wonderfully fulfilled in the apostle's immediate experience, and for a year and a half he continued teaching the Word of God among them.

Then the Jews made another frantic effort to destroy his work, and when Gallio, the new Roman governor, came into office they brought charges against Paul, hoping to take advantage of his ignorance or weakness, but with true Roman indifference Gallio refused to entertain