CHAP. I. 1—3.] ADDRESS AND GREETING.   
  
1.] The words **through the will  
of God** point probably to the depreciation  
of Paul’s apostolic authority at Corinth.  
In Gal. i. 1 we have this much more  
strongly asserted. But they have a reference to Paul himself also: “as they point  
in their aspect of authority, towards the  
churches, so, in their aspect of a humble  
and earnest mind, they come from Paul  
himself,” says Bengel. Chrysostom, referring the words to called, says, “ Because it  
was His will we were called, not because  
we were worthy.” **Sosthenes** can  
hardly be assumed to be identical with  
the ruler of the synagogue in Acts xviii.  
17: see note there. He must have been  
some Christian well known to the church  
at Corinth. Thus Paul associates with  
himself Silvanus and Timotheus in the  
Epistles to the Thessalonians: and Timotheus in 2 Cor. Chrysostom attributes it  
to modesty, that he associates with himself  
one by far his inferior. Some have supposed Sosthenes to be the *writer* (i.e. the  
amanuensis) of the Epistle, see Rom. xvi.  
22. Possibly he may have been one of the  
household of Chloe (ver. 11) through whom  
the intelligence had been received, and the  
Apostle may have associated him with  
himself as approving the appeal to apostolic authority. Perhaps some slight may have been put upon him by the parties at  
Corinth, and for that reason St. Paul puts  
him forward. our brother as 2 Cor.  
i. 1, of Timothy.   
  
2.] On the words  
**the church of God which is at Corinth**,  
Calvin remarks; “It may perhaps seem  
strange that he should call by the name of  
the Church of God that assembly of men  
among whom so many corruptions were  
rife, that Satan seemed to reign there  
rather than God. And it is certain that  
he had no design of flattering the Corinthians; for he speaks by the Spirit of God,  
who does not use flattery. Yet, among so  
many defilements, what kind of an appearance of a Church can any longer be found ?  
I answer, that, however many vices had  
crept in, however many corruptions of doctrine and of morals, there were yet some  
signs of a true Church. This passage is  
carefully to be noted, to keep us from  
requiring in this world a Church without  
any spot or wrinkle; or refusing this title  
to any assembly in which all is not according to our wish. For this is a dangerous  
temptation, to think that there is no  
Church, unless where there appears perfect purity. For whoever persuades himself of this, will at length find it necessary  
to separate off from all other men, and  
give himself out for the only holy man in  
the world, or else to found a peculiar sect