

The letter was written by Paul in 56 AD to the church at Corinth. The church was established by Paul during his second missionary journey.

**Paul's second missionary journey.**

Antioch – (Acts 15:22, 35) Paul and Barnabas were sent to Antioch after the Jerusalem council with a letter to the Gentiles stating that they were not under obligation to keep the Jewish Law. Paul and Silas depart from Antioch to visit the churches which were begun on Paul's first missionary journey.

Derbe and Lystra – (Acts 16:1-5) Paul meets Timothy and takes him along.

Troas – (Acts 16:8) Paul sees a vision of a man in Macedonia asking for help and departs by ship for Macedonia.

Philippi – (Acts 16:12-40) Lydia is saved and eventually Paul and Silas are thrown in jail, God sends an earthquake and frees them, the jailer is saved, they are released and eventually continue on their journey.

Thessalonica – (Acts 17:1-9) Paul goes to the synagogue and reasons with the Jews for three Sabbaths. Some believe but others stir up the authorities.

Berea – (Acts 17:10-13) The Bereans listen and search the Scriptures.

Athens – (Acts 17:14-34) Paul presents his defense of the One true God and of Christ and the resurrection.

**Corinth** – (Acts 18:1-17) Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla and establishes the church at Corinth. He remains there 18 months (18:11) teaching the Word to them.

Ephesus – (Acts 18:19-22) Paul only stays a short time but promises to come back if God wills.  
Caesarea to Jerusalem to Antioch – (Acts 18:22)

**The City of Corinth.**

Corinth had a long history dating back to before 1200 BC. At the time of Paul's visit it was a Roman colony and the capital of the province of Achaia. Corinth was a wealthy commercial center and was a crossroads of trade. With the wealth and steady stream of travelers and merchants came much vice. There was much pagan religion that included temple prostitution. One of the most notorious was the temple of Aphrodite that was said to have over 1,000 temple prostitutes. Corinth became known as the most licentious city in Greece and perhaps in the entire Empire. Corinth had such a reputation for sexual vice that one ancient writer (Aristophanes) coined the verb *korinthiazō* which meant "to act like a Corinthian, i.e., to commit fornication."

The Bema Seat (judgment seat) of Corinth is mentioned in Acts 18:12, 16, 17. It was a raised platform where a judge presided over a case. See also Matthew 27:19, John 19:13, Acts 12:21, 25:6, 10, 21. Paul speaks of Christ one day being on His bema seat.

The Isthmian games were held near Corinth and Paul referred to them in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

### **Acts 18:1-17 – The founding of the church at Corinth.**

Verses 2-3 – Aquila and Priscilla or Prisca. The church eventually met in their home (1 Corinthians 16:19) and they shared the same trade as Paul.

Verses 4-5 – Paul is bi-vocational and reasons with the Corinthian Jews on the Sabbaths in the synagogue. Silas And Timothy arrive and Paul goes ‘full time’.

Verse 6 – The Jews resist and Paul goes to the Gentiles.

Verses 7-11 – Paul begins to minister in a Gentile’s house next to the synagogue. Many believe, including Crispus, the leader of the synagogue.

Verse 12 – The Jews rise up against Paul and bring him to the judgment seat, the bema seat.

Verses 13-16 – Gallio views the Christians as a sect of Judaism and dismisses the case.

Verse 17 – This Sosthenes is probably the same man mentioned in 1 Corinthians 1:1 and may have come to Christ as a result of being beaten here in front of the judgment seat.

### **A Chronology of Paul’s Contacts with the Corinthians.**

The founding visit	His “former letter”	The Corinthians’ letter to Him	1 <sup>st</sup> Cor.	Paul’s “painful visit”	Paul’s “severe letter”	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cor.
Acts 18	1 Cor. 5:9	1 Cor. 7:1	Written from Ephesus	2 Cor. 2:1	2 Cor. 2:4	Written from Macedonia

1 Corinthians is practical in emphasis and deals with spiritual and moral problems within the church. Some of the subjects are: factions, carnality, the judgment seat of Christ, immorality in the church, lawsuits, marriage, divorce, Christian liberty, public worship, the Lord’s Table, spiritual gifts, the abuse of spiritual gifts, the resurrection, and giving.