

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

1 CORINTHIANS – PART ONE AN OVERVIEW

Lesson 39

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When Did Paul Write?

- At Ephesus on 3d Missionary Journey





Info. From Acts 18 and 19

- Paul Starts Church
- Aquila and Priscilla Join
- Aquila and Priscilla All At Ephesus
- Ephesian Church sends Apollos
- Paul Back At Ephesus

Information Flow

- Prior Letters

- Paul to Church

“I **have** written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people ... but **now I am** writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is ...”
(5:9-11)

Information Flow

- Prior Letters

- Paul to Church
- Church to Paul

“Now for the matters you wrote about: ...” (7:1)

Information Flow

- Prior Letters
 - Paul to Church
 - Church to Paul
- People Traveling
 - Chloe's Household
 - Apollos

Information Flow Importance

- No Quotation Marks ... So Who Said What?
- I Corinthians 7:1, 6:12

Corinth Itself

- Old and New
- Navy Town Times Two, and RICH!



A satellite photograph of Greece and the surrounding Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. The land is shown in shades of brown and green, while the water is a deep blue. The map is oriented with North at the top. Labels for 'GREECE', 'Athens', 'Corinth', 'Achaia', 'Aegean Sea', and 'Mediterranean Sea' are overlaid on the image. Two yellow stars mark the locations of Athens and Corinth.

GREECE

Athens

Corinth

Achaia

Aegean Sea

Mediterranean Sea



Corinth Itself

- Port Town / Rich
- Sexual Laxity (To “corinthianize”)
- Home to the Isthmus Games
- Old and New
- Jewish



[Syna]goge Hebr[ews]



[Syna]goge Hebr[ews]



Why Does This Matter?

Apollos

- Church Divisions

“My brothers, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.” (1:11-12)

Apollos

- Paul Explains Roles
- Paul has to Urge Apollos to Return

“Now about our brother Apollos: I strongly urged him to go to you with the brothers. He was quite unwilling to go now, but he will go when he has the opportunity.”

(16:12)

Riches

- Paul - A Self Supporting Missionary?
- Apollos - Ephesus
- Cephas (Peter) - Jerusalem
- Paul - Weak, Unsupported, Milky Baby Teacher / Simpleton
- Consider:

- “Christ [sent me] to preach the gospel -- not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power” (1:17)
- “The message of the cross is foolish to those who are perishing ... Where is the wise man? ... God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe... The foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom.” (1:18-25)
- “When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom ... For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness.” (2:1-2)

- “We are fools for Christ, but you are so wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are honored, we are dishonored! To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we go homeless. We work hard with our own hands.” (4:10-12)
- “Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! You have become kings --- and that without us!” (4:8)
- Defense in Chapter 9

Sexual Laxity

- Impact to the Sinner
- Impact to the church allowing

Isthmus Games

- “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everybody who goes into the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” (9:24-25)

Bottom Line

- Self Centered, Proud, Sinful Church
- Answer: Jesus Crucified and Love/Service

Points For Home

- Center Life On Christ Crucified
- More Money Does Not Mean Better Person
- Bye-bye Pride
- Love Each Other
- Serve Each Other