**SERMON PLAN Date:**

**Series theme:** Thank God, I’m a Methodist

**Sermon Title: “It’s a Tradition”**

**Sermon Purpose: We are a people of Traditions – but think about them as we embrace them.**

**Scripture Major ideas:**

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| 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Paul addresses the Church and her leaders. | Also – CC McCabe and Ingersol. It is important to plant churches, God needs a place to be found. We build traditions to point to truth. |

**Intro: Baptist and Methodist shipwrecked on an island. Poor Baptist is worried sick they will never be found. But the Millionaire Methodist is confident. “By Monday my pastor will find us. When he looks at the offering and doesn’t see my tithe!”**

**The TEXT : Paul, who was once shipwrecked himself, writes to Corinth, the first of four letters (yes we only have two), Paul has plans for the birth of this new church. They have so many gifts, he has such high hopes.**

**1. Calendar Traditions**

 a. Christmas – Not in April?

 b. Easter – Not a druid fertility goddess

 c. Seasonal Colors – shifting over time.

**2. Methodist Traditions**

 a. Evangelism

 b. Bible Study

 c. Joyful Singing

 d. Abstenence

 e. Social Involvement

 f. Local Church Traditions ….

**3. Building New Traditions**

1. A Connected Church
2. A Sharing Church
3. A Growing Church

**Conclusion: Building a Better World.**

The Freethinkers Meeting Society met several years in Lafayette Park in Watkins Glen New York.

The 1882 convention had one historically intriguing consequence. Apparently the convention passed a resolution predicting the gradual extinction of Christianity in America. The Rev. C. C. McCabe, a leader in new church development for the Methodist church, read of the resolution in a newspaper and cabled Robert Ingersoll the speaker at the convention with the following message: **"All hail the power of Jesus' name. We are building more than one Methodist church for every day in the year, and propose to make it two a day."**

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**Scripture**

## 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

## THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE

## Corinthians

## Salutation

1Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 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:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.