

# Corinth



**Diolkos**



Photos from Carl Rasmussen's site at - <http://holylandphotos.org/browse.asp?s=1,4,11,28,74,239>



**Acrocorinth**

**Wall of the Acrocorinth**





**Bema** in the Agora

**Bema** with  
Acrocorinth in back





**Erastus Inscription-**

According to this inscription Erastus was the aedile of the city in charge of financial matters and was very wealthy. This pavement was laid about 50 AD. In Romans 16:13 Pauls says that “Erastus, the city treasurer greets you....” This inscription says:

*“Erastus in return for his aedileship laid (the pavement) at his own expense.”*

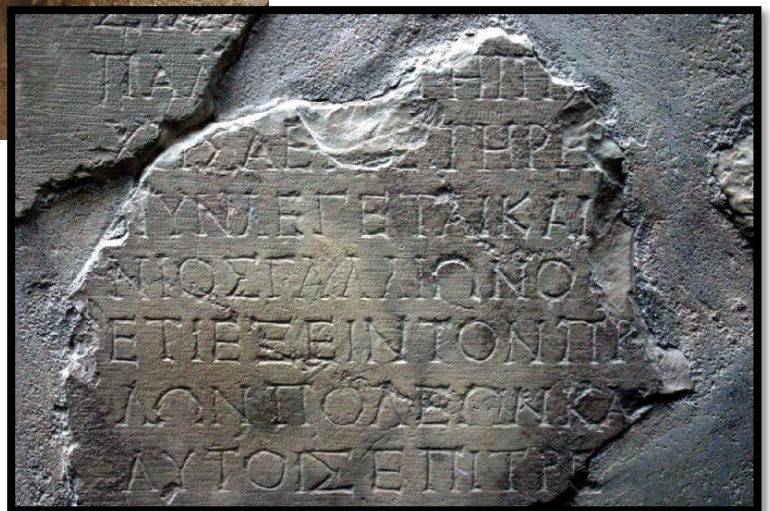


**Menorah Relief**

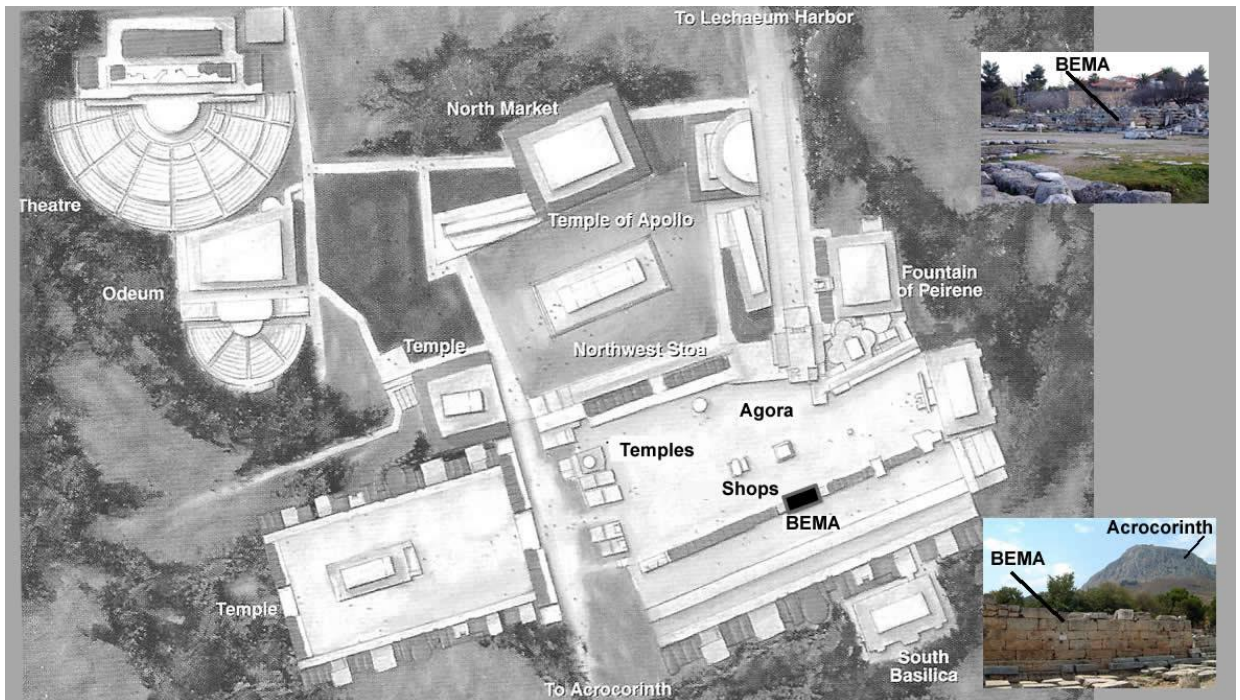
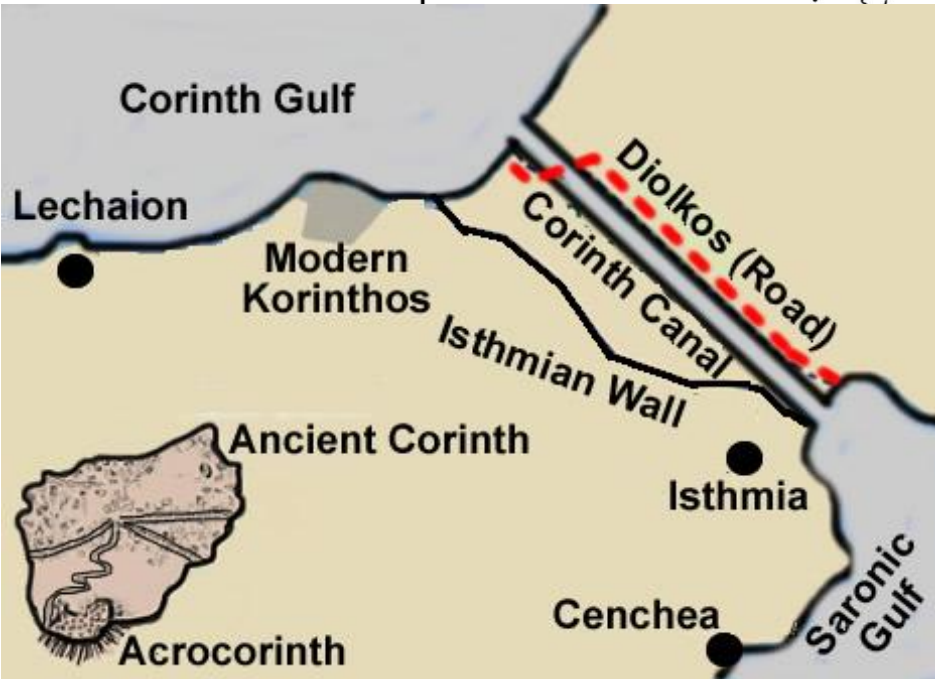
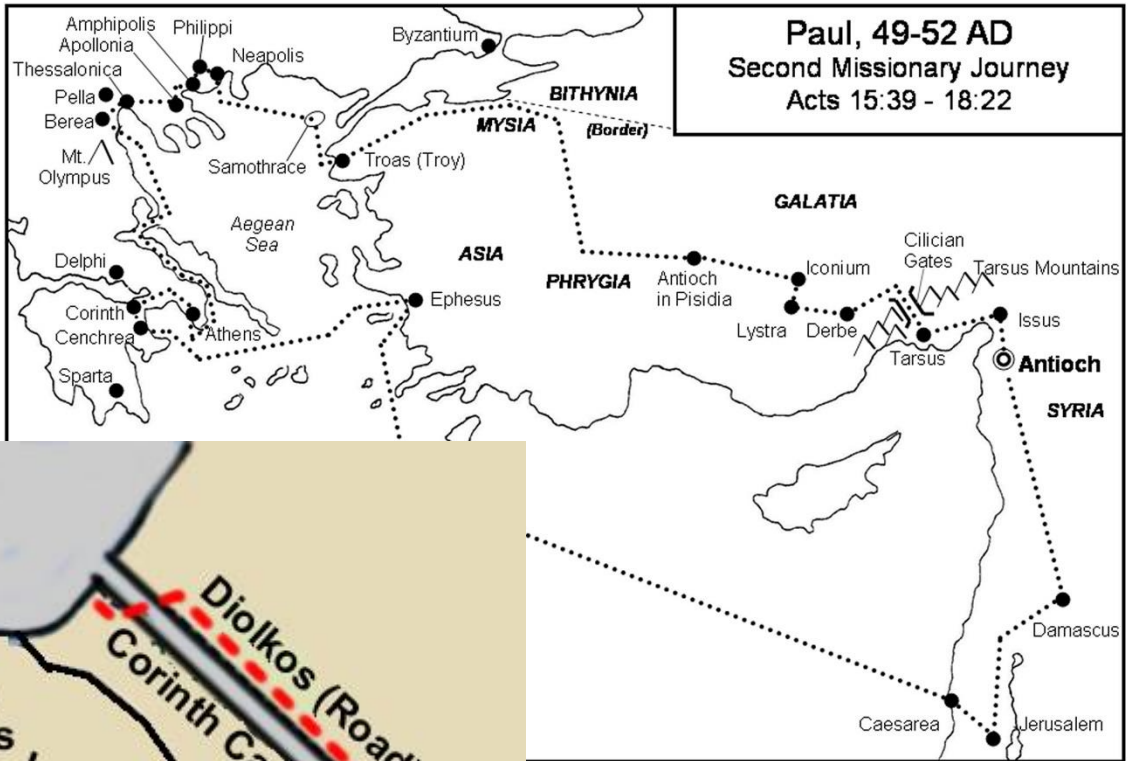


