

Acts 18.1-17

Many People in this City

Step into Short CLIP of EPIC Story – “Glorious World-Wide Mission of God”

CHIEF Missioner > Apostle PAUL – Apostle to GENTILES

Find him here on 2nd Mission JOURNEY -



NOT Surprised if Paul might've been WEARY, DISCOURAGED enters Corinth

WALKED 80 Kms from Athens to Corinth

Athenian Philosophers LISTENED to Paul Preach > Most LAUGHED at him

In BEREIA & THESSALONICA chased out CITY by GOVT Officials

In PHILIPPI thrown into PRISON and Received TERRIBLE BEATING



Acts 18.¹ After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

1. Great Possibilities

a. Strategic City

1st Century CORINTH – THEN Most Dynamic City in GREECE

WEALTHIEST City in GREECE

AMPITHEATER Sat 18,000 People / CONCERT HALL 3,000

1st C Corinth 200,000 People – One of LARGEST in Roman Empire –
10 X's MORE people in CORINTH than ATHENS – CAPITAL of Achaia



Narrow NECK of Land – ISTHMUS – btwn Corinthian & Saronic GULF

Merchants Preferred PORTAGE - Hauling Goods - across 4 Miles of LAND

Instead LONG Voyage round Rocky, Storm-Tossed Peloponnesus Cape

MERCHANTS, SAILORS, Mix of RACES, CLASSES, & People Groups

Archeological excavations have revealed many evidences of a city life-style devoted to entertainment and self-indulgence, as can still be found in any great city today...popularity, money, success and pleasure were the idols at the heart of Corinth, concealed in the outward pursuit of a good life with its aggressive and pervasive paganism. As citizens of the 21st century we would have found much that was instantly familiar.

David Jackman

Great KINGDOM Possibilities > In & Thru Strategic City Many People on Move

b. Searching City

Corinth city FULL of RELIGIONS, IDEAS, PHILOSOPHIES, VALUES

CORINTH placed Great IMPORTANCE Rhetoric, Logic, Speech, Knowledge



Massive HILL Overlooked City

TEMPLE to APHRODITE goddess of LOVE

Also TEMPLES to ASCLEPIUS
Greek god of HEALING

ISIS EGYPTIAN goddess of SEA-FARERS / Greek male Counterpart
POSEIDON

Paul NOT bring ANOTHER Man-Made Dish to SMORGASBORD of Religions
FINAL Word comes from GOD, Word of JUDGMENT will be Spoken by Jesus

JESUS gave Paul APOSTOLIC Commission to ALL GENTILE World

Always CIRCLES BACK to Corinth – Visits, Letters, Prayers, Sending Workers

Paul faces TROUBLES in Confidence IN CHRIST he will TRIUMPH

c. Sinful City

Center of TRADE and TRAVEL, MONEY and VICE, SEX & Superstition



Horizon 1st C Corinth Dominated by Temple Aphrodite GREEK goddess LOVE
1000 her Temple Prostitutes walked downhill WORKED Streets of City Nightly

Corinthian SOCIAL MEDIA would often SHARE this 1st C MANTRA...

“Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of the body, but wives to bear us legitimate children”
Demos

The ideal of the Corinthian was the reckless development of the individual. The merchant who made his gain by all and every means, the man of pleasure surrendering himself to every lust, the athlete steeled to every bodily exercise and proud in his physical strength, are the true Corinthian types; in a word a man who recognized no superior and no law but his own desires.
R. St. John Parry

GOSPEL Right at Home in this SINFUL CITY: Jesus came for Sinners

Jesus: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5.31,32

To walk by faith means to see opportunities even in the midst of opposition. A pessimist sees only the problems; an optimist sees only the potential; but a realist sees the potential in the problems.
Warren Wiersbe

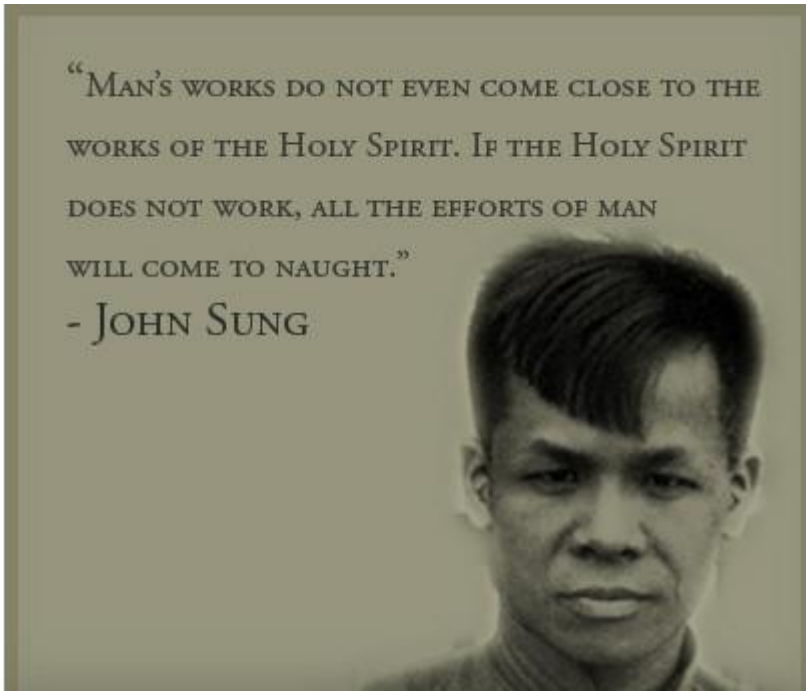
2. Gospel Plans

a. Evangelism

v. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Paul’s PURPOSE in Life was to SERVE Jesus by Preaching & Teaching WORD

