

Episode 6: October 11/12

The Witness in Corinth

Acts 18:1–28

1. Welcome to Corinth!
   1. The City of Corinth is located on the Isthmus—or land bridge between Northern Greece and the Peloponnese (the southern part of Greece)
   2. 
   3. Corinth was a boom town. New City. Re-established only a century earlier. 250,000 people.
   4. Cosmopolitan city, (Religious Diversity).

1. Paul in Corinth (18:1–17).
   1. *The apostle*’*s friends in this city* (18:1–3): Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla, who are tentmakers like he is.
   2. *The apostle*’*s faithfulness in this city* (18:4–5): He continually preaches the gospel to Jews and Gentiles.
2. Ministry and Letters from Corinth.
   1. 1 Thessalonians, a.d. 49–51, early in Paul’s 18-month stay in Corinth (Acts 18:1–18).
   2. 2 Thessalonians was probably penned from Corinth in a.d. 49–51, shortly after 1 Thessalonians.
3. Trouble in Corinth
4. ***22****For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,* ***23****but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,* ***24****but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.* ***25****For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (I Corinthians 1:22-25).*
   1. *The apostle*’*s foes in this city* (18:6, 12–17).
      1. The unbelieving Jews abuse him (18:6).
      2. Paul is arrested (18:12).
      3. Paul brought before the Roman governor Gallio and charge Paul with blasphemy, but Gallio refuses to try the case (18:13–17).
5. *The Fruit of Paul’s Ministry* (18:7–8).
   1. Many are saved, including Crispus, the leader of the Jewish synagogue. Begins preaching in a private home, next door to the Synagogue (18:7).
   2. Many Corinthians (Jews and Gentiles) are baptized. (18:8).
   3. God himself reassures Paul in a vision: “Don’t be afraid! Keep preaching, for I have many people in this city!” (18:9–11).
6. The Conclusion of the Second Missionary Journey.
   1. Paul in Cenchrea (18:18): Here he shaves his head and takes a vow.
   2. Paul in Ephesus (18:19–21): The apostle’s stay here is short, for he plans to observe a special feast soon to be celebrated in Jerusalem.
   3. Paul in Antioch of Syria (18:22): No doubt he gives a report here at his home church.
   4. Paul in Galatia (18:23): He begins his third missionary journey.
7. Introducing Apollos (18:24–28).
   1. Apollos in Ephesus (18:24–26).
      1. Apollos is an effective Bible preacher from Alexandria in Egypt (18:24).
      2. He knows only what John the Baptist said about Jesus. His account is incomplete (18:25).
      3. After hearing Apollos’s preaching, Aquila and Priscilla fill him in with “the rest of the story.” (18:26).
   2. Apollos in Greece (18:27–28): Here he is greatly used by God in strengthening the churches.
8. Epilogue: To the Corinthians
   1. I Corinthians
      1. Paul wrote 1 Corinthians from the city of Ephesus in the Roman province of Asia (16:8, 19) sometime before the final day of Pentecost (16:8; cf. Lev. 23:11, 15), and therefore in the spring. It is unclear whether this was the spring of a.d. 53, 54, or 55. He wrote, in any case, near the end of his three-year ministry in Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:5–9; cf. Acts 19:21–22).
      2. In First Corinthians, Paul was dealing with the question, *“How do you believe and live like a follower of Jesus Christ when everyone in the world around you says you are crazy to believe?* Paul’s Answer: The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (The reason demanded by the Greeks and the sign demanded by the Jews; I Cor 15).
   2. II Corinthians
      1. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia around a.d. 55/56, a year or so after writing 1 Corinthians and a year before he wrote his letter to the Romans from Corinth (Acts 20:2–3).
      2. The central theme of 2 Corinthians is the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit in Paul’s apostolic life, ministry, and message. II Corinthians deals with that question, plus the question of *“How do you deal with tension within the covenant community?”*