

FIRST CORINTHIANS

First Letter – 55 AD – mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:9

----- *Corinthian Delegation Visits Paul in Ephesus* -----

Second Letter – 55 AD – **FIRST CORINTHIANS**

----- *Paul visits Corinth* -----

Third Letter – 55 AD – mentioned in 2 Cor. 2:3, 4; 7:8, 9, 12

– the “Sorrowful Letter”

– Carried by Titus

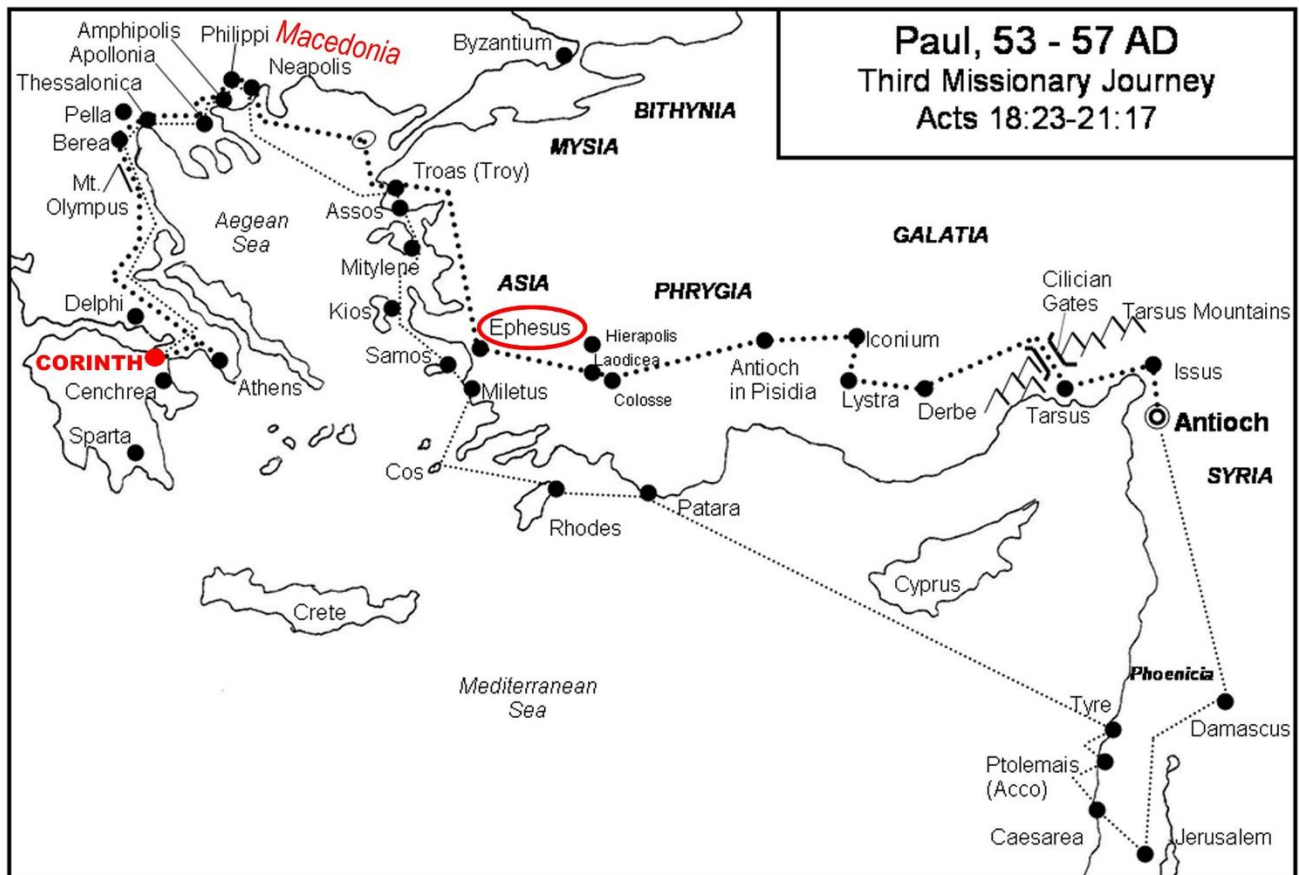
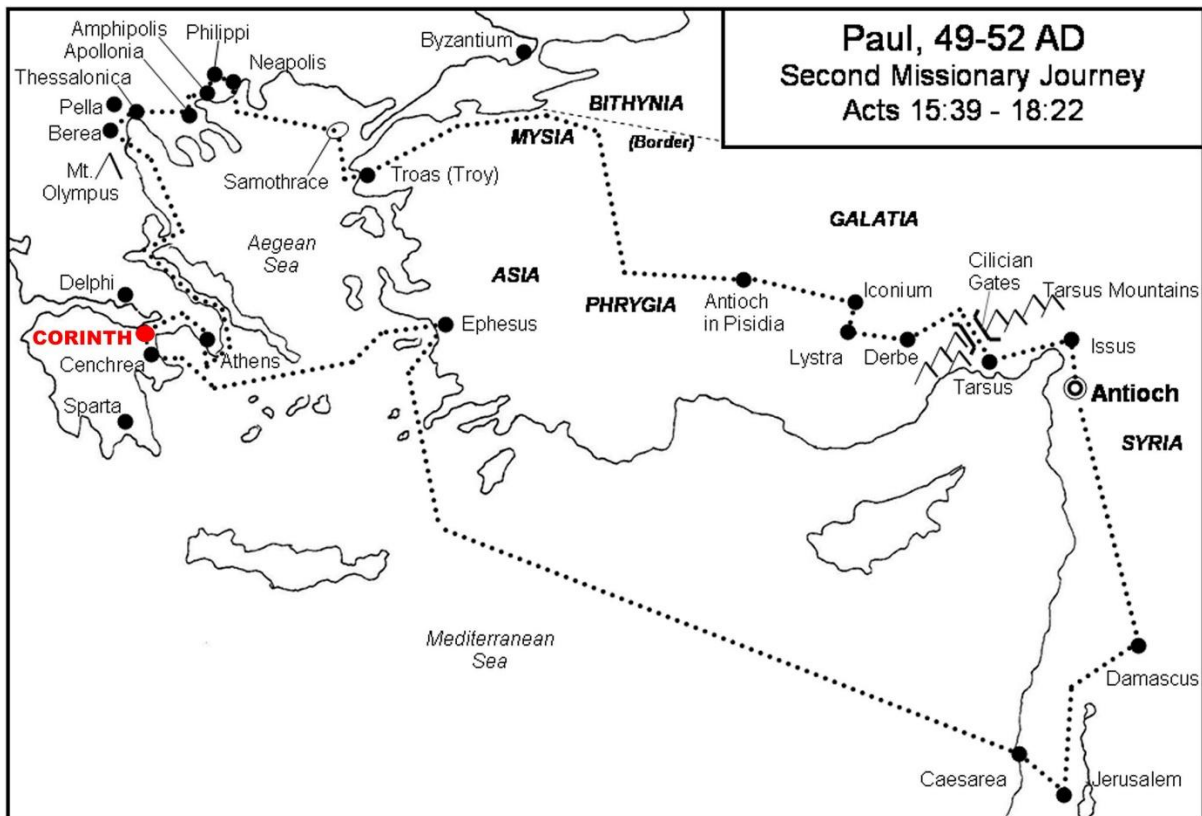
Fourth Letter – 56 AD – **SECOND CORINTHIANS**

