

50 AD –Apostle Paul starts Corinthian church.

53 AD – Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-26);

- Apollos goes to Corinth (Acts 18:27)
- Paul arrives in Ephesus and begins a 3 year stay;

54 AD – Paul is teaching daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus;

- Paul sends Timothy into Macedonia (Acts 19:22);
- Nero becomes Roman Emperor at the age of 16 years old.

55 AD – Paul writes first of four letters to the Corinthians (not 1 Corinthians, but the one in 1 Cor. 5:9)

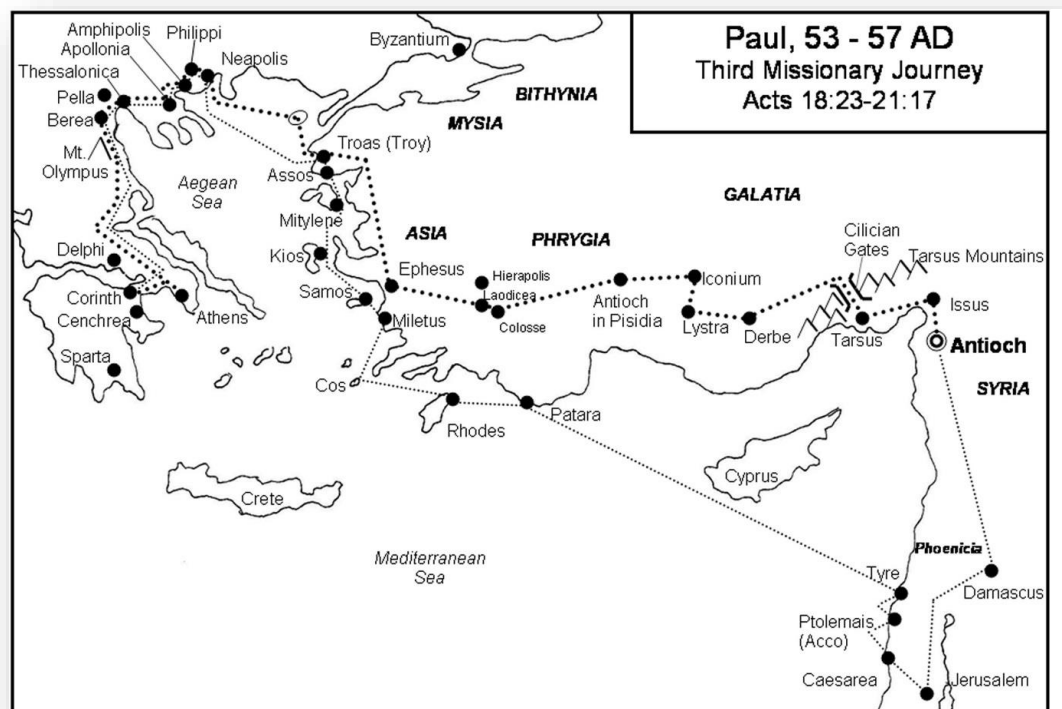
- A delegation from the Corinthian church arrives in Ephesus with problems and questions.
- Paul responds by writing 1 Corinthians
- Paul follows this letter with a quick visit across the Aegean Sea from Ephesus to Corinth and back (2 Cor. 2:1) This is Paul’s second visit to Corinth (2 Cor. 12:14; 13:1,2)
- Paul writes a third letter to Corinth from Ephesus which we do not have (2 Cor. 2:3, 4; 7:8, 9, 12). This is called the “sorrowful letter” in 2 Corinthians 2:4 and 7:8,9 which caused Paul to shed “many tears” while writing. Paul says he “repented” or “regretted” writing it because it made them sad according to 2 Corinthians 7:8.
- Titus carries this letter and stays to fix the church in Corinth (2 Cor. 7:15, 13, 14)

56 AD – After the riot in the Ephesian Theater, Paul leaves Ephesus in the fall for Corinth and goes through Troas into Macedonia on his way to Corinth.

