

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

1 CORINTHIANS – PART TWO

The Wisdom of God and Divisions in the Church

Chapters 1-3

Lesson 40

Biblical-Literacy.com

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Background

- Last Week:
 - Look at City
 - Look at Bible Information
 - Overview Whole Letter
- This Week:
 - Start Bite Size Chunks

Information Flow



Information Flow



Information Flow



Corinthians “A”



Corinthians “B”



Corinthians “C”



“I Corinthians”



Church Development



Paul Starts (Acts 18)

Stays 18 Months

Church Development



Paul Starts (Acts 18)

Stays 18 Months



Apollos Teaches

Church Development



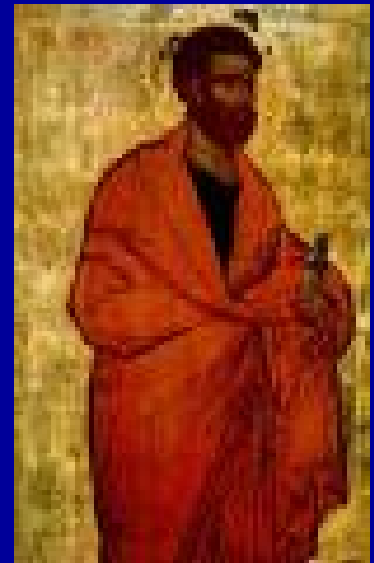
Paul Starts (Acts 18)

Stays 18 Months



Apollos Teaches

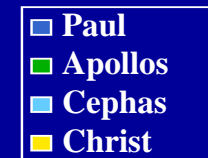
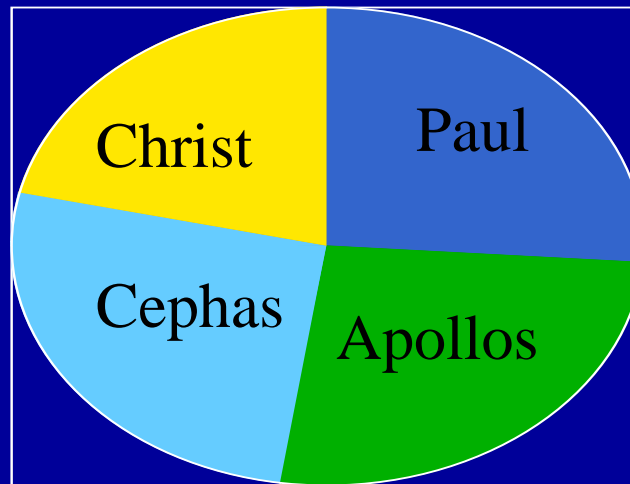
Peter ?



Church Problem

Scismata (σκισματα)

Schisms (Divisions)



Division Issue: Wisdom

- Division Not Multiple Locations
“I appeal to you that you may be perfectly
united in mind and thought” (1:10)
- Baptism Illustration
- Gospel ... Not Human Wisdom

Greek De Jour

Sophos (σοφος)

--Wisdom--

Mores (μορες)

--Foolishness--

Paul's Message

- The “Gospel”
- Not Words of Human “Wisdom”
 “lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its
 power.” (1:17)
- God's Foolishness Exceeds Man's Wisdom

Christ vs. Expectations

- Jews - Miraculous Conquering Messiah
- Greeks - The Wisest of Philosophers
- Jesus -
 - Stricken
 - Humiliated
 - Criminal
 - Uneducated
 - Judean

Jesus -- a Stumbling Block

“We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.”

(1:23)

“Stumbling Block” = *scandalon*
(σκανδαλον)



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“Trigger of a Trap”

“Stumbling Block” = *scandalon*
(σκανδαλον)

The Scandal of Christ Crucified

Scandalon - Michael Card

The seers and the prophets had foretold it long ago,
That the long awaited one would make men stumble.
They were looking for a king to conquer and to kill.
Who'd have ever thought He'd be so weak and humble?

(Chorus): He will be the truth that will offend them one
and all -- a stone to make men stumble, and a rock that
makes them fall. Many will be broken so that He can
make them whole. And many will be crushed and
lose their own soul.

Along the path of life there lies a stubborn Scandalon,
And all who come His way must be offended.
To some He is a barrier; to others He's the way.
For all should know the scandal of believing.

(Repeat Chorus)

It seems today the Scandelon offends no one at all.
The image we present can be stepped over.
Could it be that we are like the others long ago?
Will we ever learn that all who come must stumble?

The Irony of the Newly Wise

- Corinthians Were Vanilla ...
 - “Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise ... not many of noble birth...” (1:26)
- Only Jesus Made Them Different
- Boasting Then In ???

Paul's Preaching

- Only Christ Crucified (2:2)
- Weakness and Trembling ... But the Spirit's Power
- Wisdom among the “mature”
- God's Secret Wisdom Revealed
- Understood Only by the Spirit

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them...” (2:14)

Wisdom and Divisions

- Paul Plants, Apollos Waters, God Gives Growth
- Gold/Silver/Jewels or Wood/Hat/Stubble
- No Divisions of Christ -- No Boasting of Men
- We Are Christ's and God's

Points for Home

1. Unite on Jesus
2. Pray for God's Wisdom
3. Fall and Let Christ Raise You Up
4. Seek Spiritual Understanding