

Introduction to 1 Corinthians: excerpts from Acts 15:30 – 19:10 together with compiled relevant historical and cultural information

The biblical context of Paul's work in Corinth [excerpts from Acts 15:30 – 19:10]

1) Following the discussion in Jerusalem regarding the issue of circumcision (late A.D. 49 or early 50) who returned to Antioch with Barnabas and Paul? [Acts 15:30-32; cp 15:24-27]

-- Which of these men decided to remain in Antioch for a time? [Acts 15:34-35]

2) What did Paul and Barnabas then decide to do? [Acts 15:36]

-- Which of the 3 "missionary journeys" was this? [Acts 15:36; cp 13:1 – 14:28; 18:23 – 21:14]

-- Roughly what year would this have been?

3) When Paul and Barnabas could not agree on the best place to begin this new work, whom did Barnabas take along, and where did they go? [Acts 15:39]

-- Whom did Paul take along, and where did they go? [Acts 15:40-41; cp 18:5; 2 Cor 1:19]

4) Who joined Paul and Silas from Lystra? [Acts 16:1-5; cp 18:5; 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10; 2 Cor 1:1, 19]

5) Who was the first person to obey the gospel in Europe (Greece)? [Acts 16:11-15; cp 17:4, 12, 34]

-- How is the mention of all of these "leading" and "prominent" women in the Greek context a factor in Paul's first letter to the Corinthian brethren? [cp 1 Cor 11:2-16; 14:34-37]

6) What happened to Paul and Silas in Philippi? [Acts 16:20-34; cp 2 Cor 11:22-28]

7) After being chased from Thessalonica and then from Berea (by unbelieving Thessalonian Jews!), what was Paul's plan as he went into Athens? [Acts 17:14-16]

-- Because Timothy and Silas did not catch up with Paul in Athens, what did Paul do in order to provide for his own needs when he first arrived in Corinth? [Acts 18:3]

-- With whom did he stay at this time? [Acts 18:1-3; cp 1 Cor 16:19]

A brief look at relevant historical/cultural issues affecting the epistle

- Why were Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth, according to Luke? [Acts 18:2]
- Roughly what year would this have been?

- 8) What happened when Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia? [Acts 18:5; cp 2 Cor 11:7-9]

- 9) When the Jews from the synagogue rejected Paul's message, where did he go? [Acts 18:6-7]
 - Even so, who was converted as a result of Paul's preaching? [Acts 18:8; cp 1 Cor 1:14]

- 10) Even in such a city as Corinth that was so dedicated to idolatry and where the Jews had already rejected the gospel, what remarkable thing did God tell Paul? [Acts 18:9-10]
 - Because of that encouragement, how long did Paul continue in Corinth? [Acts 18:11]

- 11) During Paul's stay in Corinth, who became proconsul of the province of Achaia? [Acts 18:12]
 - Roughly what year would this have been?
 - What did the Jews do at this time, and with what result? [Acts 18:12-16]
 - Who ended up being beaten at the judgment seat instead of Paul? [Acts 18:17; cp 1 Cor 1:1]

- 12) After leaving from Cenchrea (the southern port of Corinth), where did Paul go with Priscilla and Aquila? [Acts 18:18-19]
 - When Paul personally declined the invitation to stay and preach more in Ephesus, whom did he leave behind to continue the work? [Acts 18:18-21]

- 13) After spending some time at Antioch following his second "missionary journey", where did Paul then decide to go, thus beginning his third "missionary journey"? [Acts 18:23]
 - Who arrived in Ephesus at roughly this same time? [Acts 18:24]
 - After having been corrected in his teaching by Aquila and Priscilla, where did he decide to go, and with whose support? [Acts 18:25 - 19:1; cp 1 Cor 1:12; 3:4-6, 22; 4:6; 16:12]

- 14) After returning to Ephesus and correcting some "disciples" who had learned an incomplete gospel from Apollos, how long did Paul end up staying? [Acts 19:1-10]