

I Corinthians – Handout #2

Corinth – Ancient city in Greece; 2 harbors on a major trade route; prosperous in trade and industry. Prominent Deity: Aphrodite, whose worship promoted sexual immorality. City was completely destroyed by the Romans in 146BC but was rebuilt by Julius Caesar in 46BC. Caesar Augustus made Corinth the capital of the new Roman province of Achaia.

City: Wealthy, Immoral, Idolatrous and Arrogant

Acts 18:1-18

Paul visits in 51 or 52AD on 2nd missionary journey and stays ministering 1 ½ yrs (one and a half)

Meets Aquilla and Priscilla, tentmakers (probably already Christians) who were expelled with all Jews from Rome by Claudius in 49AD

Mention of Sosthenes, chief ruler of synagogue, possibly same mentioned in I Cor. 1:1

Met Apollos of Alexandria in Ephesus; preacher of the Word; taught the way of Christ by Aquilla and Priscilla; goes back to Corinth to preach

Alexandria – Capital city in Egyptian Delta; Museum and Library with thousands of parchments (books) Large Jewish population-intellectual and literary center.

I Corinthians

Prominent Themes

No Divisions-Unity

Earthly Wisdom vs. Heavenly Wisdom

Spirit of the World vs. Spirit of God

Who gets the GLORY? Who gets the Praise? Who gets the credit?

Carnal vs. Spiritual

Profane vs. Holy – Holy Living and Holy Loving and Holy Serving

Chapter 1:1-9 – In his salutation he establishes that the church belongs to God and that all have been called by God to fellowship in Jesus Christ. The GRACE of God has given us riches in knowledge and all spiritual gifts sufficient for living.

v 10, 11 – Gives reason for writing letter: reports by the house of Chloe of divisions and contentions in God's church at Corinth. Must correct things.

Also special delegation comprising Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus (I Cor 16:17) came to him with concerns to be addressed.