**Synagogue Inscription -** “The Synagogue of the Hebrews”

**Gallio Inscription** – found in Delphi mentioning Gallio (fourth line ΨΑΛΛΙΩ is GALLIO or γαλλιο). The inscription dates between April and July of 52 AD inferring that Gallio was proconsul of Achaia in 51 AD. Paul was in Corinth for 18 months from the fall of 50 AD until the spring of 52 AD.



**Acts 18:1-22**



**Corinth** – was the seat of the Roman Government for the Province of Achaia. Paul spent 18 months in Corinth. Corinth and Ephesus (where he spent 3 years) were two cities where Paul spent his most time and energy. Corinth was on the narrow isthmus that divided mainland Greece from the Peloponnesian peninsula. So, Corinth was the center of communication and trade north-south, but also, east-west between the port of Corinth in the west and Cenchreae in the east.

18:1 – Paul arrived in Corinth in the fall of 50 AD (he would leave 18 months later in the spring of 52 AD)

18:2- Aquila (Roman name meaning “eagle”), a man of Jewish birth, from Pontus (a province north of Galatia) and his wife Priscilla (a form of the name “Prisca” as in Rom.16:3, 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19). It appears that Aquila and Priscilla were already believers when Paul met them. This supports the idea that the teaching about Christ (“Chrestus”) had reached Rome and was causing trouble there. Aquila was a Jew, but it is possible that Priscilla (Prisca) was from a Roman noble family called Prisca. Luke refers to her as Priscilla, her familiar name, but Paul always calls her by her formal name, Prisca, in his letters.

The “Chrestus” uprising in Rome referred to by Tacitus in 120 AD when he said:

“As the Jews had again increased in numbers, but could with difficulty be banished from the capital without a tumult because of their number, Claudius did not actually expel them, but forbade them to meet in accordance with their ancestral customs.”

Then Suetonius (69-122 AD) says of an edict from 49-50 AD:

“As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he (Claudius) expelled them from Rome.”

