Corinthians I and II

*Paul’s Instructions on Conduct and Ministry*

Paul’s letter to the Church at Corinth (a major cultural center) was possibly a combination of several letters organized into two parts. Corinth was a Hellenistic (Greek) commercial district prominent, with artisans, merchants and businesses throughout the corridor. The city was located in route from Athens, Greece, where Paul also visited. Therefore, it is reasonable to believe that many of the converts in the church would have been of Greek heritage and exposed to Hellenistic religions.

Scholars and historians believe that Paul’s purpose of writing to the Church at Corinth was to respond to dissent in the church (see 1 Corinthians 1). His co-laborers such as Aquila and Priscilla, Timothy and others, all played a role in developing the ministry of the church and assisting Paul in helping the converts work through problems.

Preachers, especially those from evangelical backgrounds, use Paul in teaching and preaching because of his explicit approach to speaking on church doctrine. Popular sayings, such as, “your body is the temple of God,” and ”where the Spirit of the Lord is…there is freedom” come from these important Epistles of Paul.

*Study activity:*  A review of Acts is necessary in order to understand more about Paul’s journey to Corinth and other missions. Luke shares the movements of the Apostles and what they encountered each place they went in Acts, making it a perfect companion to the letters. Read Acts 18 and 19; record one lesson you learned that helped you to understand Paul and the Corinthians.

Terms and Names to Know

1. Corinth, Corinthians
2. Division
3. Spiritual Gifts
4. Asia
5. Aquila and Priscilla
6. Timothy
7. Macedonia
8. Gentiles
9. Thorn
10. Prophecy, prophesy
11. Asleep
12. Apostle

Notes

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