– Written from Macedonia

– Carried by Titus and Luke



Acrocorinth is an ancient fortress at the top of a stone hill overlooking the ancient city of Corinth. This was the original city. The **Temple of Apollo** was built in the lower city of ancient Corinth around 560 BC.



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:

ch. 1-8

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.
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 περι δε 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

Corinthians thought they had superior "wisdom", "spiritual" experience, application, life style, etc. So, in rebuking the Corinthians Paul asks them TEN times, "Don't you know?" Basically saying to them, "Surely, a people of your superior spiritual experience and loftier wisdom would know this basic truth?"

1. 3:16 – Don't you know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit lives in you.
2. 5:6 – Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.
3. 6:2 – Don't you know that the saints will judge the world.
4. 6:3 – Don't you know that we will judge angels.
5. 6:9 – Don't you know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom.
6. 6:15 – Don't you know that your bodies are members of Christ himself.
7. 6:16 - Don't you know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body.
8. 6:19 - Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you.
9. 9:13 - Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple.
10. 9:24 - Don't you know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets a prize.
11. 15:58 – DO YOU KNOW that your labor in the Lord is NOT in vain

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. Fortunatus
3. Crispus
4. Titius Justus \$

Greek Names in Corinthian Church

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

Jewish Names in Corinthian Church

1. Aquila
2. Priscilla
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 Apollo.

Corinth produced the prized Corinthian vases and idols.

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

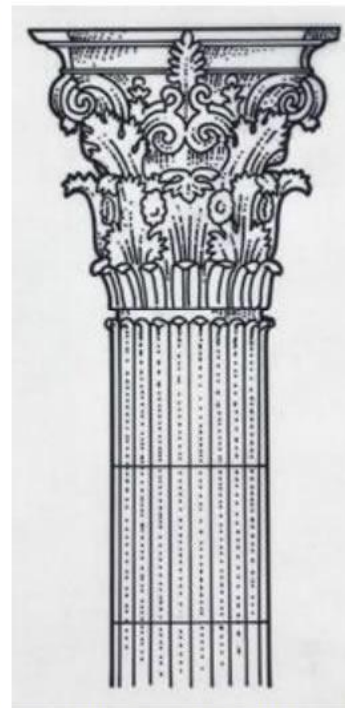


The Erastus Stone

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)



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.

1 CORINTHIANS



Full verse by verse teaching through First Corinthians is online here:

https://www.generationword.com/audio_series/first_corinthians.html

