

# I CORINTHIANS – INTRODUCTION

## LESSON 1

### **Paul arrives in Corinth – A.D. 50-52 (Acts 18:1-17)**

Departing from Athens, Paul journeyed in a southwesterly direction until he entered the great city of Corinth. While waiting for the arrival of his travel companions, he became acquainted with two Jews named Aquila and Priscilla who had recently come from Rome according to an edict by Claudius. Paul abode with them because, like Paul, they were tent makers. He then began to address both Jews and Greeks in the synagogue every sabbath. After Silas and Timothy arrive, Paul preached to the Jews Jesus as the Christ only to have them blaspheme. When he came into the house of Titus Justus, which was connected closely to the synagogue, the Gospel converted the ruler of the synagogue, Crispus along with many of the Corinthians. After Paul received an encouraging vision from God to continue to speak, and not be afraid, he was brought before the proconsul by the Jews only to have Gallio drive them from the judgment-seat. Paul spent over a year and a half preaching the Word in this city before journeying on to Antioch of Syria.

### **THE CITY OF CORINTH**

1. A city that was destroyed by the Roman Lucius Mummius in 146 B.C. After 100 years of desolation, Julius Caesar rebuilt the city in 46 B.C., and allowed veteran soldiers who had served the army of Rome well to settle in Corinth with other freedmen.
2. A city of 400,000 in the days of Paul where the goddess Aphrodite – the Greek goddess of Love was worshipped. The goddess had 1,000 female priests who were prostitutes, and walked in the streets in Corinth and surrounding cities.
3. A city located on a narrow isthmus and therefore attracted trade traffic from all directions.
4. Due partly to the influx of various types of people involved in trade and the nature of their local goddess, Corinth became a most wicked city in the days of Paul.

### **THE TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING THE LETTER**

After leaving Antioch of Syria, Paul journeyed northward through Galatia and came to a city of Asia Minor called Ephesus. Here he spends over two years where in the years between A.D. 55-57, he wrote this letter.

**THEME OF THE BOOK:** “Addressing Problems In The Church”

**OUTLINE OF THE BOOK**

- I. Introduction and Thanksgiving (1:1-9)
- II. The Problem of Division (1:10-4:21)
- III. The Problem of Fornication (5:1-6:20)
- IV. The Problem Regarding Marriage (7:1-40)
- V. The Problem of Idolatry (8:1-11:1)
- VI. The Problem Regarding Prophesying and Unveiled Praying Women (11:2-16)
- VII. The Problem of Perversion of the Lord's Supper (11:17-34)
- VIII. The Problem Regarding Using Spiritual Gifts (12:1-14:40)
- IX. The Problem Regarding the bodily Resurrection of the Dead (15:1-58)
- X. Last Instructions and Salutations (16:1-24)

**I. INTRODUCTION AND THANKSGIVING (1:1-9)**

**A. Paul as writer (v.1)**

- 1. His claims to be an apostle of Jesus Christ
- 2. The work of Sosthenes

**B. Paul addresses the church of God (v.2, 9b)**

- 1. The Sanctified
- 2. The Called
- 3. The Ones Who Call on the Name of our Lord
- 4. The Ones Who are Called into Fellowship with Christ

**C. Greetings of Grace and Peace (v. 3)**

**D. Thanksgiving Unto God (v.4-9a)**

- 1. For His Grace and Confirmation in the Past (v.4-7)
- 2. For His Confirmation in the Future (v.)
- 3. For His Faithfulness (v. 9a)

**QUESTIONS:**

- 1. By whose authority was Paul called to be an apostle?
- 2. Why was establishing such authority important?
- 3. Define who the people are who comprise the church of God:
- 4. Explain the use of "grace" and "peace" in verse 3:

