

## First Corinthians Introduction

### The city's LOCATION

- 1) 45-50 miles west of Athens (cf. Acts 17:15-18:1; 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 17:16)
- 2) 6-7 miles west of Cenchrea (cf. Acts 18:18; Romans 16:1)
- 3) See pictures from *Glo Bible*

### The city's history

- 1) The former city was destroyed by the Romans @ 146 BC, and rebuilt in 44 BC.
- 2) The rebuilt city was nearly 100 years old when Paul arrived.

### The city's former reputation

- 1) The name "Corinth" means "ornament".
- 2) To "Corinthianize" meant to be extremely immoral. It expressed utmost lewdness.
- 3) A "Corinthian girl" referred to a prostitute or sexually immoral woman.

### The city's mindset

- 1) Corinthian people were considered to be competitive, self-achieving, self-promoters.
  - a) Their goal was to "get ahead" in a success oriented society.
  - b) Winning a debate was more important than speaking the truth itself.
- 2) Corinthian people were considered to be self-sufficient, autonomous, freedom lovers.
- 3) Corinthian people were considered to be wise, knowledgeable, and independent.
- 4) Corinthian people had predominantly Roman values. Latin was the official language
- 5) The problem was not that the congregation was established in Corinth, but that too much of Corinth was in the congregation.

### The city's new congregation

- 1) Paul first ministered here—Acts 18:1 (middle of March 50/51 – September 51/52 AD)
  - a) Having been at Athens—Acts 17
- 2) Apollos ministered here—Acts 19:1
- 3) Erastus had some form of ministry here—2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:20
- 4) This congregation and Paul reciprocated with at least five letters
  - a) Uninspired
    - i) Paul's first uninspired letter—1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:9
    - ii) The Corinthians' uninspired letter to Paul—1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:1
    - iii) Paul's second uninspired letter—2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:3-4, 9; 7:12
  - b) Inspired letters from Paul
    - i) Paul's first letter—1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians (spring 56 AD)
    - ii) Paul's second letter—2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians (September/October 56 AD)
- 5) Several individuals associated with this congregation are known by name: Sosthenes (1:1); Apollos (1:12; 3:4-6, 22; 4:6; 16:12); Timothy (4:17; 16:10); Barnabas (9:6); Cephas/Peter (1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5); James (15:7); Chloe (1:11); Crispus (1:14); Gaius (1:14); Stephanas (1:16; 16:15, 17); Fortunatus (16:17); Achaicus (16:17); Aquila and Priscilla (16:19)