

Overview

Corinthians, Session One

Why Study Corinthians?



The Geography of Corinth

- Isthmus: only ___ miles wide, linking southern Greece to the rest of the country
- From sea to shining sea: ports (facing Italy) Lechaem, (facing Asia) Cenchreae
- A hill called Acrocorinth (1,850 ft) dominated the city

The Lifestyle of Corinth

- The Isthmian Games (second only to the Olympics) were held in Corinth
- A large temple to Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of _____, was on the Acrocorinth; it had 1,000 priestesses (sacred prostitutes) dedicated to glorification of sex
- The temple of Apollo (god of music, song, poetry; also ideal male figure) promoted homosexuality
- Pluralistic; city is also known for its wealth and opulence
- “To behave like a Corinthian” = “to be a fornicator”
- Commercial metropolis; unending movement of goods
- Very cosmopolitan and diverse city: “hotchpotch of races, creeds, languages and cultures”; “without aristocracy, without tradition, and without well-established citizens”
- Provincial capital of Achaia

The History of Corinth

- In 146 BC, Corinth was destroyed; citizens killed or sold into slavery by Rome
- Julius Caesar refounded Corinth as a Roman colony in 44 BC: “a Roman colony was a _____ planted at strategic points in other lands amid a non-Roman population to be a center of Roman life and to maintain the Roman peace”
- Nero (Roman Emperor AD 40-66) tried to build a canal across the isthmus; the Corinth Canal was only completed in 1893

Paul's Timeline and Journeys

36—Paul's Conversion

47-48—1st Missionary Journey

50-54—2nd Missionary Journey

54-58—3rd Missionary Journey

65—Paul's Martyrdom

To Corinth, With Love

Paul spent 18 months in Corinth (52-54) and established the church; tentmaker

1 Corinthians is written in 56 from Ephesus and sent with Timothy

2 Corinthians is written in 57 from Macedonia and probably sent with Titus

Pauline Epistles

2 Thessalonians (52, summer)

1 Thessalonians (52/53)

Galatians (55)

1 Corinthians (56, spring)

1 Timothy (56, summer/fall)

2 Corinthians (57, summer)

Romans (58, early)

Titus (58)

Philemon (59)

Colossians (59)

Ephesians (59)

2 Timothy (60)

Philippians (61/62)

Acts 18:1-17

Tentmakers Aquila and Priscilla will become prominent co-workers of Paul. Where did they come from?

What kind of frustration and success did Paul experience in Corinth early on?

How does Jesus personally encourage Paul? What does Jesus say that is surprising?

Who would these "many people" be?

Who are the "Team of Five"?

--Gallio is the proconsul. Inscription from Delphi, Greece, dates Gallio from 51-52.

--Significantly, Clement of Rome will write to Corinth 40 years later—the church endured!

T / F Paul's authorship and the canonicity of 1&2 Corinthians is widely accepted.

T / F 1&2 Corinthians are actually 2&4 Corinthians.

Why does Paul write to the Corinthians?

- 1) Chloe's report of _____ (1 Cor 1:10-12)
- 2) To answer their many questions (1 Cor. 7:1)

"If the love of Christ Jesus could take root in Corinth, the most populated, wealthy, commercial-minded and sex-obsessed city of eastern Europe, it must prove powerful anywhere" (Prior, 13).