

Mar 4 – United in Christ – 1 Corinthians 1

**Corinth with Acrocorinth, 1847
by Carl Anton Joseph Rottmann**



**Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)**



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS





	1 Corinthians	<i>chapter</i>	from Ephesus
✡ 1. Mar 4	United in Christ	1	No Divisions – Wisdom of God
2. Mar 11	Glorifying God	6	Bought with a Price
3. Mar 18	Keeping Commitments	7	Marriage for Life in Love
5. Mar 25	Influencing for Christ	9-10	All Things to All People
6. Apr 1	Easter Sunday – Sunrise Easter Service		
7. Apr 8	Remembering the Sacrifice		11 Examine Oneself
8. Apr 15	Serving God's People	12	Gifts of Same Spirit & Lord
8. Apr 22	Understanding Love	13	Greatest of These Is LOVE

	2 Corinthians	<i>chapter</i>	from Macedonia
9. Apr 29	Enjoying God's Comfort	1	Afflicted for Your Comfort
10. May 6	Displaying the Gospel	4	Light Shone in Our Hearts
11. May 13	Becoming New	5-6	In Christ – a New Creation
12. May 20	Giving Faithfully	9	Ministry to the Saints
13. May 27	Finding Strength	12-13	When Weak, then I Am Strong





Theme

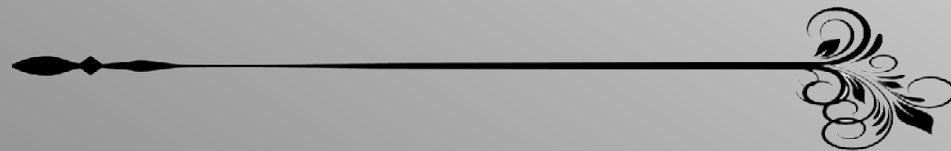
All believers share the same salvation and thus should be unified through that confession.

1:1-9 Most Gracious Greeting & Thanksgiving

1:10 Call for Unity – United with Same Conviction

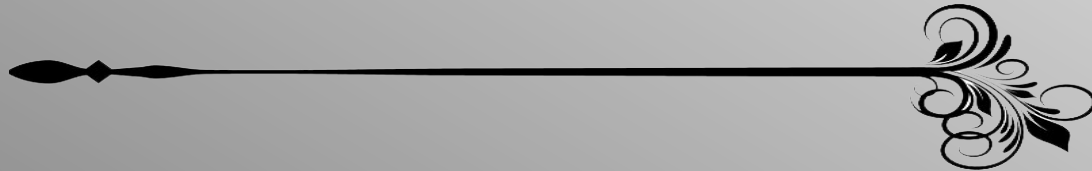
1:11-16 Contempt for Divisions – Is Christ Divided?

1:17-25 Cross that Divides – God's Wisdom: Saved by BELIEF



Key Verse – 1 Corinthians 1:24

**but to those whom God has called,
both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God
and the wisdom of God.**



Alternate Title

Unity Begins with Your LOVE



Alternate Title #2

Who do YOU Keep Track Of?

ah ... your Love will tell.



Outline of 1 Corinthians

You're HERE

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| I. Greetings & Thanksgiving | 1:1-9 |
| II. Problems from House of Chloe | 1:10–6:20 |
| A. Disunity | 1:1–4:21 |
| B. Immorality Tolerated | 5:1–6:20 |
| III. Answers to Letter from Corinth | 7:1-16:9 |
| A. Questions about Marriage | 7:1-40 |
| B. Limitations of Christian Liberty | 8:1–11:1 |
| C. Practices of Public Worship | 11:2-16 |
| D. Lord's Supper | 11:17-34 |
| E. Exercise of Spiritual Gifts | 12:1-14:40 |
| IV. Resurrection of the Body | 15:1-58 |
| V. Conclusion | 16:5-24 |



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| I. Greetings & Thanksgiving | 1:1-9 |
| II. Problems from House of Chloe | 1:10–6:20 |
| A. Disunity | 1:1–4:21 |
| 1. Division & Wisdom | 1:10-17 |
| 2. Jews & Greeks & Wisdom | 1:18-25 |
| 3. Corinthian Church & Wisdom | 1:26-31 |
| 4. Paul & Wisdom | 2:1-5 |
| 5. Christians & Wisdom | 2:6-16 |
| 6. Immature & Wisdom | 3:1-4 |
| 7. Apostles & Wisdom | 3:5-16 |
| ... etc. ... | |
| B. Immorality Tolerated | 5:1–6:20 |
| III. Answers to Letter from Corinth | 7:1-16:9 |



A Chronology of Paul's Writings

1st Missionary Journey (45 - 47 A.D.)

No books were written

2nd Missionary Journey (51 - 54 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 1 Thessalonians | (52 - 53 A.D.) | Written from Corinth |
| 2. | 2 Thessalonians | (52 - 53 A.D.) | Written from Corinth |



*"I Paul have written it
with mine own hand"*

Philemon 19



3rd Missionary Journey (54 - 58 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 3. | 1 Corinthians | (Spring, 57 A.D.) | Written from Ephesus |
| 4. | 2 Corinthians | (Autumn, 57 A.D.) | Written from Macedonia |
| 5. | Galatians | (Winter, 57 A.D.) | Written from Greece |
| 6. | Romans | (Spring 58, A.D.) | V |

First Roman Imprisonment (61 - 63 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|---|
| 7. | Philemon | (61 or 62 A.D.) | V |
| 8. | Colossians | (61 or 62 A.D.) | V |
| 9. | Ephesians | (61 or 62 A.D.) | V |
| 10. | Philippians | (61 or 62 A.D.) | V |

Between First & Second Imprisonments (63 - 67 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------|---|
| 11. | 1 Timothy | (67 A.D.) | V |
| 12. | Titus | (67 A.D.) | V |

Second Roman Imprisonment (68 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------|---|
| 13. | 2 Timothy | (68 A.D.) | V |
|-----|-----------|-----------|---|

1 Corinthians from Ephesus
2 Corinthians from Macedonia
both on 3rd Missionary Journey
Ephesus is 300+ sea miles away

NOTE: { It is believed by many that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews. If in fact he did, that would bring to 14 the total number of books of the New Testament written by this great soldier of the cross.

