

1 Corinthians

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Introduction

1. The city of Corinth

- Located in Achaia, a Roman province. 40 miles west of Athens on an isthmus.
- Commercial and political metropolis of Greece. Corinth was a center for trade and also the home of the Roman proconsul (Acts 18:12).
- One of the most evil cities of the time. They hosted a temple to the goddess of love called Aphrodite or Venus where fornication was committed in honor of the goddess (Rom. 1:26-32). Some of the past evils of the Corinthian brethren are listed in 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

2. Paul's work in Corinth (Acts 18:1-18)

- He came to Corinth from Athens on his second missionary journey.
- There he was joined by Aquila and Priscilla who were tentmakers like Paul.
- Paul stayed in Corinth for one and a half years. Justus lodged Paul in Corinth.
- During that time many Corinthians heard the word, believed, and were baptized.
- Sosthenes was a ruler of the synagogue and an opponent of Paul who later became a Christian (Acts 18:17; 1 Cor. 1:1)
- Crispus was also a ruler of the synagogue who became a Christian.



3. Basic Outline of the Book:

- a. Greeting and introduction (1:1-9)
- b. Problems reported to Paul by the household of Chloe (1:10-6:20)
 - i. Division
 - ii. Fornication
 - iii. Brother suing brother
- c. Problems reported to Paul by the church at Corinth (7:1-16:12)
 - i. Marriage issues
 - ii. Meats offered to idols
 - iii. Head coverings
 - iv. The Lord's Supper
 - v. Abuse of spiritual gifts
 - vi. Denial of the resurrection
- d. Final remarks and farewell (16:13-24)