

1 CORINTHIANS | "INTRODUCTION TO 1ST CORINTHIANS" | LESSON 2 | 1 COR 1:1-3

I INTRO/REVIEW:

① Edificational Background

② Godly Edification

- Godliness: Think, Live, Labor
- Edification: Foundation, Structure, Capstone
- DS, AG, SoG
- Reproof, Correction, Instruction in Rt

③ Israel's Spiritual Things

II REVIEW:

② Historical Background

③ Corinthian Beginnings

④ Outline

III SERMON:

② Historical Background

- Can help us see some of the external circumstances that influenced them.

② Geography

③ Culture

④ Religion

② Geography

- Capital of Greece

- City of two harbors

① on gulf of Corinth (west) } few miles from the city

② on gulf of Saron (east)

- great sea-going vessels w/ great quantity of product
- from Asia Minor and Palenstine to eastern port

- cargo traveled 10 miles to the other port to Italy & Spain

- Commercial metropolis

⑤ Culture & Society

① Known for wealth, luxury, and entertainment

- called "Paris of antiquity")
- all kinds of men: Roman freedman, slaves, businessman, travelers, gamblers, pleasure-seekers
- known for world-renowned Isthmian Games (second to Olympic (Athens))
 - boxing, wrestling, racing (1 Cor. 4, 9:24-27)

② Greek culture

- prominent for philosophers / orators that charged a fee, gave advice in social advance
 - ↑ entertaining rhetorical displays
- subtle reasoners who prided themselves on higher education
- fail to face up to sin and see the need for salvation
 - "wise of the world"

• "Corinthian" was synonymous with immorality (esp. sexual (sex culture))

• 1 Cor. 5:6

• expression "played the Corinthian" stood for one falling into gross immoral wickedness

• Corinthian banquets were drunken orgies

• 1 Cor. 15, 11

• Romans 1 - America today

⑥ Religion

• "many gods and many lords" (1 Cor. 8:5) were integrated in gov't, festivities, and social norms

• none greater in Corinth than the goddess Aphrodite

• goddess of beauty & love, esp. sensual love

• 1 Cor. 6

• her temple dominated the city with smaller ones scattered

• employed a thousand priestesses that were simply prostitutes that offered themselves to travelers at night

WORKS OF DARKNESS
 • wisdom
 • justice
 • judgment
 • equity

• all centered around sex

- ① sympathize with stumbling believers
 - ② understand the depth of grace
- } 1 Cor 9:2 - "seal of apostleship"

③ CORINTHIAN BEGINNINGS

- ① The start of the church
- ② From beginning to this epistle
- ③ Corinthian problems

① The start of the church (Acts 18:1-18)

- starts in a Jewish synagogue (Acts 18:4)
 - Gal. 3:28
 - Rom 11:11 - provoke to jealousy
 - 11:14 - provoke to emulation
 - Rom. 1:16 - ① to every one
 - ② Jew first | Rom. 3:1-2
 - ③ also to the Gentile

(Acts 18:5) Jesus was Christ (take OT and how Jesus fulfilled them) (Acts

- learned in Arabia the gospel of Christ (revelation of Jesus Christ)
- Then, death, burial, resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4)
- Acts 18:6 - go to the Gentiles
 - doesn't wait until Acts 28, does so immediately
 - :7 - next door [Justus]
 - :8 - Crispus chief ruler of synagogue believed on the Lord
 - :17 - Sosthenes (Crispus' replacement) (1 Cor. 1:1 - SOSTHENES our brother)
- Duration (Acts 18:11)
 - /yr. 6 mos.

• A church of Jews and Greeks

2) Beginning to this epistle

a) Paul's conduct ("seal of apostleship" - 1 Cor. 9:2)

- teaching the word of God among them (Acts 18:11) • babes spiritual } 1 Cor. 2
- labored to meet his own needs (Acts 18:3, 1 Cor. 9:6-15)
- faced opposition (Acts 18:12)
- learned a lesson in boldness (Acts 18:9-10; 1 Cor. 2:1-5)

b) After Paul left

- wrote a letter before 1 Corinthians (1 Cor. 5:9-11)
- received oral reports (1 Cor. 1:11, 5:1, 11:18, 15:12, 35)
- received a letter from the Corinthians (1 Cor. 7:1, 8:1, 12:1, 15:12, 35)

c) Paul's response

- writes from Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:8, 19)
- in the spring (Passover)
- near the end of 3yr ministry in Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:5-9, Acts 19:21-22)

3) Corinthian Problems

a) Rejection of Doctrine

- rejection of truth
- rejection of Paul's apostleship
- rejection of resurrection

b) Rejection of Righteousness

- wise in own conceits
- prideful
- division
- lack of Charity
- abuse of spiritual gifts
- sought gain as godliness
- abused their liberty in Christ
- did not value members of their body
- boastful in fornication
- did not use wisdom of God to make judgments