NOTE: Aquila and Priscilla are taken to Ephesus in the spring of 52 AD, but are back in Rome by 57 AD according to Paul's greeting to them in Romans 16:3.

18:3 – Tent makers were leather workers. Made military tents, leather worker and display tents for merchants coming in from the sea.

In Judaism it was not proper for a scribe or a rabbi to receive payment for teaching. This kept the teachers pure and on topic. The theory was they were less likely to succumb to the whims of men. Most rabbi's had a trade in addition to study and teaching. Gamaliel III (220 AD) commended the study of Torah in combination with a secular occupation. He said:

“All study of the Torah which is not combined with work will ultimately be futile and leads to sin.”

Paul's policy was to work: Acts 20:34; 1 Cor. 9:3-18; 2 Cor. 11:7; 1 Thes. 2:9; 2 Thes. 3:8)

18:5 – After a few weeks Silas and Timothy bring an offering from Macedonia and Paul teaches full time. Good news from Thessalonica (**1 Thess. 3:6-10**) lets Paul know his converts are staying strong.

18:6 – Titius Justus name (the nomen and the cognomen) suggest he was a Roman citizen and his family may have been originally placed in Corinth by Julius Caesar in 44 BC. Which would make his family one of the founding members of the city and very wealthy. His praenomen would be Gaius making him the man Paul refers to in **1 Corinthians 1:14** and in **Romans 16:23**. One of the few baptized by Paul. Gaius Titius Justus was wealthy with a large house for the church to meet in.

18:8 – Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, along with Gaius were the only ones baptized by Paul (1 Cor. 1:14)

18:9 – Vision said “no harm” in Corinth unlike Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea. Paul came to Corinthian “fear and trembling” according to 1 Cor. 2:3. Paul may have taken a Nazarite vow at this time **Numbers 6:1-8, 18-19**.

18:12 – There were attacks, but no harm. A decision by civic magistrates such as in Thessalonica would affect only their jurisdiction. But a decision by a Roman governor (like Gallio, proconsul of Achaia) would affect his whole province and be followed by other governors throughout the empire.

18:13 – The charge brought against Paul was that of propagating a religion not accepted by the Roman Empire. Jewish religion was accepted by Rome due to its antiquity.

18:14-16 – Gallio’s ruling was that Paul’s “new religion” was still under the Jewish “old religion. Gallio said if Paul had been charged with a crime or misdemeanor he would have heard the case. The disputed needed to be handled in the synagogue. Gallio’s tribunal seat (bema) has been excavated.

Gallio was the son of Seneca a famous rhetorician (50 BC-40 AD) and a brother of Seneca the younger (3 BC-65 AD) a Stoic philosopher and a member of the imperial court. Seneca described his brother Gallio with these words: “No mortal is so pleasant to any one person as Gallio is to everybody.” Gallio left Achaia with a fever and took a cruise. He died with the rest of his family by Nero’s execution.

18:17 – Anti-jewish demonstrations were obviously common since Rome had expelled them for rowdy synagogue services. Sosthenes (the synagogue ruler who replaced Crispus) was beaten in the presence of the proconsul, who simply turned and left the tribunal (bema) bench.

Gallio’s ruling was an official judgment by a Roman proconsul stating that Paul’s message (Christianity) and doctrine was Jewish. And, since it was Jewish it was legal and protected under Roman law. This ruling gave Paul, the apostles and the early church a 13 year window (51-64 AD) of legal protection under Roman law in the Roman Empire.

Silas and Timothy remain in Corinth.

18:18 – Hair was cut for a Nazirite vow Paul had taken. Maybe concerning prayer for his safety with a vow. A church was planted in this eastern port city of Cenchrea. Phoebe, a woman who was a deaconess of this church, carried Paul’s letter from Corinth (57 AD) to Rome.

18:19 – Priscilla and Aquila left Corinth with Paul and went into Ephesus

