

1 & 2 CORINTHIANS



First and Second Corinthians

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 - Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

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Introduction

- Prayer
- Don't forget to take a handout and sign in
- Review – The Epistles so far
- 1st and 2nd Corinthians in context

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Introduction
(Continued)

- Questions and discussion
- Importance
- Christ in Corinthians (very briefly)
- Noteworthy verses

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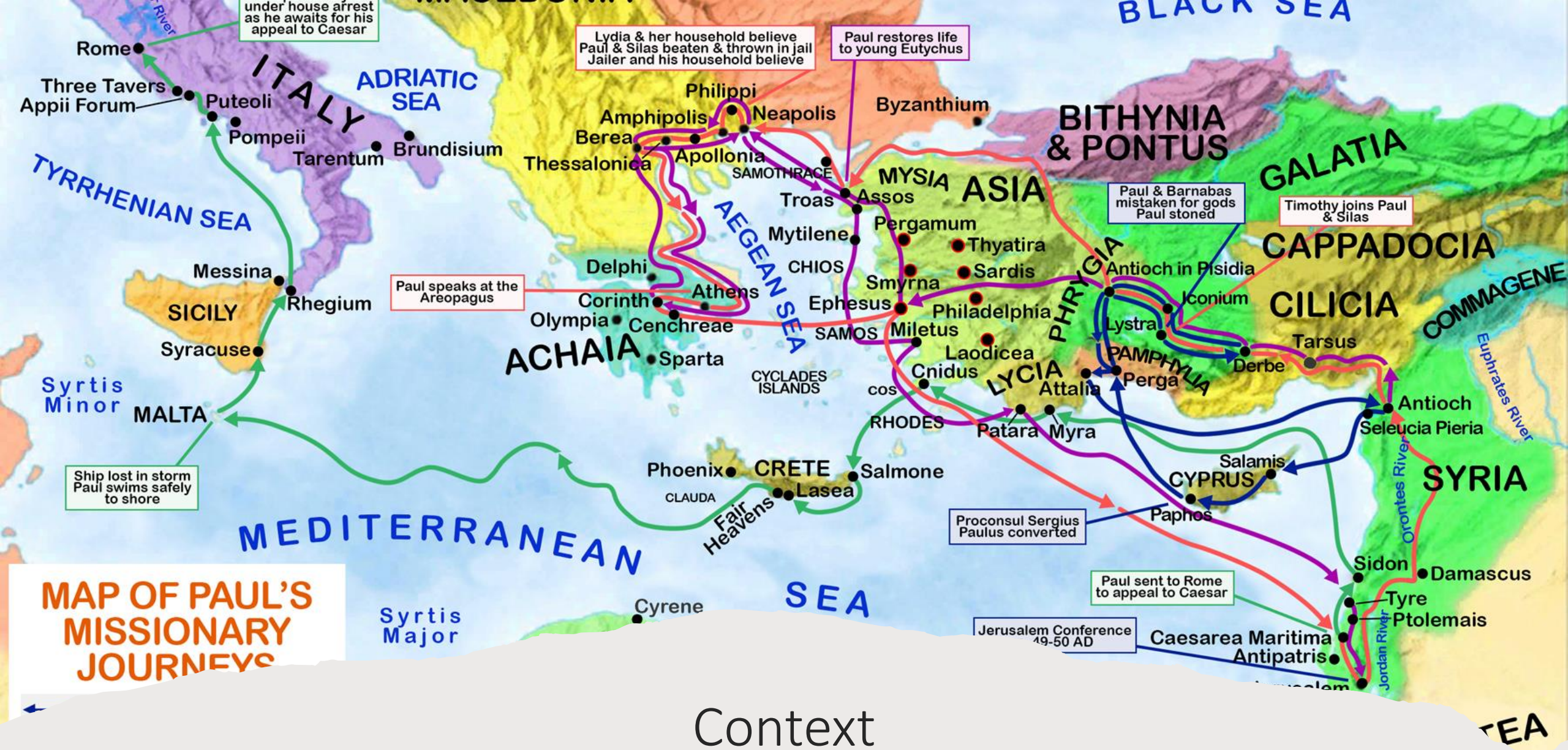
The Epistles so far

