

Announcements

Assignment for next week 2 Corinthians

Class will need to end a tad early and I will need to run to the sanctuary for Worship...so no time for follow up after class.

A Study Trip or Trips to Israel are being planned for the spring of 2011. If we can get at least 50 we will send two groups. If interested contact Shirley Alley or Sara McDonnell...they are keeping the list and have the details of dates, costs etc.

Author: Pauline authorship is not seriously challenged.

Date: Most scholars date 1 Corinthians about AD 54-55...written from Ephesus during Paul's two and a half year stay...Acts 16:8.

Background: Paul first preached the Gospel in Corinth during his second missionary journey Acts 18. He worked as a tent-maker or leather worker and lived with Priscilla and Aquila who had recently moved from Rome to Corinth because of the Edict of Claudius. As usual he began at the Synagogue trying to convince all who attended both Jews and Gentiles that Jesus was the Promised Messiah. His ministry was amazingly fruitful so that not only many pagans but the ruler of the synagogue Crispus and his entire family believed in the Lord Jesus Acts 18:7,8.

Paul had recently been delivered from bruising punishment in Philippi Acts 16, and then barely escaped a similar battering in both Thessalonica and Berea Acts 17. So he arrived in Corinth in 'weakness and fear and much trembling' 1 Cor 2:3 but was encouraged by a dream in which Christ assured him of safety and much fruit Acts 18:9,10. Paul stayed a year and a half building the church on the foundation of Jesus Christ. After seeing the church well established he left Corinth by ship in the spring of AD 51 crossing Aegean with

Priscilla and Aquila, leaving them in Ephesus while he went on to Jerusalem to arrive for Pentecost Acts 18:21. Quickly he went back to Antioch and then quickly returned to Ephesus. There he began an strategic and fruitful ministry of two and a half years probably from the Fall of AD 52 to the Spring of AD 55. It was during this period he wrote 1 Corinthians.

Corinth was located on the isthmus that connects the Peloponnese with the rest of Greece. Strategically situated to control north-south trade, but as strategically located between two seaports so that it could control east-west commerce as well. Ancient Corinth was wealthy and infamous. It was destroyed by the Romans in 146 BC. A century later Julius Caesar refounded the city as a Roman colony and from 29 BC it served as the seat of the Proconsul and capital of the Senatorial province of Achaia. The city was populated by people from various parts of the empire and not a few were retired soldiers. Many were also freedmen from Rome itself. There were a significant number of Jews and Greeks but the Romans dominated with their laws, culture and religion. Greek was the lingua franca. There was no landed aristocracy but because fortunes could be made there, there arose an aristocracy of wealth while the poor were despised and ignored see 11:17-22.

This is a real letter, to a real church with real problems. There were divisions, inappropriate conduct, wrong attitudes, erroneous theology which spawned erroneous worship and the tolerance of severe misconduct within the Church.

Structure:

1:1-2 Introduction and Greeting

New Testament Survey Class 18

1 Corinthians

1:3-9 Prayer of Thanksgiving or Baracha

1:10-4:21 Divisions within the Church

Different parties

Place of Apostles relative to Christ

5 and 6 Moral Problems with the Church

Flagrant and unrepentant immorality...excommunication

All immorality is abhorrent because of what it says about God and that obscures the work of Christ...building His Temple

Lawsuits

7 Questions about Marriage

Celibacy, Divorce, Remarriage

8:1-11:1 Questions about Christian Freedom

Meat offered to idols and table fellowship with pagans

Christian love makes voluntary restrictions on personal conduct

11:2-14:40 Questions about Worship

Women's dress

Lord's Supper

Spiritual Gifts, value and use

Love as the Greatest Gift and Virtue

15 Questions about the Resurrection

Resurrection is the foundation and anchor of the Christian Faith

Christ's resurrection secures believers hopes for forgiveness, and eternal life, and the guarantee of our own resurrection

16:1-9 Questions about Collections for the Church

Collection for Christians of Judea and Paul's future plans and final exhortations

16:10-24 Conclusion and Benediction

New Testament Survey Class 18

1 Corinthians

Paul apparently wrote the Corinthian church a prior letter, see 1 Cor 5:9. Then he received a report from Chloe's household that concerned him see 1 Cor 1:11 in reference to factionalism that had gripped the Corinthian church. When Paul sent off 1 Corinthians he intended to stay in Ephesus until Pentecost probably of AD 55, then cross the Aegean to visit Macedonia and travel south to Corinth, to perhaps spend the winter. See 1 Cor 16:5-8. See also 1 Cor 16:10-11 and Acts 19:22 as he sent Timothy so that he could encourage them and then be sent back to Paul with a report.