In Paul's correspondence to Corinth ...
See **networking** NOT seen anywhere else
In many respects ... **Networking Jewels**



FOUR Letters to Corinth UNDERSCORE his
Grand Message for Unity in 1 Corinthians chapter 1

First—Corinth = “Ornament” let's look at this Grand City

Above are ruins to Acrocorinth

Acro-polis = High City

Acrocorinth = High Corinth

Ruins to Ancient Corinth below in 1847

Corinth with Acrocorinth, 1847
by Carl Anton Joseph Rottmann



Intro to 1 & 2 Corinthians – Title



The License and The Letters

In many ways, while applying to UNITY

License and Letters apply to **ALL** of 1 & 2 Corinthians



First ...

The License



Corinth

most licentious city in ancient Greece



Ancient Corinth 1847

looking
south from
Gulf of Corinth

Corinth with Acrocorinth, 1847
by Carl Anton Joseph Rottmann

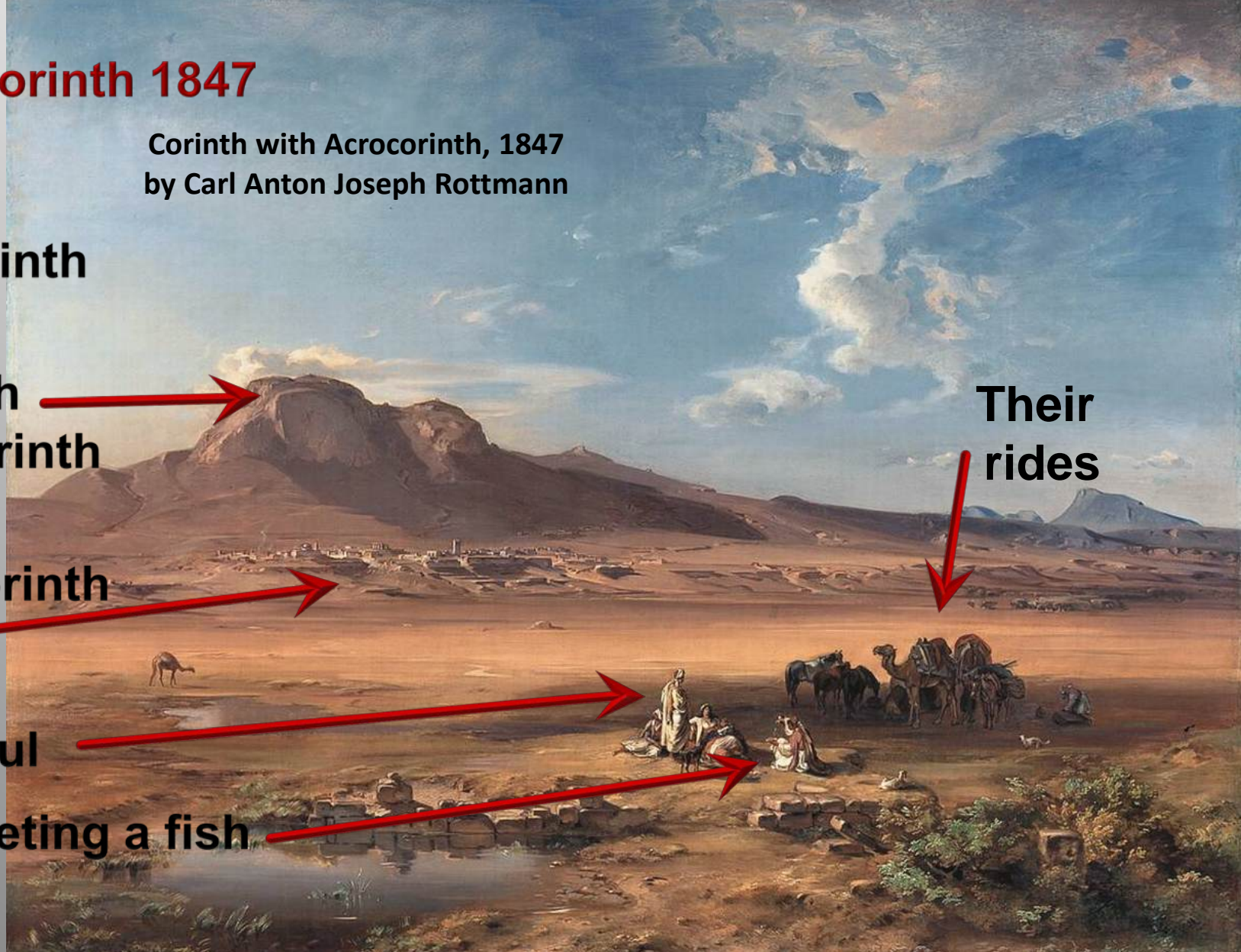
Acrocorinth
or High Corinth

Ancient Corinth

Apostle Paul

Dr. Luke fileting a fish

Their
rides



Corinth

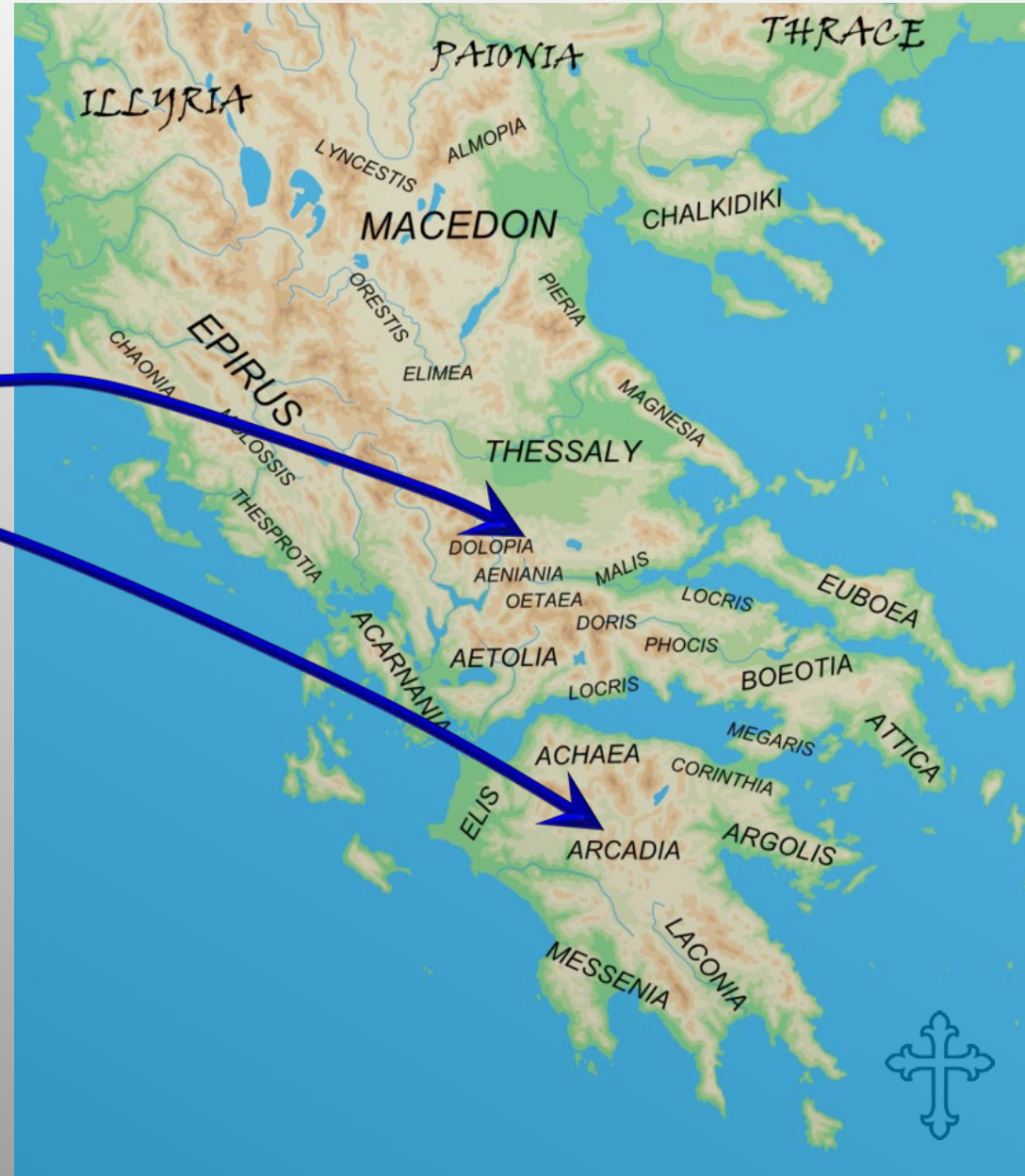
Some ancient regions

Greece “Hellas” mainland

Greece Peloponnese

Rocky ... lending itself to
several rather separate
communities

Athens & Sparta dominated



Roman Provinces




Senatorial Provinces older
appointed by Senate

Imperial Provinces
appointed by Emperor

Achaia an old Senatorial Province



The Roman Empire in 117 AD

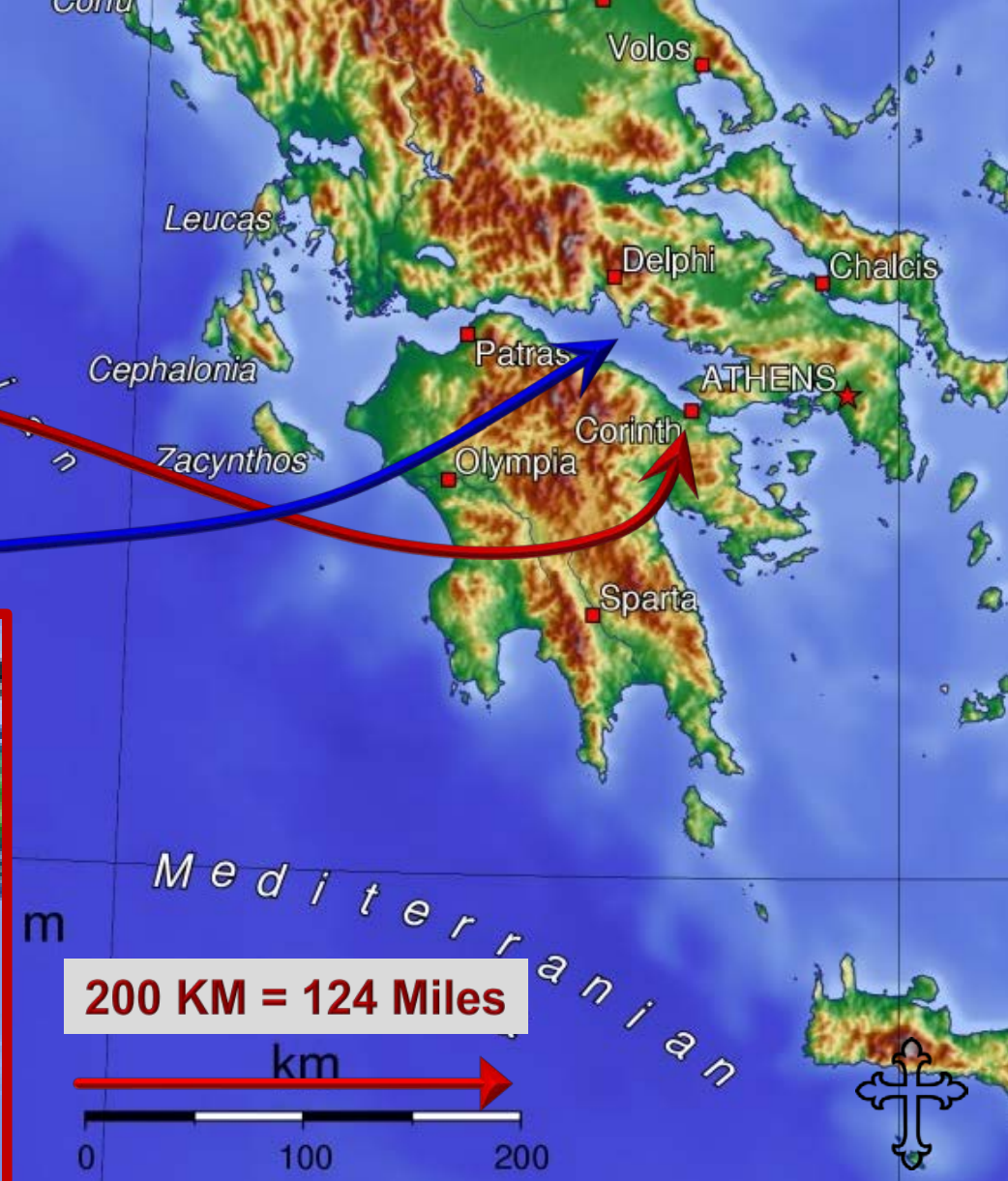
-  Senatorial provinces
-  Imperial provinces
-  Client states



Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

Located on the western side of the isthmus

Gulf of Corinth separating Mainland from Peloponnese



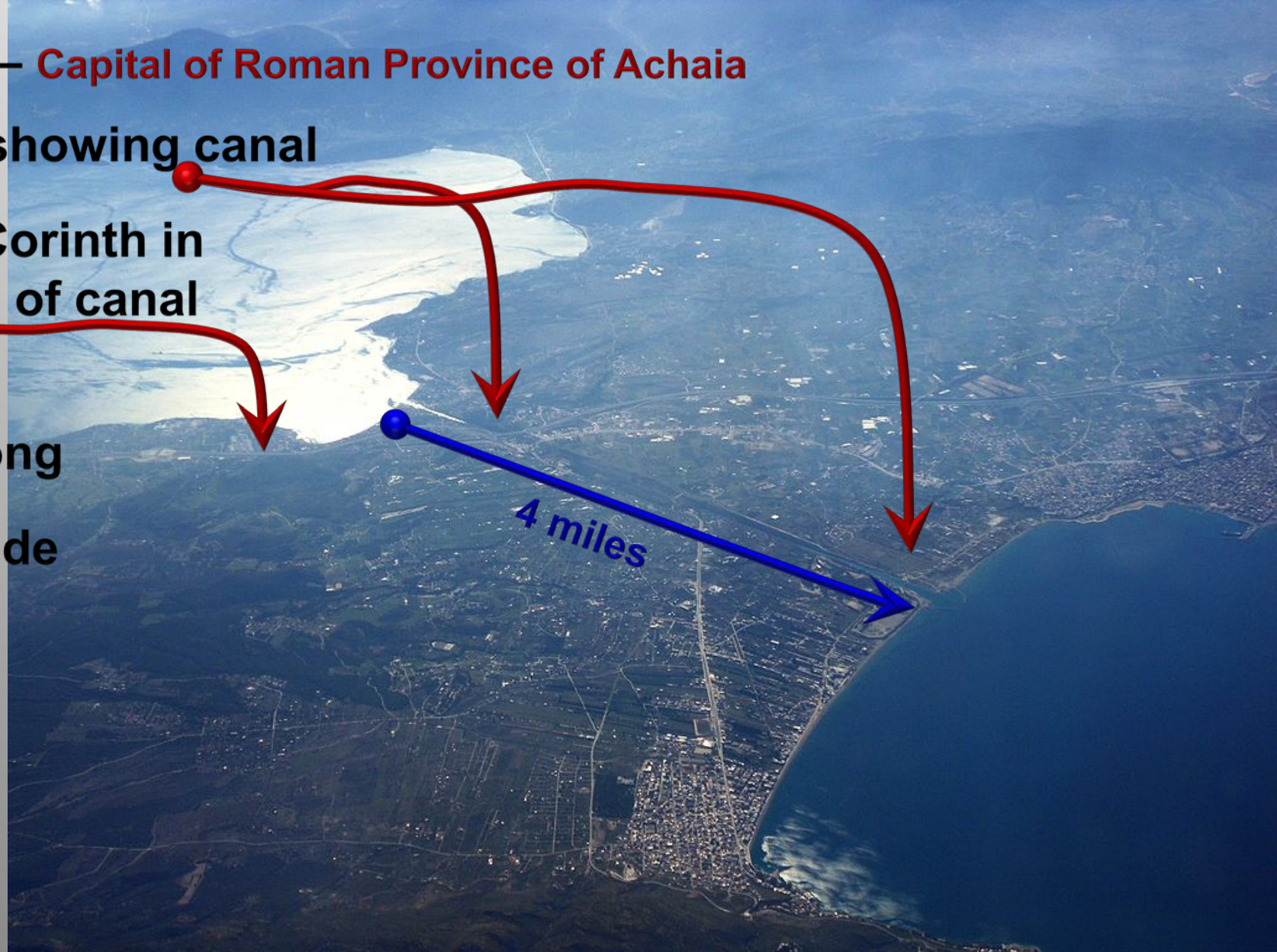
Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

Satellite showing canal

Ancient Corinth in
west side of canal

Canal
4 miles long

70 feet wide



Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

Two ports

Port of
Lechaeum

Port of
Cenchreae

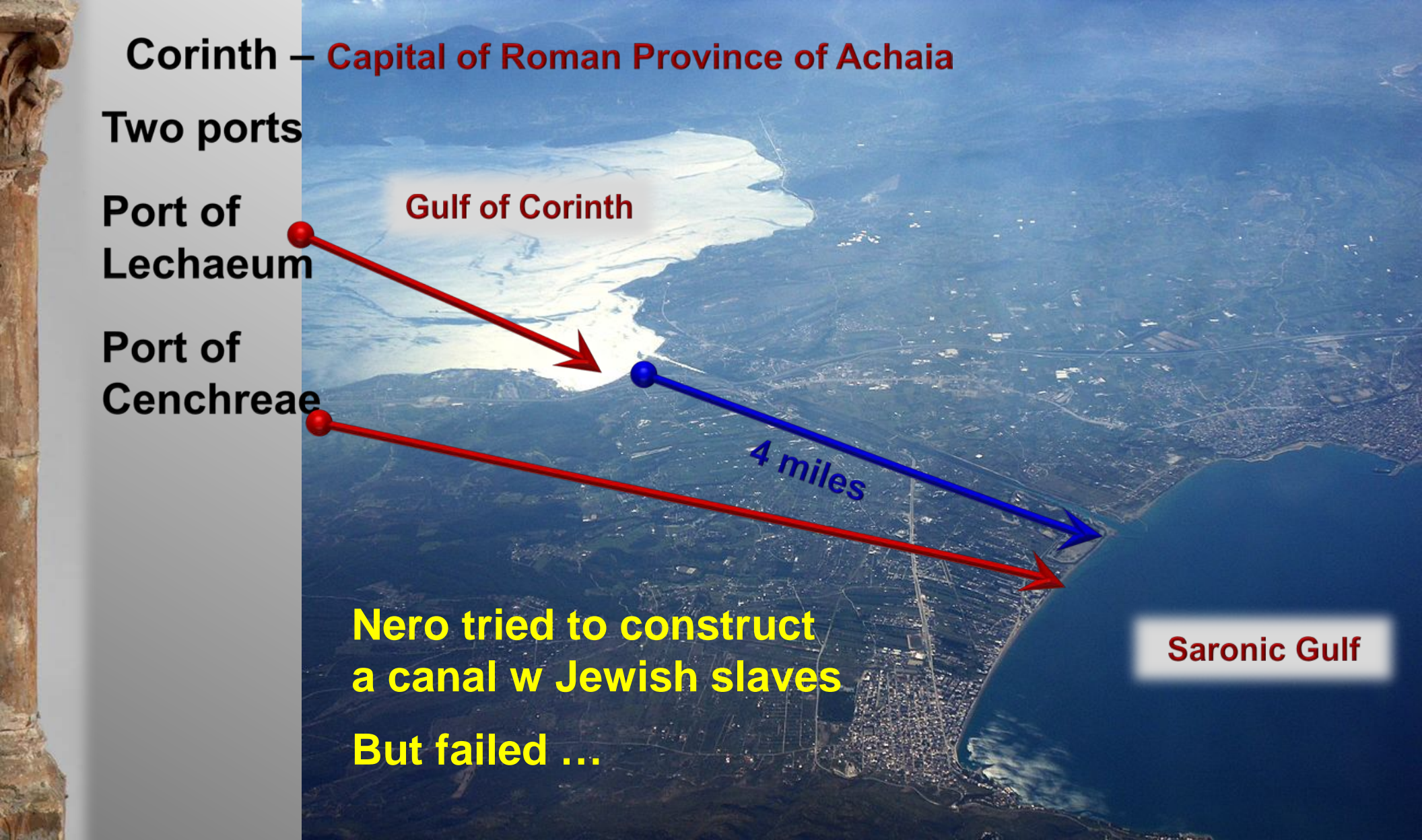
Gulf of Corinth

4 miles

Saronic Gulf

Nero tried to construct
a canal w Jewish slaves

But failed ...



Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

Canal Today ...

In Paul's day ... small ships would be rolled across this old paved road

Paved road called *doilkos*

View on western side, near Corinth

Ancient ruts still evident

Larger ships—cargo unloaded & transported by cart to another ship on opposite side



Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

Temple of Apollo

With MANY temples

Ruins seen today

Ancient Acrocorinth
looming above



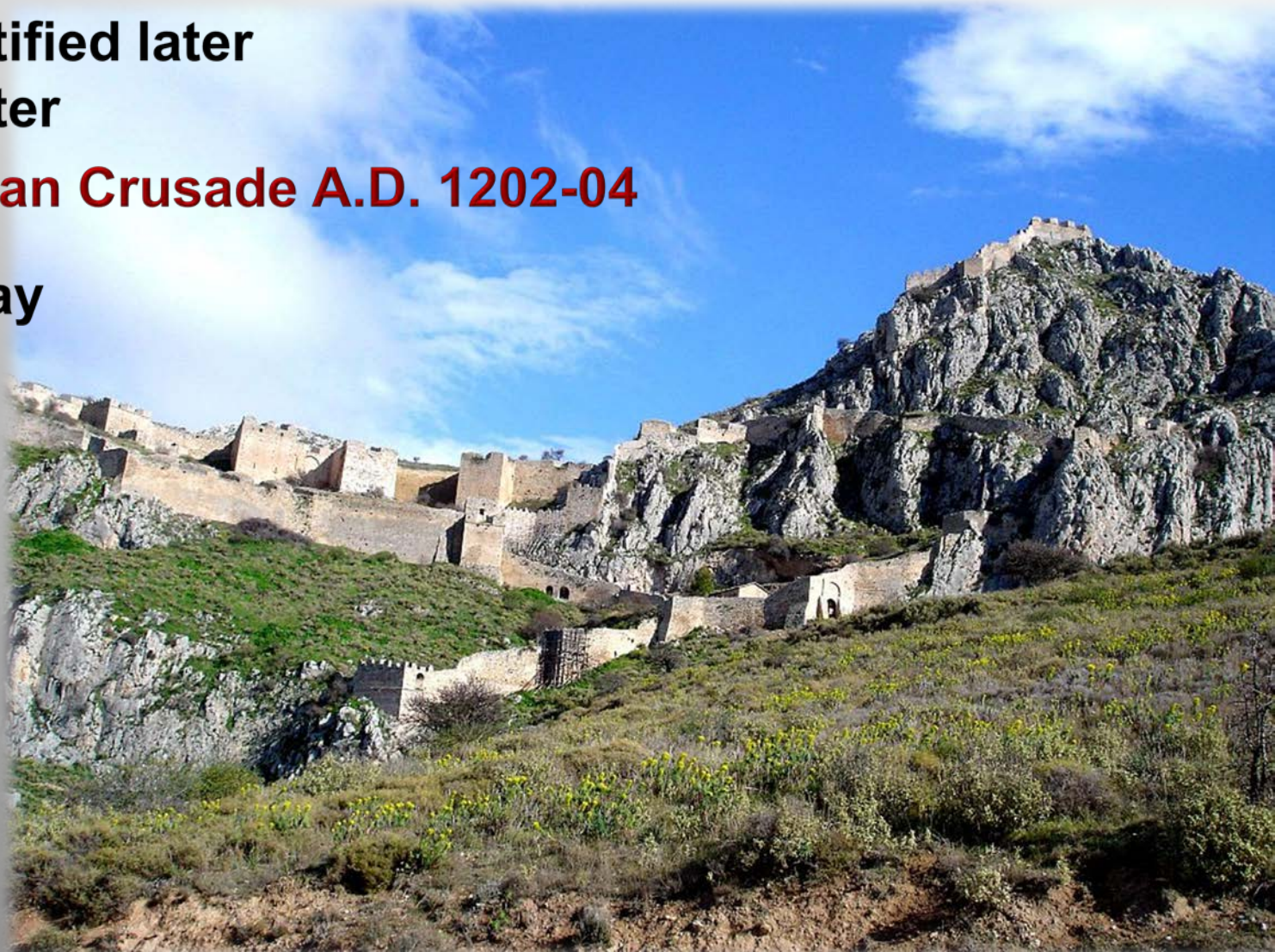
Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

**Acrocorinth fortified later
by Venetians after**

Fourth Christian Crusade A.D. 1202-04

Ruins seen today

**Quite the
tourist site**



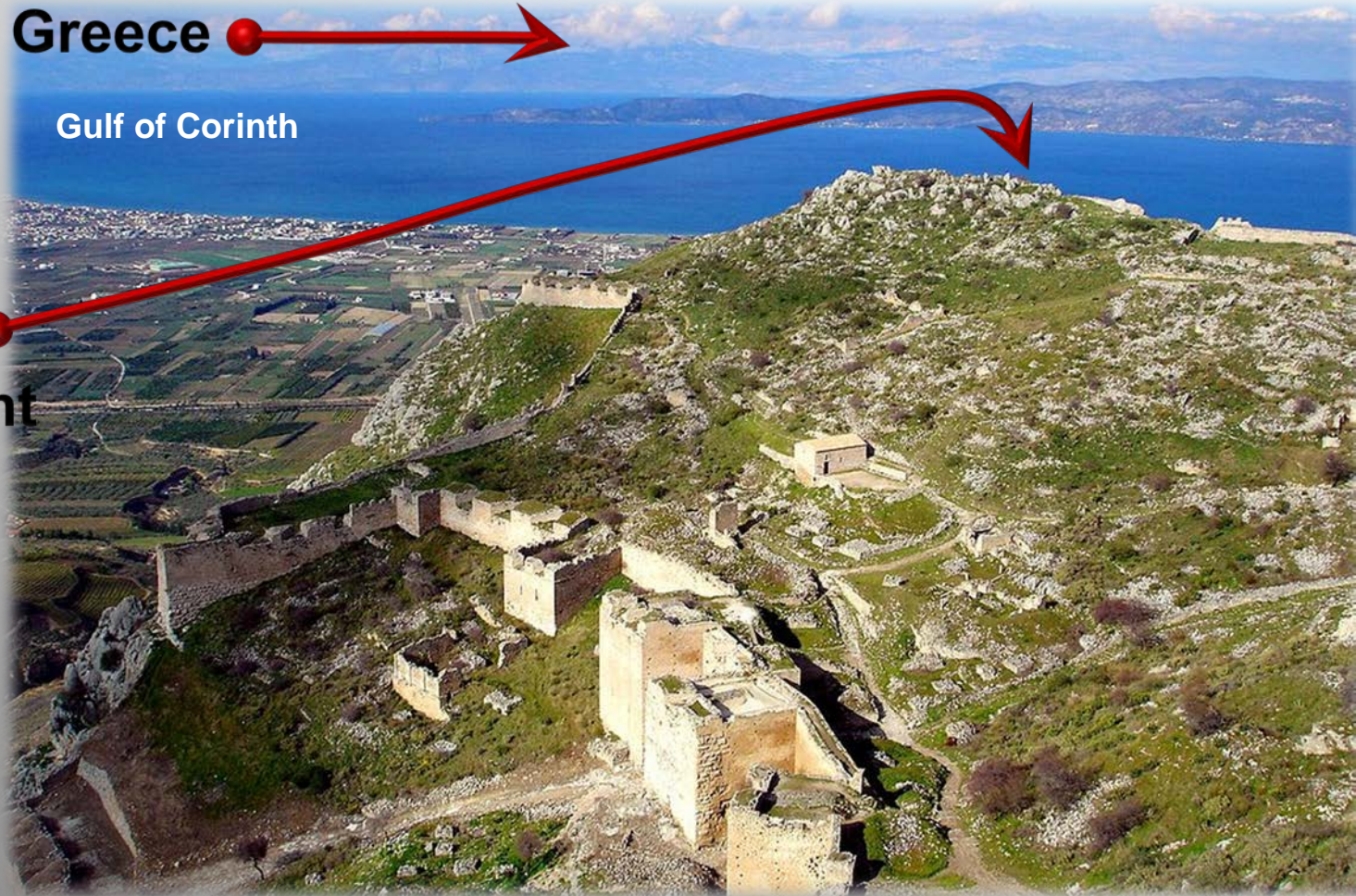
Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

On TOP of Acrocorinth looking NORTH to Gulf of Corinth

and mainland of Greece

Gulf of Corinth

Ruins to old
Corinth below
precipice on right



Corinth – **Capital of Roman Province of Achaia**

Most famous Temple of Aphrodite
on top of the Acrocorinth ... aahh, *somewhere*

Aphrodite – Goddess of Love, Beauty
Pleasure, and Sex (Roman Venus)

Greek Philosopher, Historian
Strabo (63 BC–AD 24) said in 2 BC

Temple **EMPLOYED** 1,000+ *hetairai*

Higher-priced Prostitutes – “**Companions**”

Higher than normal *pornai* - prostitutes



Aphrodite, Parian marble,
Roman copy of 2nd c. AD
of Greek original of 4th c. BC

Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

Temple of Aphrodite “prostitutes”
date back centuries BEFORE Paul
to 800 BC, fully developed by 500 BC

ahh ... **Golden Age of Greece**

1,000+ *hetairai* hired “companions”
often not per act, but for days/weeks

So high-priced, ship captains said,

“voyage to Corinth is not for every man”



Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

Get your normal *pornai* in the Market

Get your high-class *hetairai* at TEMPLE

“most licentious city in all Greece”*

SEX is a part of WORSHIP

Sex – a very profitable

RELIGIOUS INDUSTRY

*Smith's *Dictionary of Greek & Roman Geography* (1872), 678.



Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

“Not everyone is permitted to go to Corinth.”

All ancient Romans knew this famous saying. They believed Corinth to be decadent and filled with “high-class” brothels. Thus, they thought only the elite were wealthy enough to afford to go to Corinth.

ADRIATIC SEA

Corcyra

AEGEAN SEA

IONIAN SEA

BOEOTIA
GULF OF CORINTH
*Thebes
ATTICA
Athens

Corinth*

Argos*

Sparta

ILLUSTRATION: MARK LINDEN
ARTIST: LINDEN

TIMELINE

- 1000 BC Corinth founded by Dorian Greeks.
- 657-627 BC Corinth prospered under the rule of the tyrant Cypselus.
- 627-585 BC Corinth reached its high point under Periander, son of Cypselus.
- 582 BC First athletic games were held at Isthmia.
- 243 BC Corinth joined the Archaean League.
- 146 BC Corinth destroyed by Rome's General Lucius Mummius.
- 44 BC Julius Caesar rebuilt Corinth as a Roman colony.
- 27 BC Corinth made capital of Senatorial Province of Achaia.
- AD 15 Corinth made part of Imperial Province of Macedonia.
- AD 50-51 Paul, on his second missionary journey, made his first visit to Corinth and established a church.
- AD 57 Paul, on his third missionary journey, spent the winter in Corinth and wrote the Book of Romans.
- AD 67 Nero began digging the Corinth Canal; the project was abandoned after three months.
- AD 77 Corinth was destroyed by an earthquake and slowly rebuilt afterward.
- AD 267 The Goths sacked Corinth.
- AD 396 Corinth burned by the Visigoths.

Sources: Donald H. Madvig, "Corinth" in The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

Haeflmann, "Corinthians, Letters to the" in Dictionary of Paul and His Letters, ed. Gerald F. Hawthorne and Ralph P. Martin (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 172-73; "Corinth Timeline," Ancient History Encyclopedia [accessed August 23, 2017]. www.ancient.eu.

CITY KEY

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Temple of Octavia | 11. Monumental Gate |
| 2. West Shops | 12. Northwest Shops |
| 3. City Council Hall | 13. Temple of Apollo |
| 4. South Basilica | 14. Glauke Fountain |
| 5. South Stoa | 15. Odeion |
| 6. Bema | 16. Theater |
| 7. Agora | 17. North Market |
| 8. Julian Basilica | 18. Lechaion Road |
| 9. Peirene Fountain | 19. Asklepieion Complex |
| 10. Portico of Apollo | |

ILLUSTRATION: PHOTOFEST/BRITISH MUSEUM LONDON (2017)

Corinth has clay soil that is excellent for pottery. In the 7th century BC, the Geometric motif, which featured curvaceous plant and animal motifs, was being replaced by a red-figure style. A later style, known as proto-Corinthian, featured black images on a red background. Corinth was the first principle commercial hub of the Peloponnese. Shown left, Corinthian pottery dated to the 7th century BC, featuring a frieze of animals encircling a richly patterned background.

Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

“Not e

All ancient Romans saying. They believed adent and filled with els. Thus, they though wealthy enough to affo



TIMELINE

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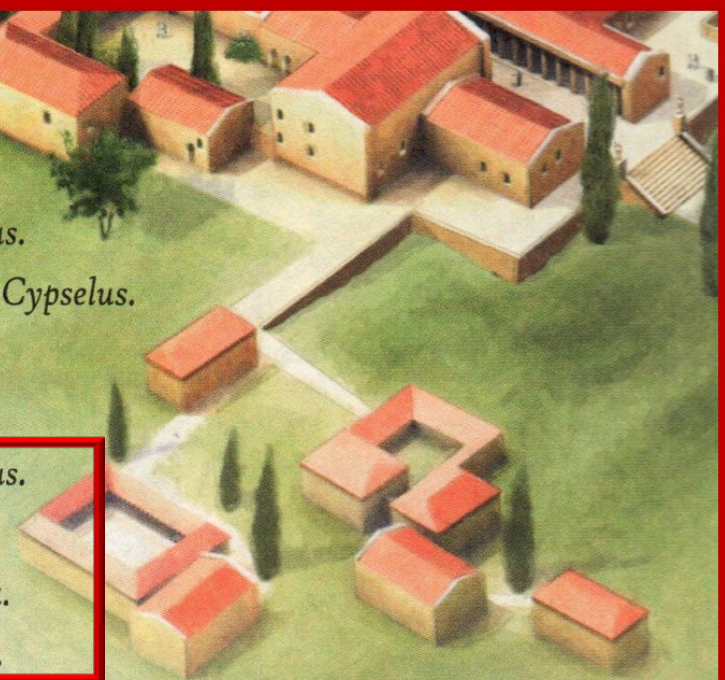
Haefemann, "Corinthians, Letters 1 Hawthorne and Ralph P. Martin (Di Timeline," Ancient History Encyclo

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ADRIATIC



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Corinth – Capital of Roman Province of Achaia