- While Paul is traveling through Macedonia he meets Titus who had left Corinth to return to Ephesus (2 Cor. 7:5,6)
- Titus gives Paul an encouraging report about the Corinthian Church (2 Corinthians 7:5-7)
- While still in Macedonia Paul writes his fourth letter to the Corinthians known as 2 Corinthians (2 Cor. 2:13; 7:5) and sends Titus back to Corinth with the letter.
- Titus and Luke are sent back to Corinth with the letter 2 Corinthians (2 Cor. 8:17,18)
- Paul follows them into Corinth for his third visit to the city and spends the winter in Corinth.

57 AD – In the spring, Paul writes to the Roman Church from Corinth and sends the letter of Romans with a delegation of people led by Phoebe of Cenchrea to Rome (Rom. 16:1)

- Paul plans to sail to Syria from Cenchrea but the Jews are planning to kill him so he goes by land back up through Macedonia and down past Ephesus (Acts 20:3-6)
- Paul arrives in Jerusalem with the donated money (Acts 21:17)



54-68 AD – Emperor Nero often visited Corinth, displayed his artistic talents at the Isthmian games and declared the city free.

200-300's – Corinth was ravaged by Gothic hordes.

521 AD – Goths destroyed Corinth. Contemporary quote of the time:

“God is abandoning the Roman empire.”

1858 – Ancient site of Corinth left due to an earthquake.

New Corinth built near by.

The Location of the City

Corinth was located on the isthmus (land bridge) between Attica to NE (mainland Greece) and Peloponnesos (peninsula like formation to the south.)

There were two ports. The eastern port 5 miles away in the city of Cenchrea in the Saronic Gulf that led to the Aegean Sea. The western port which was north of Corinth in the city of Lechaem in the Corinthian Gulf that led to the Ionian Sea.

Small ships were rolled across the 4 ½ mile isthmus on rollers to avoid the dangerous sea around the cape at the southern tip of the Peloponnesos. Large ships would unload in the eastern port, transport the goods across the Isthmus and reload in the western port.



The People of Corinth in Paul's Day

The city of Corinth in Paul's day had only been rebuilt 100 years before but it was five times as large as Athens. The city was young, dynamic and not bound by tradition. The people were a mix of dislocated individuals without strong ethnic identities. The Corinthian church shows this mixture in the names of its members:

Roman (Latin) Names in Corinthian Church

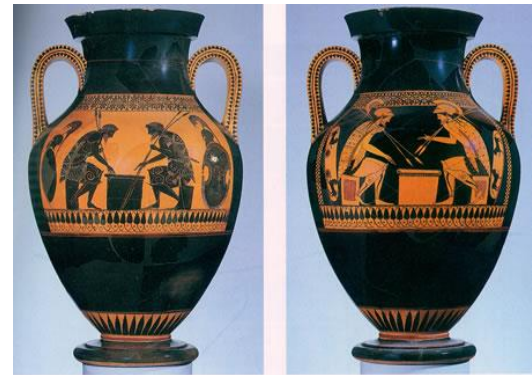
1. Gaius \$
2. Fortunatua
3. Crispus
4. Titius Justus \$

Greek Names in Corinthian Church

1. Stephanas \$
2. Achalcus
3. Erastus \$

Jewish Names in Corinthian Church

1. Aquila
2. Priscill
3. Sosthenes

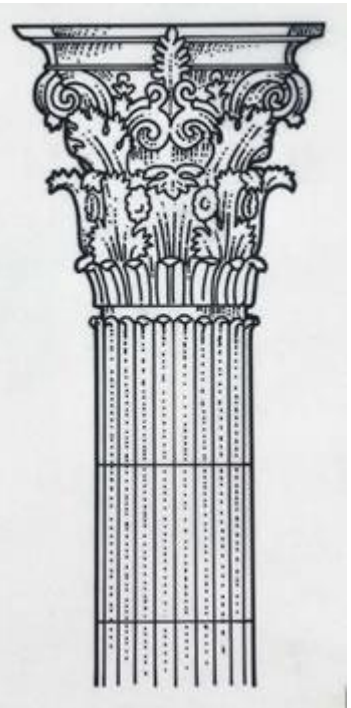


Corinth was an extremely rich city. Note the names above of the wealthy church members with the \$.

Corinth was ornamented with magnificent monuments and buildings such as the Temple of .