- Epistle = letter - letters to churches (congregations) and individuals
- Authors – Paul (13), John (3), Peter (2), James (1), Jude (1), Unknown/Hebrews (1)
- Romans



1st and 2nd Corinthians in Context

- 2 letters from Paul to the church in Corinth
- Corinth was in lower Achaia (Greece)
- Important Roman trading port known for diversity and permissiveness



Context

Paul visited twice – spent 3 years there building the church

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Context (continued)

The church in Corinth faced cultural pressures, internal dissention, false prophets/teachers, growing pains

Paul wrote at least 3 letters to this church trying to guide it through its problems (we don't have the letter or letters Paul refers to in 1st Cor 5:9 or 2nd Cor 2:3-4)

The church needed correction and guidance

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Questions/Discussion

Important issues covered in 1st and 2nd Corinthians:

- The Gospel message
- Communion
- Sexual immorality
- Divisions in the church
- Marriage
- Idolatry

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Questions/Discussion

Important issues covered in 1st and 2nd Corinthians (continued):

- Spiritual gifts
- Speaking in tongues
- Orderly worship
- The resurrection
- Giving (stewardship)
- False apostles

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Is it wrong for Christians to file lawsuits?

“When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints?...” – 1st Cor 6:1

Questions/Discussion

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It may be necessary but it should be rare. If necessary consider:

- *Prayerful self examination and God's guidance*
- *Seek trusted Christian counsel before*
- *See if resolution is possible via the process outlined in Matthew 18*
- *Ensure the lawsuit is handled with dignity, respect and integrity*

Questions/Discussion

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Why does the Paul (and the Church) look down on women?

- *“But every wife who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head.” 1st Cor 11:5*
- *“As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches.” 1st Cor 14:33b-34a*

Questions/Discussion

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Questions/Discussion

Why does the Paul (and the Church) look down on women?

- It doesn't. Paul holds women in high regard in the church
 - "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae." Romans 16:1

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Why does the Paul (and the Church) look down on women? (continued)

- We are all equal before God
 - “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, **there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**”
Galatians 3:27-28

Questions/Discussion

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Questions/Discussion

Why does the Paul (and the Church) look down on women? (continued)

- But Paul did want to emphasize God's order for the Church and society.
 - But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. – 1st Cor 11:3

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Questions/Discussion

Why does the Paul (and the Church) look down on women? (continued)

- “LCMS congregations may permit women to hold any congregational office that does not involve the exercise of distinctive functions of the office of pastor.” LCMS Reporter on the 2004 Synodical Convention

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Importance

These two epistles deal with issues we face today, both as individuals and as a Church. They offer invaluable direction and advice on how to live as Christians in today's world and live together as a community of believers.

Christ in Corinthians

Jesus Christ completely permeates 1st and 2nd Corinthians. It would be difficult to highlight all of His appearances. However, 1st Corinthian's coverage of Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) is a powerful example. The New Testament is about Christ.

Noteworthy Verses

There are so many to choose from, but here are a few that I want to emphasize.

Noteworthy Verses

Communion

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1st Cor 11:23-26



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages slightly curved. A large, white, brushstroke-like shape is overlaid on the book, containing text. The background is a dark, warm gradient with a bright light source at the top center, creating a lens flare effect. The text is centered within the white shape.

Noteworthy Verses

Familiar?

But there is more

Noteworthy Verses

Communion (continued)

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

1st Cor 11:27-29, 31-32



Noteworthy Verses

Love

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.



Noteworthy Verses

Love (continued)

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.



Noteworthy Verses

So now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three; but the greatest of these
is love.

1st Cor 13:1-13

*This is one of my all-time favorite
collection of verses from the Bible.*



Noteworthy Verse

*But we have this treasure in
jars of clay, to show that
the surpassing power
belongs to God and not to
us.*

-2nd Cor 4:7

Noteworthy Verses

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

1st Cor 5:16-19



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Any final comments or questions?

Conclusion

Next week is Reformation Sunday – no class – but the first Sunday in November will be Pastor covering Galatians and Ephesians