

Overview of the Second Journey

- ▶ Acts 15:41 – 18:22
- ▶ Distance: about 2800–3000 miles
- ▶ About 3 years: A.D. 50–53
 - Gallio (Acts 18:12) – proconsul in Corinth A.D. 51–52
- ▶ Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke
 - But “we” becomes “they” beginning in Thessalonica
- ▶ Timothy and Silas remain in Berea
 - They come to Paul in Athens at his instruction
- ▶ Timothy sent from Athens to Thessalonica
- ▶ Timothy and Silas return to Paul in Corinth





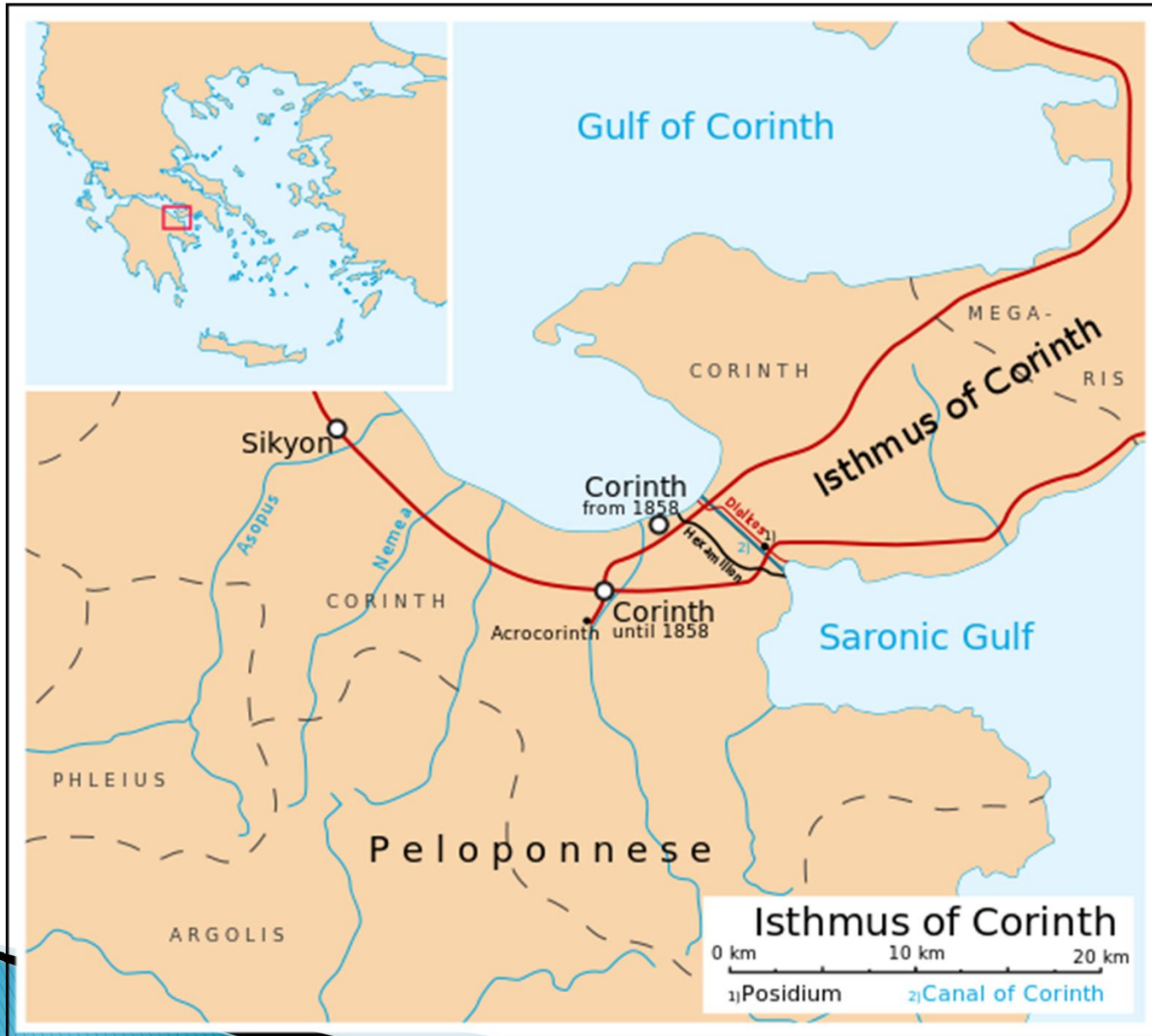
Macedonia & Achaia



Achaia



Corinth





Corinth


- ▶ 50 miles SW of Athens
- ▶ Capital of Roman province of Achaia
- ▶ Population perhaps of 400,000
- ▶ On an isthmus connecting the Peloponnesus to mainland Greece
- ▶ Two seaports
 - Laechnaeum on the west, Gulf of Corinth
 - Cenchrea on the east, Saronic Gulf
- ▶ Because of dangers of sailing around the Peloponnesus, an overland route called the Diolkos was created for ships to be towed across the isthmus
- ▶ Isthmian games were second only to the Olympic Games in the ancient world (cf. 9:24–27)
- ▶ Corinth was a city of luxury and vice



