

We will be a congregation who knows, honors, and reads the Bible.

“I grasp the story of the Bible, respect it as authoritative, know how to read it, and actually read it.”

Genesis

Exodus

Deuteronomy

1-2 Samuel

Psalms

Isaiah

Nehemiah

Matthew

Acts

Romans

→ 1 Corinthians

Philemon

Revelation

Origin Story

Historical Narrative

Poetry

Prophetic

Gospel

Epistle

Apocalyptic



Achaia-Macedonia-Asia

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Ancient Corinth

- Connected central Greece to Southern Greece
- Controlled two major trade harbors connecting Rome (Ionian Sea) to Asia (Aegean Sea)
- Capital city of Roman province Achaia
- City of economic importance and influence
- Hosted biennial Isthmian Games (second to Olympics)
- Population - 100k
- Lots of temples/sanctuaries (Apollo, Aphrodite, Poseidon, Hermes, Venus, Asklepios)
- Nicknamed "Sin City"

“The very word *korinthiazesthai*, to live like a Corinthian, had become a part of the Greek language, and meant to live with drunken and immoral debauchery ... Aelian, the late Greek writer, tells us that if ever a Corinthian was shown upon the stage in a Greek play he was shown drunk.”

- *William Barclay, NT Scholar*

Reading ancient letters.

1. Treat it like you're listening to one side of a phone convo.
2. See if Acts gives you an backstory.



Some Jews cause uproar & attack Jason's House & Paul & Silas

DAIU

Paul called to preach in Macedonia

Bereans receive the Word

A17

Troas

Paul forbidden by the Spirit to preach in Asia & Bithynia

Timothy joins Paul & Silas

Paul speaks at the Areopagus

A17

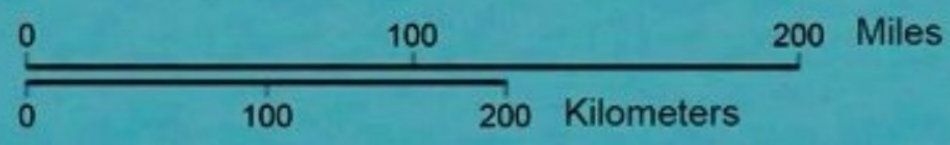
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Paul & Barnabas divided over John Mark
Paul & Silas go through Syria and Cilicia

Paul meets Aquila & Priscilla Paul brought before Gallio

Corinth
Cenchreae

Lydia & her household believe Paul & Silas beaten & thrown in jail Jailer and his household believe



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 15:36 - 18:22

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches of Asia" - Rev. 2-3
- ← Paul's Route

Acts 16:6-11

They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas...

Acts 18:1-18 – Planting church in Corinth Connected central Greece to Southern Greece

- Meets Aquila and Priscilla and works w/them making tents
- Starts by preaching in Jewish synagogues
- Has some success but gets run out
- Starts preaching to Gentile audiences has lots of success
- Stays for 18 months
- Drug into court before Governor Gallio (AD 51-52) by Jewish opposition
- Gallio does nothing so crowd beats Sosthenes (synagogue leader)
- Paul leaves. Takes at least Priscilla and Aquila
- 4 to 5 years later writes 1 Corinthians



1 Corinthians 1:1

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Sosthenes.

Interpretive Key - 1 Corinthians

A letter written in Q&A style to a group of churches Paul planted and knew well in response to specific issues/questions they inquired about.

1 Corinthians 1:10-11

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

① Unity

1:11 - For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you...

1 Corinthians 1:12-16

Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of Paul.” Others are saying, “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,” or “I follow only Christ.” Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don’t remember baptizing anyone else.)

② Sexual Immorality

5:1 - I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you— something that even pagans don't do.

3 Marriage Issues

7:1-2 - Now regarding the questions you asked in your letter. Yes, it is good to abstain from sexual relations. But because there is so much sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.

④ Unmarried Issues

7:25 – Now regarding your question about the young women who are not yet married.



Eating Food Sacrificed to Idols

8:1 – Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols.

Injustice & Drunkenness at the Lord's Supper

1 Cor 11:17-22 – For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together. First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church ... When you meet together, you are not really interested in the Lord's Supper. For some of you hurry to eat your own meal without sharing with others. As a result, some go hungry while others get drunk. What?

Don't you have your own homes for eating and drinking? Or do you really want to disgrace God's church and shame the poor?

⑦ Pride and Chaos at the Worship Gatherings

12:1 – Now, dear brothers and sisters,
regarding your question about the
special abilities the Spirit gives us...



Resurrection Theology

15:12 - Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection?



Offering Collection

16:1 – Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God's people in Jerusalem.

10 Apollos' Visit

16:12 - Now about our brother Apollos—I urged him to visit you with the other believers, but he was not willing to go right now. He will see you later when he has the opportunity.

Issues Reported by Chloe's House (and others)

1. Disunity/Quarrels over fav pastor
2. Sexual immorality
3. Marriage Issues
4. Unmarried Issues
5. Meat sacrificed to idols and freedom
6. Injustice and Drunkenness at the Lord's Supper
7. Pride and chaos at the worship gatherings
8. False teaching about the resurrection
9. Collecting offering
10. Apollos' travel plans

Paul's Approach in 1 Corinthians:

1. Addresses the issue directly
2. Resolves the issue with the gospel
(Cross-Shaped Love + Resurrection Life)

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

Disunity and Personality-Based Factions (1-4)

- (1-2) Unite! Not in the wisdom of pastors but in the foolishness of the cross and power of the Spirit.
- (1-2) The only thing any person or pastor has to contribute to the gospel is the sin we need saving from!
- (3) On judgment day, the builder's name won't matter. What matters is if your foundation is Jesus.
- (4) Imitate your leader only inasmuch as they imitate Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:18

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

Sexual Immorality and Marital Issues (5-7)

- (5-6) The great power of sexual sin was dealt with on the cross.
- (6) Our sexual integrity shows if we are living in that reality.
- (6-7) Our bodies will be raised. What you do with your body now matters!
- (6-7) It's not your body anyways.
- (7) If you never marry, even better! The Lord gets your undivided devotion.

1 Corinthians 6:18

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

Meat Sacrificed to Idols and the Lord's Supper (8-11)

- Cross-shaped love sacrifices personal freedoms for the sake of others.
- Use wisdom when it comes to how you eat
 - “What does love look like?”

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

You say, “I am allowed to do anything” —but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything” —but not everything is beneficial. Don’t be concerned for your own good but for the good of others.

Chaos in Worship and Confusion Over Our Gifts (12-11)

- The gathering is not for me and my intense spiritual experiences.
- The gathering is not for me and my opportunity to speak my mind or flaunt my faith.
- The gathering is for us – the “Body”!
- Love means using your gifts for the common good.
- Without love, nothing we do here matters.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Doubts About Resurrection (15)

- The resurrection was a vindication of Jesus' cross.
- The resurrection was an affirmation of Jesus' claims.
- The resurrection was a demonstration of Jesus' place.
- The resurrection was a confirmation of our hope.
- The resurrection was a motivation for our job now.

1 Corinthians 15:56-58

For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.