When I came to you, brothers, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
1 Corinthians 2.1,2



vs. 5,6 testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

Have BLOOD on your HANDS means you are RESPONSIBLE for their Death

We must WARN People – Tell them about Savior from Death and Hell

So that they can ESCAPE the Coming Wrath of God against SIN

To have BLOOD on your HEAD means you Yourself are RESPONSIBLE

You have HEARD and REFUSED and REJECTED Jesus the Only Savior

Paul's HANDS were Clean and his Hearers were Responsible

Their BLOOD was on their OWN Heads

When Paul said FAREWELL to the Elders of the Church in Ephesus,

Paul: “I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.” Acts 20.26.27

b. Endurance

v. 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Paul Stayed Year and a Half MINISTERING in Corinth

Paul's LONGEST Stay of any Evangelistic Location TO That Point

RELATIONSHIP with this Church spanned a DECADE

vs. 5,6 testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah...From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

NEEDED to PREACH the Living Word of Truth to People of Corinth

Paul calls them FROM the SYNAGOGUE to the SAVIOR

Because God's Message thru Moses > HIJACKED by man's Tradition and Pride

Some CRITICIZE Paul for this SPACE INVASION – More Polite Move Away

v. 7 And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue.

WORDS do NOT make any Sense to those BLINDED by SATAN in their SIN

Some LAUGH @ FOOLISHNESS and WEAKNESS of Preaching

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
1 Corinthians 1.22-25

Yet those FOOLISH and WEAK Words used by OMNIPOTENT God

GOSPEL Dynamite CAN Raise the Dead – Make a WHOLE NEW Creation

God formed His Church in Corinth – Jews and Gentiles – One Body in Christ

vs. 12-15 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.” But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.” And he drove them from the tribunal.

Roman HISTORY says GALLIO served in ROLE JUST ONE YEAR
Summer of 51 to Summer of 52 AD > Dates PAUL’S time in Corinth

ROMAN Gov’t Not have THEOLOGY Problem w/ Christians

Most Gov’ts Not CARE what CRAZY Christians OR Jews say they Believe
Nowhere in NT is Christian Faith DECLARED Illegal by ROMAN Authorities

Challenge > Believers CONFESS > JESUS - Not Caesar - is LORD

Jesus Christ WORD of God in HUMAN FLESH – Seen, Known, Loved

We IN JESUS NAME Need to put FLESH on Word of God – LIVES and LIPS

“Christian mission in the 21st century has become the responsibility of a global church...Now people from all over the world are being sent to the entire world.”

Samuel Escobar – Global Church Leader from PERU

3. Gracious Provisions

a. Friends

Paul had come ALONE from ATHENS – but God gave him a TEAM

v. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla

v. 5 Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia

When PAUL writes letter to ROME from Corinth about 5 yrs LATER....

Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also the church in their house.

Romans 16.3-5

Paul writes to PHILIPPIANS emphasizes how IMPORTANT Friends are...

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

Philippians 2.19-22

SADLY True and Faithful PARTNERS in the GOSPEL are Hard to FIND

b. Funds

Pastor in Hawaii – Unexpectedly met my INSURANCE Agent Tommy Jitchaku

We were in SUPERMARKET – Went down One AISLE there was w/ CART

Only CANS of BEER and SNACKS > “Well, I gotta EAT”

Apostle Paul – like my Friend TOMMY – had to EAT TOO!

v. 3 he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

SUPPORT to Accomplish TASK from GOD – Jehovah Jireh – God/Provider

Common for JEWISH Rabbi to Earn Living by TRADES – Not Student FEES

v. 5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word

As BEGINS in Corinth – SUPPORT Came as SWEATED over TENTS

Then Silas & Timothy came from MACEDONIA – City of PHILIPPI

Philippians ONE Church that gave Paul – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Funds from Philippi – Stop Sweating over TENTS & just SWEAT over TEXTS

Paul's CALLING is to Serve Jesus by Preaching WORD

Sometimes got \$ being MESSENGER / Other Times earned in from Marketplace
Either WAY he has SAME, SINGULAR Focus on his CALLING to SERVE

If want to SHARE GOSPEL need to be WITH People > Meet NEW People

Paul practiced BAM – Business as Mission – People needed TENTS

Paul wants them to have SHELTER > Even MORE to Meet the SAVIOR

Paul was WORKER & WITNESS – PROFESSIONAL & PREACHER

SEWED TENTS & SPOKE his TESTIMONY

NO Conflict btwn Marketplace & Ministry

c. Fruit

vs. 7,8 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

Gospel of Jesus SHOOK UP the Religious Establishment of CORINTH

Leader of Jewish Synagogue DEFECTED – or So SOME would have SAID

In TRUTH he came to Understand that Jesus the Messiah of Israel had COME

CRISPUS and his HOUSEHOLD became COMPLETE Jews in Jesus

1 Corinthians 1 Paul mentions BAPTIZING Crispus – Might be Same Man?!

Men/Women/Boys/Girls – One by One and in ENTIRE Families – BELIEVED

And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men[c] but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2.3-5

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1.18

d. Foundation

Promise

1-5

Acts 18.¹After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. ⁴Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. ⁵When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. ⁶But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. ⁸Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. ¹⁰For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” ¹¹So Paul stayed in Corinth

for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. ¹²While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment. ¹³“This man,” they charged, “is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.” ¹⁴Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. ¹⁵But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law— settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.” ¹⁶So he drove them off. ¹⁷ Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.