

# I CORINTHIANS

## *The Church at Corinth*

### A. Notable Events

1. The church was established by Paul during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-18).
  - a. Paul arrived in Corinth alone, but was later joined by Silas and Timothy.
  - b. Paul stayed a total of 1 ½ years in Corinth.
2. Paul preached to the Jews in the synagogue, but was rejected.
  - a. The Bible calls this denial of the gospel *blasphemy* (Acts 18:6).
  - b. Paul announced his departure from the Jews to the Gentiles.
3. God appeared to Paul in a vision to encourage him to continue preaching.
  - a. God promised that He would be with Paul, and based His promise in the truth of election.
  - b. Election does not *prevent* mission work, but is the *reason* for mission work!
4. The Jews brought Paul before the Roman deputy, Gallio.
  - a. They accused Paul of teaching things contrary to Jewish law.
  - b. Gallio drove them out of the judgment seat, paying no heed to their accusation.
  - c. God uses even lax, godless rulers to protect His people.

### B. Notable People

1. Aquila and Priscilla
  - a. Jewish tentmakers from Pontus. Pontus-Rome-Corinth-Ephesus.
  - b. Paul lived with Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth, making tents with them.
2. Justus
  - a. A Greek or Roman Corinthian, who had converted to the Jewish religion.
  - b. His house joined hard to the synagogue, giving him and Paul access to the members.
  - c. After leaving the Jewish synagogue, Paul used Justus' house as his own synagogue.
3. Crispus
  - a. Chief ruler of the synagogue who was converted, along with his household.
  - b. Being a Christian, Crispus left his position as chief ruler of the synagogue.
4. Gallio
  - a. Roman deputy of Achaia, who would not be bothered with Jewish grievances.
  - b. The Jews of Corinth suffered mistreatment by the Greeks under Gallio's rule.
5. Sosthenes
  - a. New chief ruler of the synagogue after Crispus' conversion.
  - b. Beaten by the Greeks before the judgment seat in retaliation for the Jews going to Gallio.
  - c. Sosthenes was later converted and was called a brother by Paul (I Corinthians 1:1).

### C. Notable Characteristics

1. The Corinthian church was spiritually immature (I Cor. 3:1-3).
  - a. Made up of many Greek converts, with no grounding in OT history and law (Acts 18:8).
  - b. This immaturity showed up in many errors that had to be corrected by Paul.
  - c. This makes I Corinthians valuable for our mission work and for young churches.
2. The church was situated in the midst of a vile culture.
  - a. Corinth was renowned for its idolatry, with all of the accompanying vices (I Cor. 5:10).
  - b. Especially prominent was the Greek goddess Aphrodite and temple prostitution.
  - c. This makes I Cor valuable for us, situated in the midst of the same basic Western culture.
3. Paul corresponded with the Corinthian three times, though only two were inspired (I Cor. 5:9).

## ***The Purpose and Content of I Corinthians***

### **A. The Purpose of the Book**

1. Paul was at Ephesus during his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (I Cor. 16:19).
2. Paul heard reports of evils in Corinth (I Cor. 1:11; 11:18). These evils needed *correction*.
3. Paul also received a letter from Corinth with questions (I Cor 7). These needed *instruction*.

### **B. The Content of the Book**

1. Salutation 1:1-9
2. Reply to the report from the “House of Chloe” 1:10-6:20
  - a. Party Strife 1:10-3:23
  - b. Defense of Paul’s Ministry 4:1-21
  - c. Call to Discipline Immorality 5:1-13
  - d. Criticism of Lawsuits 6:1-11
  - e. Prohibition of Libertinism 6:12-20
3. Reply to questions in letter 7:1-16:9
  - a. Marriage 7:1-24
  - b. Virgins 7:25-40
  - c. Things Sacrificed to Idols 8:1-11:1
    - (1) Evaluated by the Idol 8:1-13
    - (2) Evaluated by Freedom 9:1-27
    - (3) Evaluated by Relation to God 10:1-22
    - (4) Evaluated by Relation to Others 10:23-11:1
  - d. Problems of Worship 11:2-34
    - (1) The Covering of the Head 11:2-16
    - (2) The Lord’s Table 11:17-34
  - e. Spiritual Gifts 12:1-14:40
  - f. The Resurrection of the Body 15:1-58
  - g. The Collection 16:1-8
4. Concluding Salutations 16:9-24