Canal of Corinth completed in 1893



Corinth

- ▶ “Because of the notorious immorality at Corinth, there was already in classical Greek a word korinthiazo (“to live or act like a Corinthian”) which was a euphemistic way of referring to the practice of fornication. And over the empire, women who were promiscuous or of loose morals were often called ‘Corinthian girls’” (New Testament History: Acts, Gareth L. Reese, p 638)
 - Consider 1 Corinthians 5 and 6 in light of this
 - ▶ 1000 priestesses (prostitutes) to Venus (Aphroditus)
 - ▶ City of wealth, philosophy, pride, and immorality
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Corinth – Acts 18

- ▶ Paul lived with Aquila and Priscilla, making tents with them
 - Friends & fellow-workers: 1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:13; 2 Timothy 4:19
- ▶ Reasoned in synagogue, but left that venue when Jews rejected it
- ▶ Went to the house of Justus next door to synagogue
- ▶ Many believed
- ▶ Received a vision from the Lord with promise
- ▶ Persecution from Jews



Corinth – Acts 18

- ▶ Silas and Timothy come to Paul in Corinth from Macedonia (18:5)
- ▶ 1 and 2 Thessalonians written from Corinth when Timothy & Silas were with Paul
 - See both letters, 1:1
- ▶ Coming of Timothy greatly encouraged Paul
 - Also 1 Thessalonians 3:5–8
- ▶ Did Timothy bring aid to Paul from Macedonia at this time?
 - Paul received support from Macedonia at some point:
 - 2 Corinthians 11:9
- ▶ Acts 18:5 is last mention of Silas in Acts
 - Peter later speaks of him in 1 Peter 5:13
 - Did Silas stay in Corinth, and Peter later came to Corinth?
 - “Cephas” mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:12 and 9:5



Paul's Method

- ▶ Reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath (Acts 18:4)
 - Persuaded both Jews and Greeks
 - Thessalonica: “reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ’” (Acts 17:2b–3)
- ▶ Jews actively opposed him
- ▶ Paul – innocent – had faithfully tried to persuade them
 - Acts 20:26
 - Ezekiel 3:18ff
- ▶ Paul left the synagogue and entered the house of Justus, a worshiper of God



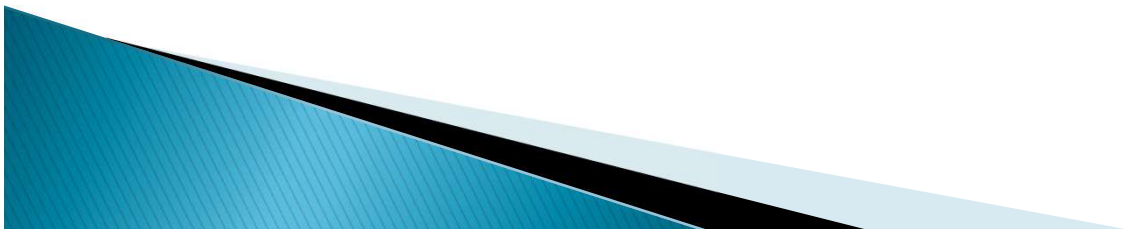
Results in Corinth

- ▶ Crispus and his household believed
 - Note his office
- ▶ Many of the Corinthians heard, believed, were baptized
- ▶ Other specific individuals obeyed while Paul in Corinth?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:14–16
 - Gaius
 - Household of Stephanus
 - Why was Paul grateful he had baptized only a few?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:14–15
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 1:26
 - Not many mighty, not many noble, not many wise in the wisdom of this world



A Vision in the Night

- ▶ The Lord spoke to Paul
 - “Do not be afraid *any longer*” (NASB)
- ▶ Did Paul have reason to be afraid or concerned?
 - Consider what happened in:
 - Thessalonica
 - Berea
 - Corinth already
 - Not to mention happenings on first preaching trip in
 - Antioch of Pisidia
 - Iconium
 - Lystra
 - 1 Corinthians 2:1–5



The Vision

- ▶ We might be asking ourselves, “go? Or stay?”
 - In this situation, Jesus wants Paul to stay:
 - Do not be afraid
 - Speak
 - And do not keep silent
- ▶ A command with a promise
 - “I am with you”
 - “No one will attack you to hurt you”
 - “I have many people in this city”
 - Calvinistic unconditional election?
 - No! A leap of assumptions
 - God can know whether there will be reception of the gospel in Corinth without trumping man’s free will
 - Only my human reasoning may have trouble with that
- ▶ Paul continued 18 months teaching the word of God



Persecution from the Jews

▶ Gallio, proconsul of Achaia

- Inscription found at Delphi, Greece has him in office in Corinth in 52AD.
- Luke's accuracy
 - Official title of "proconsul"
 - When Achaia became a province in 27 BC, it was governed by a proconsul (like a civil governor)
 - In 15 AD under Tiberius, it was ruled by a "legate" (like a high ranking general officer in Roman military)
 - Later in the same year, control of the province of Achaia was restored to the Senate, and thus at this time was ruled by a proconsul, not a legate

▶ The charge against Paul

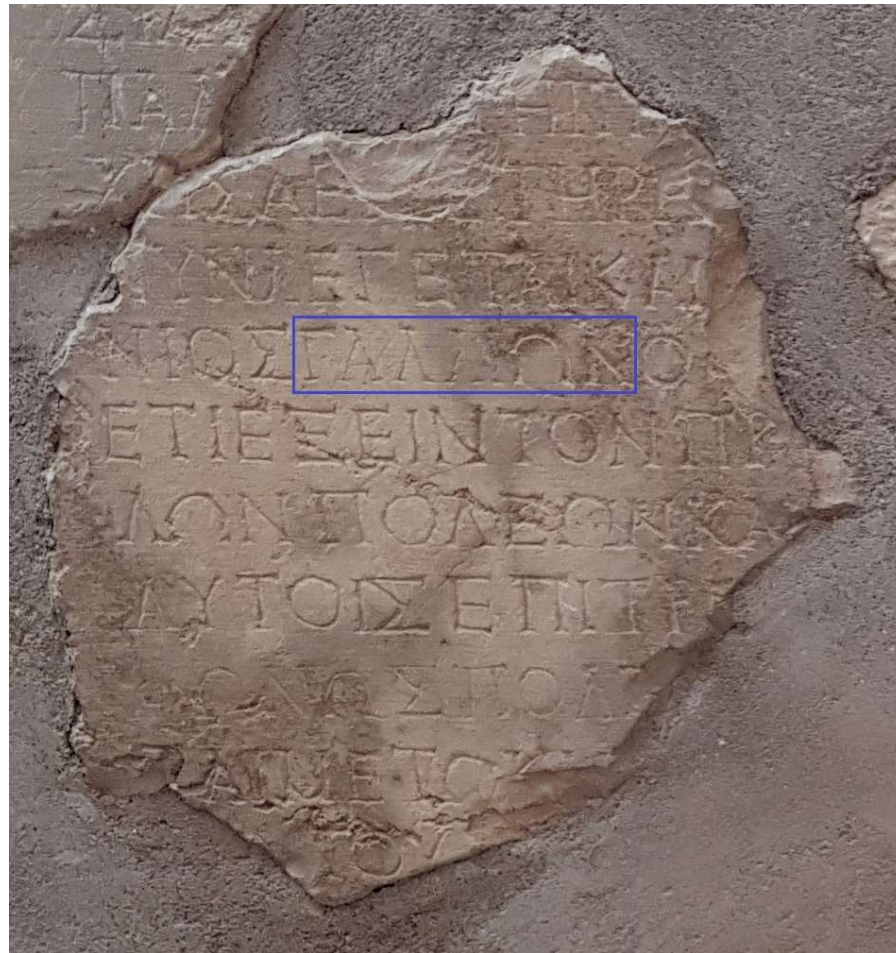
- "this fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law"



The Bema (tribunal) at Corinth



The Inscription at Delphi with name of Gallio, proconsul of Achaia



Before Gallio

- ▶ Before Paul gets a word out of his mouth, Gallio deals with it
- ▶ Gallio not going to get involved in this dispute about their religion
- ▶ Paul's accusers were dealt with justly!
- ▶ Sosthenes
 - Is this the Sosthenes of 1 Corinthians 1:1?



What else do we know about Corinth, including Paul's time there?

