

Corinthian Correspondence and Visits

EVENT	SCRIPTURE REFERENCE
Founding of church on second missionary journey	Acts 18:1-17
Leaving Corinth, arriving at Ephesus	Acts 18:18-19
Writing a letter now lost ¹	1 Cor. 5:9-13
Receiving a bad report from "some from Chloe's household" and a letter from Corinth	1 Cor. 1:11; 7:1
Writing of 1 Corinthians	1 Corinthians
Sending of Timothy and Erastus to Corinth	Acts 19:22; 1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10
Hearing of serious crisis in Corinth caused by Jewish emissaries in which Paul's authority is questioned	2 Cor. 10:10; 11:23; 12:6-7
Making a hasty trip to Corinth ("painful visit")	2 Cor. 2:1; 12:14; 13:1
Writing of "severe letter" to Corinth	2 Cor. 2:3-9; 7:8-12
Searching for Titus in Troas and Macedonia	2 Cor. 2:12-13
Finding of Titus, who reports worst at Corinth is over	2 Cor. 7:6-16
Writing of 2 Corinthians	2 Corinthians
Making third visit to Corinth	Acts 19:21; 20:3; 2 Cor. 13:1

¹ Some believe 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1 is a fragment of this letter.

Shareholders In Christ

Long Beach Alliance Church • September 14th, 2008 • Pastor Chris Lankford

God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

~ 1st Corinthians 1:9 (NASB)

1) Invested Authorship

A) Paul's reference to apostleship* probably had a two-fold effect on the reader (1st Corinthians 1:1):

- i) It established his "credentials" amongst those who did not already know him.**
- ii) It was a title of ultimate servitude and humility in relation to Jesus Christ (15:8-11).**

B) In addition to the Apostle Paul, this letter to the Corinthians is also from Sosthenes (1:1). The text indicates that this is probably (although not definitely) the same synagogue leader beaten for the sake of Christ (Acts 18:17).

* The New Testament "apostle" was "God's chosen messenger or envoy." Apostleship was one of the gifts which the Spirit provided to the church, and the gift of greatest honor/importance for the church (1st Corinthians 12:28). The "apostles" in the New Testament are limited to "The Twelve Disciples" of Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:2-4), Matthias (Judas' replacement, cf. Acts 1:24-26), and Paul (1st Corinthians 9:1-2). Scripture teaches that an apostle was an eyewitness of Christ (cf. 1st Corinthians 9:1-2, 15:8) and that the ministry of an apostle was marked by "signs and wonders and miracles" (2nd Corinthians 12:12). Some believe that the office/gift of apostleship died with the New Testament apostles, while others believe that the original office of "apostle" is replaced by the modern "missionary," and that the two terms are synonymous. This is a minority view, but very popular amongst highly missions oriented groups and denominations. Summarized from *The Greek & English Lexicon (BDAG), 3rd Edition*, F. W. Danker, Ed., Page 122.

2) A Christ-Centered Audience

- A) The letter is addressed to God's church (1:2) at Corinth, to those who are sanctified (set apart for the purpose of being holy) saints by calling (holy, set apart from the world and dedicated to God).**
- B) Beyond the immediate audience of Corinth, Paul also addresses the letter to all who "call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:2).**
- C) Thus, the letter to the Corinthians is truly to all those who are sanctified saints, all those who have called on Jesus Christ as Lord, all followers of Jesus Christ in all places and for all times.**

3) Grace & Peace In Our Lord Jesus Christ

- A) After establishing authorship and audience, Paul extends both grace and peace (1:3), but notably from the Father God and the Lord Christ.**
- B) Keeping the focus on God & Christ, Paul gives thanks for the grace (unmerited favor of God) which the Corinthians have been given (1:4).**
- C) There is a fatherly tone to Paul's thanksgiving, as he thanks God "constantly" for what God has done for his friends in Corinth (1:4).**
- D) Paul recalls the "victories" of God's grace amongst his Corinthian friends, remembering how their speech and knowledge were testimonies of Christ's power in their lives (1:5-6).**

E) It was this outward change which Paul experienced in the midst of the Corinthians which he remembers as a "confirming" (placing something beyond doubt) testimony (1:6).

F) Note that the tense changes from 1:4-6 (which is past tense) to 1:7 (which is present tense). That which had happened is "right now" having this present effect.

G) The present effect of God's grace is that the Corinthians "are not lacking (falling short) in any gift" (1:7). Jesus is supplying all they need, and they (should be) eagerly awaiting more of Jesus!

H) Note again a tense change from 1:7 (present tense) to 1:8 (future tense). Their present confirmation (1:6) will result in ultimate confirmation in a future day of Jesus Christ (1:8).

I) This is the needed focus of every follower of Christ, not just a history, not just a present, but also an exciting future. Jesus then, Jesus now, Jesus always. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...

4) Koinonia With Jesus

- A) Pointing to God's faithfulness, Paul "reminds" the Corinthians of their "koinonia" calling in Jesus Christ (1:9). Koinonia is an intimate association mind-set, an intense communion with Christ.**
- B) What must the Corinthians embrace more fully in the midst of their lives? It is drilled into them by Paul NINE times -- The Lord Jesus Christ!**