Corinth produced the prized Corinthian vases and idols.

They also developed the Corinthian style of columns whose design and use spread throughout the world.



The Erastus Stone

Paul writes from Corinth in his closing greeting to the Roman,

“Erastus, who is the city’s director of public works, and our

brother Quartus send you their greetings.”
(Romans 16:23)

Erastus is also mentioned in Acts 19:22 as one of Paul’s associates in the ministry that was sent with Timothy to Macedonia. The below picture is a stone from a paved road on the east side of the theater. The inscription in the stone says, **“Erastus the commissioner of public works bore the expense of this pavement.”** Scripture and this stone identify from the same time period in Corinth a man with the same name and with the same public office. It is almost for certain Paul and this 2,000 year old stone are talking about the same individual.

Timeline of Paul and the Corinthians

Fall 50 AD to Spring 52 AD – Paul goes to Corinth during his second missionary journey.

53-56 AD – Paul goes on a third missionary journey. Apollos is in Corinth.

- a) Paul stays in Ephesus for 2 ½ years
- b) Paul writes a letter to Corinth that has been lost and is referred to in 1 Corinthians 5:9 as the “previous letter”
- c) In 1 Corinthians 1:11 Paul has heard of disorder in the Corinthian church from Chloe’s household.
- d) A delegation (1 Corinthians 16:17) had been sent to him in Ephesus from Corinth. They presented him with questions from the congregation that he addresses in 1 Corinthians 7:1.

Paul follows up this letter with a “painful” visit directly from Ephesus and back in 2 Corinthians 2:1. Paul leaves Corinth and returns to Ephesus and writes a “sorrowful letter” referred to in 2 Corinthians 2:4 and 7:8,9. He shed “many tears” writing this letter according to 2 Cor. 2:4. Paul says he “repented” or “regretted” writing it because it made them sad in 2 Corinthians 7:8. This letter, his third to the Corinthians, has also been lost.

Paul left Ephesus and went to Macedonia where he met Titus who was on his way back from the Corinthian church. Titus had an encouraging report. (2 Corinthians 7:5-7) Paul then writes his 4th letter to Corinth (called 2 Corinthians) from Macedonia in 56 AD. Paul spends the winter in Corinth (Acts 20:2-3) and wrote the book of Romans. Paul left for Jerusalem in the spring of 57 to end his third missionary journey.

TOTAL: Paul wrote 4 letters to Corinth and made 3 visits to Corinth.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 55 AD

“Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.” 15:1

Author: Paul

Written From: Ephesus

Sent To: Church in Corinth

Purpose: Correct behavior by correcting doctrine Theme: The Christian’s new life is to be applied to everyday life. Basic Outline:

Chapters 1-6 - Paul attempts to correct issues in the Corinthian church made known to him by members of Chloe’s household who had crossed the Aegean Sea to speak with Paul. The problems included:

1. 1:10-4:21 – Divisions over church speakers, factions, jealousy and quarrelling in the local Corinthian church that resulted from a misunderstanding of the message of the cross and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Yhrd
2. 5:1-13 - Immorality
3. 6:1-11 - Legal Battles
4. 6:12-20 – Immorality and the body’s resurrection

Chapters 7-16 - Paul addresses questions brought by an official delegation that presented him a letter with concerns that arose from Paul’s previous letter to the Corinthians. These each begin with $\text{\textpi}\epsilon\text{\textrho}\iota\ \delta\epsilon$ in the Greek which translates “now concerning” and include:

1. 7:1, immorality and marriage
2. 7:25, celibacy and marriage
3. 8:1-11:1, food sacrificed to idols. Chapter 8-10 involves Christian liberty and responsibility. This leads into Paul discussing his apostleship and the Lord’s Supper
4. 11:2-14:40 – Divisions concerning Congregational worship services
 - a. 11:2-16 - Head coverings
 - b. 11:17-34 – social status at the Lord’s Table
 - c. 12:1, spiritual gifts
5. 15:1, the gospel and the doctrine of resurrection
6. 16:1, collection of money for the Jerusalem saints
7. 16:12, Paul’s fellow teacher, Apollos