- ▶ 1 Corinthians & 2 Corinthians
- ▶ Paul taught many, personally baptized few
 - 1 Corinthians 3:5
 - 1 Corinthians 1:14–15
- ▶ His manner among them
 - 1 Corinthians 2:1–5
- ▶ Many immoral people were washed, sanctified, justified – either when Paul was there or later
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9–11
- ▶ He was not supported by the church while he preached among them. Received support from other churches.
 - 1 Corinthians 9:12
 - 2 Corinthians 11:7–9; 12:13
- ▶ Signs of an apostle accomplished among them
 - 2 Corinthians 12:11–12



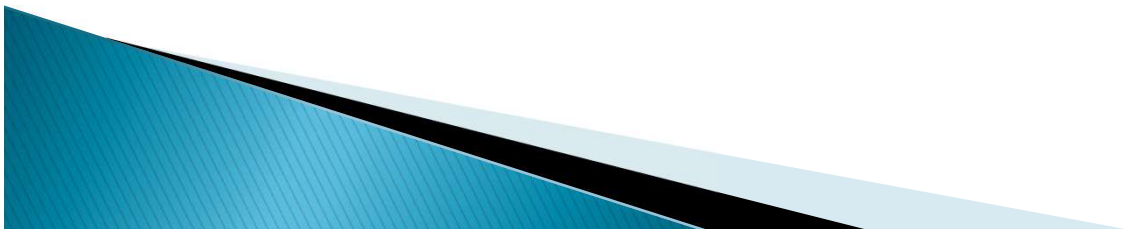
The Writing of 1 Corinthians

- ▶ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ
 - His authority – 1:1, 4:15–17; 7:17; 9:1; 11:2; 14:37
- ▶ Written from where? Consider:
 - He had already been to Corinth at least once (2:1; 3:6)
 - When he wrote the letter, he was planning to pass through Macedonia to Corinth and then to Jerusalem (16:3–7)
 - This fits with his third journey, and Ephesus, and Acts 19:21
 - From Asia – 16:19 (Asia can be a district in the interior of Asia Minor, of which Ephesus was the capital)
 - Aquila and Priscilla with him – 16:19; fits with them being with Paul in Ephesus in Acts 18:18, 19, 26....19:1
 - “I shall remain at Ephesus” – 1 Corinthians 16:8
 - Ephesus
- ▶ When was it written?
 - Paul was in Ephesus on the third journey from approximately Fall 54 AD to Summer 57 AD



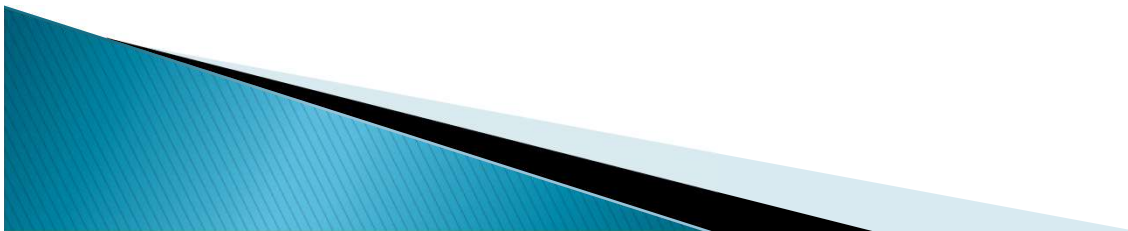
The Writing of 1 Corinthians

- ▶ Paul had already written a letter (5:9)
- ▶ Paul had received a report from those of the household of Chloe (1:11) about problems of factions
- ▶ Paul had received questions from Corinth (7:1; perhaps 8:1, 12:1, 16:1)
 - Possibly letter brought by Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus (16:7)
- ▶ Titus carried the letter & reported back to Paul its reception
 - 2 Corinthians 2:12, 13; 7:5–7



Why Study 1 Corinthians?

- ▶ It is the inspired writing of an apostle
 - Authoritative
 - 1 Corinthians 14:37
- ▶ The church in Corinth had many problems
 - Were they really all that unique? Are we immune to the same problems?
- ▶ In it, we learn about
 - The source of and the inspiration of the things the apostles taught
 - The problem of factions and the solution
 - Dealing with moral problems, whether individually or as a body



Why Study 1 Corinthians?

- ▶ In it, we learn about
 - God's law regarding marriage and divorce and remarriage
 - The proper use of our liberties
 - The preacher's right to be supported for his work
 - Proper behavior and roles in worship, including the Lord's Supper
 - The right attitude toward one another as a functioning body
 - Love's attitude and behavior
 - The resurrection in the last day
 - Instructions for the first day of the week collection



Suggested Outline

- I. Greetings (1:1–3)
- II. Thanksgiving (1:4–9)
- III. Addressing the problem of factions (1:10–4:21)
- IV. Addressing problems of morality (5:1–6:20)
- V. Answers to questions concerning marriage (7:1–40)
- VI. The proper use of liberties (8:1–11:1)
- VII. Addressing problems relating to worship (11:2–14:40)
- VIII. The resurrection (15:1–58)
- IX. Instruction regarding the collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem, including Paul's planned visit (16:1–9)
- X. Concluding remarks (16:10–24)

(Based on Outline in 1 Corinthians, a Study by Mike Willis, 1996, p.vii)

