



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

INTRODUCTION TO 1ST CORINTHIANS

- Paul writes to Corinth, Greece that—like America defined—there's trouble in paradise.
 - A beautiful city filled with broken lives
- The headlines then sound just like ours today:
 - News of church leaders' sexual escapades, disgruntled and disgraced members' lawsuits, unethical and irresponsible fiscal practices, messed up ministries flowing with blatant heresy
- **Acts 18:1-11** is a scriptural reference to this time.

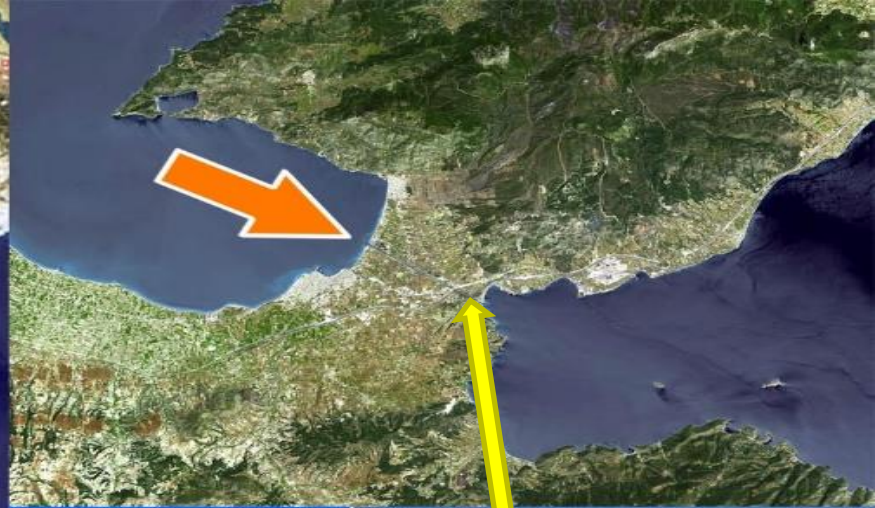


PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

- City
- ← Paul's first missionary journey
- ← Paul's second missionary journey
- ← Paul's third missionary journey
- ← Paul's voyage to Rome



Peloponnese
Peninsula



the
Isthmus
of
Corinth
1893
canal



4-mile long
Canal

PAUL'S MINISTRY IN CORINTH

Paul visited Corinth and lived there twice (A.D. 51-55) that we know of from the book of **Acts 18 and 20**.

- During this second visit, his epistle to the Romans was written in A.D. 55.
- The Corinthians had some major issues:
 - Immorality, carnality, divisions, rampant divorce, crazy doctrine, misuse of the spiritual gifts, lawsuits
 - Superstitions of the Jews and the sinful conduct of the Gentiles

THE SCOPE OF THIS LETTER

- 1.** To apply suitable ***REMEDIES*** to the disorders and abuses which prevailed among the Corinthians from God's perspective
- 2.** To give satisfactory ***ANSWERS*** to all the points about which his advice had been sought

Sisyphus, the mythical king of Corinth, exemplifies how, without God, life is absurd, pointless, and ultimately meaningless. ***But with Him, there is hope!***

THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS

- God had given them grace through Christ Jesus. **1:4**
- God had enriched them greatly. **1:5**
- God had given them every spiritual gift. **1:7**
- The Lord Jesus Christ would soon return. **1:7**
- They had the power to be strong and blameless. **1:8**
- God is faithful. **1:9**

***THEN THE BAD NEWS:
WHY ARE YOU LIVING LIKE HEATHENS?***

FIVE SIMILARITIES

- 1.** We are people who need the instruction of God's Word.
- 2.** We also live in an aggressively pluralistic society that denies absolutes and holds to relativism instead.
- 3.** Our continued claim to personal rights at the expense of biblical truth often challenges the lordship of Jesus Christ.
- 4.** The ancient philosophies of **Mind** (intellectualism), **Might** (power), and **Money** (possessions) still ruin people's lives.
- 5.** The resurrection of Jesus Christ remains the central and solid fact upon which our faith rests.

IT REMAINS A CLASH OF WORLD VIEWS

- The Corinthian church must have included a great cross section of believers: wealthy merchants, common laborers, perhaps even some former temple prostitutes.
- Both then and now—in a world of noise, confusion, and relentless pressures—people long for peace.
- God's desire is that we experience His grace and peace in our daily living.

THIS IS GOING TO BE AN EXCITING RIDE!