





## Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.




Source: [http://www.bible-history.com/maps/maps/map\\_pauls\\_second\\_missionary\\_journey.html](http://www.bible-history.com/maps/maps/map_pauls_second_missionary_journey.html)

## Background

-  Paul's eighth stop during his Second Missionary Journey was Corinth (map point #8). He ministered in Corinth for approximately 1½ years. Paul's Second Missionary Journey occurred approximately from 51 to 53 AD.
-  Corinth was a terribly immoral city. The "temple of Aphrodite (goddess of love) was so rich that it owned more than 1,000 temple slaves, courtesans, whom both men and women had dedicated to the goddess. And therefore, it was also on account of these women (temple prostitutes) that the city was crowded with people and grew rich; for instance, the ship captains freely squandered their money (in the temple brothels) . . . So notorious for its licentiousness was Corinth that one of the Greek words for 'fornication' was *korinthiazomai*." [<https://earlychurchhistory.org/daily-life/ancient-corinth-a-symbol-of-sin/>].
-  Paul wrote his first letter to the church at Corinth during his Third Missionary Journey, while he was ministering in Ephesus (map point #9). During this time in Ephesus, Paul also received a report directly from three delegates from the Church at Corinth (see 1 Corinthians 16:17). Paul's Third Missionary Journey occurred approximately from 54 to 57 AD.


## 1 Corinthians 16:17

I was glad when Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus arrived, because they have supplied what was lacking from you.

-  Paul had heard rumors (see 1 Corinthians 1:11) of troubles in the Corinthian church, prior to the visit from the three delegates.

**1 Corinthians 1:11**


My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

 Additionally, Paul had received a letter from the Corinthian church (referenced in 1 Corinthians 7:1) in which they had asked a question. Paul used this letter (1 Corinthians) in part to answer their question.

**1 Corinthians 7:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” <sup>2</sup> But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. [ESV – English Standard Version]

*Day 2*


 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

Q1. How was Paul called to be an Apostle? (Paul’s conversion is detailed in Acts 9)

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 As we read through the following verses from Acts 18, try to answer “Who is Sosthenes (referenced in verse 1, above)?”

**Acts 18:1, 4-17**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth... <sup>4</sup> Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

<sup>5</sup> When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>6</sup> But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

<sup>7</sup> Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. <sup>8</sup> Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

<sup>9</sup> One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. <sup>10</sup> For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." <sup>11</sup> So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

<sup>12</sup> While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court. <sup>13</sup> "This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."

<sup>14</sup> Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. <sup>15</sup> But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law — settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things." <sup>16</sup> So he had them ejected from the court. <sup>17</sup> Then they all turned on Sosthenes the synagogue ruler and beat him in front of the court. But Gallio showed no concern whatever.

Q2. Who is Sosthenes (1 Corinthians 1:1)? Did his beliefs change?

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**Acts 6:7**

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

**Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

**1 Peter 1:23**

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Q3. Is hearing the Word of God important to a potential Believer? Do you know any examples (for example, how did you come to believe)?

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**Romans 10:17**

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.


<sup>2</sup>To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ — their Lord and ours:

Q4. Is Paul writing to Believers or non-believers? And to predominantly what people-group: Jews or Gentiles?

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<sup>3</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Day 3*

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

*Thanksgiving*

<sup>4</sup>I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

Q5. what does “his grace given you in Christ Jesus” mean to you?

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<sup>5</sup>For in him you have been enriched in every way — in all your speaking and in all your knowledge — <sup>6</sup>because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you.

Q6. How do you think “testimony about Christ was confirmed in you”? Or how was it evident in the Corinthians?

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<sup>7</sup>Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup>He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Q7. Verse 8: What does Paul mean when he writes, “you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ”?

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Q8. Verse 8: Does this also refer to present day Believers: “He will keep you strong to the end”?

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Q9. Verse 9: Why is this important: “God... is faithful”?

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Q10. Verse 9: How is your faith in Jesus? Have you been “called . . . into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord”?

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***Day 4***

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

***Divisions in the Church***

<sup>10</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Q11. This verse warns against divisions and emphasizes union. What does this verse mean to you?

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Q12. If a church leader teaches a doctrine that is not of the Bible, are we to be “united” with that church?

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**Colossians 2:8**

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

**2 Timothy 4:3**

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

Q13. Do we have any method available to us today that will allow us to determine if a person’s teaching is truly of God?

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**Acts 17:11**

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Q14. Does Scripture clearly allow us to change Scripture so that it aligns with cultural norms or with what we believe are promptings by the Holy Spirit within us?

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<sup>11</sup>My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ."

Q15. Based on verses 11&12, what do you think is causing the division in the church at Corinth?

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Q16. From what you know of Paul, what do you think he would say or do if someone tried to worship him?

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**Acts 14:8-18**

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup> and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

<sup>11</sup> When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" <sup>12</sup> Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

<sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes [an outward sign of deep distress] and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup> "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup> In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup> Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." <sup>18</sup> Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

Q17. Who does Paul want the Corinthians to follow?

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<sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?

Q18. During His life here on earth, did Jesus ever have to answer a "divided" question?

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**Luke 11:14-28**

Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, [satan] the prince of demons, he is driving out demons." <sup>16</sup> Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. <sup>18</sup> If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub. <sup>19</sup> Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup> But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you...

<sup>23</sup> "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.

<sup>24</sup> "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' <sup>25</sup> When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. <sup>26</sup> Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."

<sup>28</sup> He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

<sup>14</sup>I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. <sup>16</sup>(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.


Q19. How can human words cause “the cross of Christ [to] be emptied of its power”?

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***Day 5***

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

***Christ the Wisdom and Power of God***

<sup>18</sup>For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Q20. Is there a warning in verse 18?

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Q21. Is there a promise in this verse?

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<sup>19</sup>For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." [Paul quoted Isaiah 29:14]

Q22. How is the “wisdom of the wise” destroyed? (For example, “salvation?”)

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<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

Q23. What is meant by the word “foolish”?

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Q24. How has God made the “wisdom of the world” foolish?

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Q25. Why do you think Paul used the words “foolishness of what was preached”?

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Q26. How are people saved?

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**Romans 10:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

**Day 6**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

<sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

Q27. What kind of savior did the Jews expect?

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Q28. What do you think the Greeks revered?

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<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

Q29. What stands out to you as you read verses 23-25?

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<sup>26</sup> Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

Q30. What does Paul mean: "when you were called"?

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<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him.

Q31. What does God seem to want eliminated from those who believe?

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Q32. Can you think of any present-day examples in which the strong are shamed by that which is weak?

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<sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." [Paul quoted Jeremiah 9:24]

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