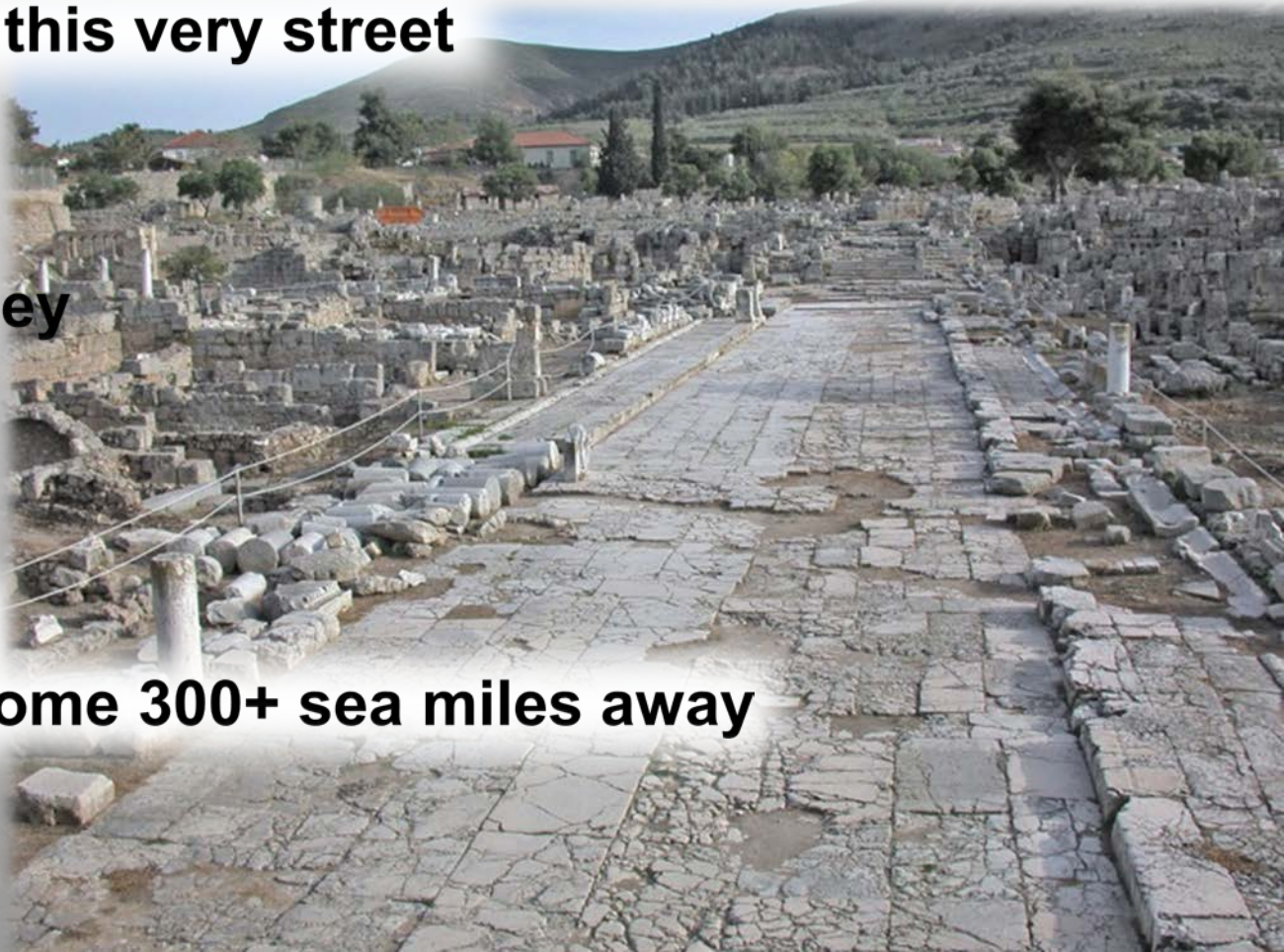
Street of Ancient Corinth

Imagine Paul walking this very street
w Aquila & Priscilla

Paul 18 months here
2nd Missionary Journey

On 3rd Journey, after
2 years in Ephesus

Wrote **1 Corinthians**
from Ephesus ... some 300+ sea miles away



Corinth – **Capital of Roman Province of Achaia**

Paul's day ... est. 40,000+ lived in Corinth ...

Rhetorician Athenaeus c. A.D. 200 – **Corinth had 460,000 slaves**
*though scholars doubt that**

After Paul visited
Corinth on 3rd Journey

On way back
through Macedonia

He wrote **2 Corinthians**

**Smith's Dictionary of Greek & Roman Geography (1872), 679.*



Paul's correspondence to Corinth ...

To grapple with 1 Corinthian chapter 1 ... *the intrigue*

Paul's FOUR Letters ... are often explained in a paragraph

As in the 2018 *Biblical Illustrator* article sent

Yet ... reading how the Paul's Four Letters relate ...

very hard to see clearly

Behind explanations ... there is a

Serendipitous Treasure

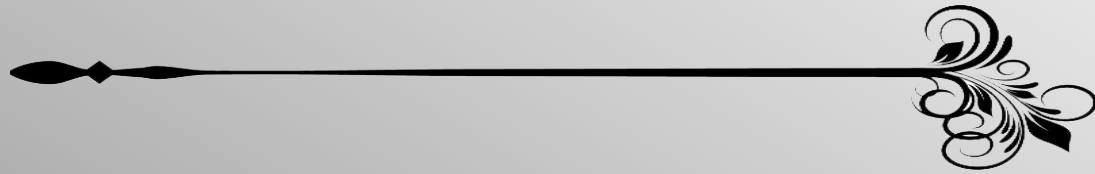
Informing UNITY

Paul's Networking



Second ...

The Letters



Apostle Paul's

Four Letters to the Corinthian Believers



FOUR Letters Storyline

1. Lost Letter in 1 Cor. 5:9
2. 1 Corinthians
3. Lost Severe Letter in 2 Cor. 2:4, 7:8-9
4. 2 Corinthians

Ephesus

Macedonia

**BOTH Written during
Paul's 3rd Journey**

1 & 2 ... Ephesus

3 & 4 ... Macedonia

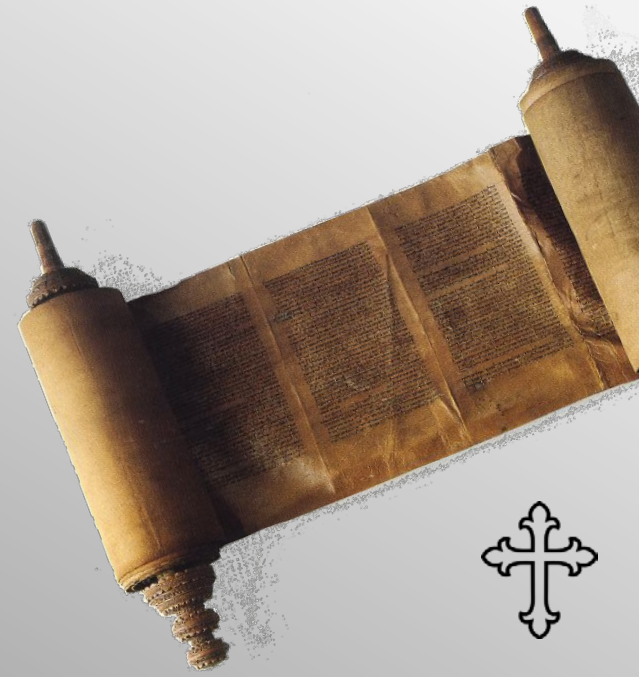
REALLY? ... you might be asking

Who REALLY cares?

You might NOT care ...

Making clear how our two letters FIT ...

That is, AFTER this ... What's the Point?



FOUR Letters Storyline

**Paul in Corinth, 18 Months, Acts 18
2nd Missionary Journey**

**Goes to Ephesus with
Aquila & Priscilla**

**They want Paul to stay in Ephesus,
but he sails to Jerusalem**

**In Ephesus Aquila & Priscilla instruct Apollos
who wants to go to Achaia –**

Corinth capital of Roman Province of Achaia



Acts 16 – 18 Second Journey ... Acts 19

Paul is
18 months
in Corinth

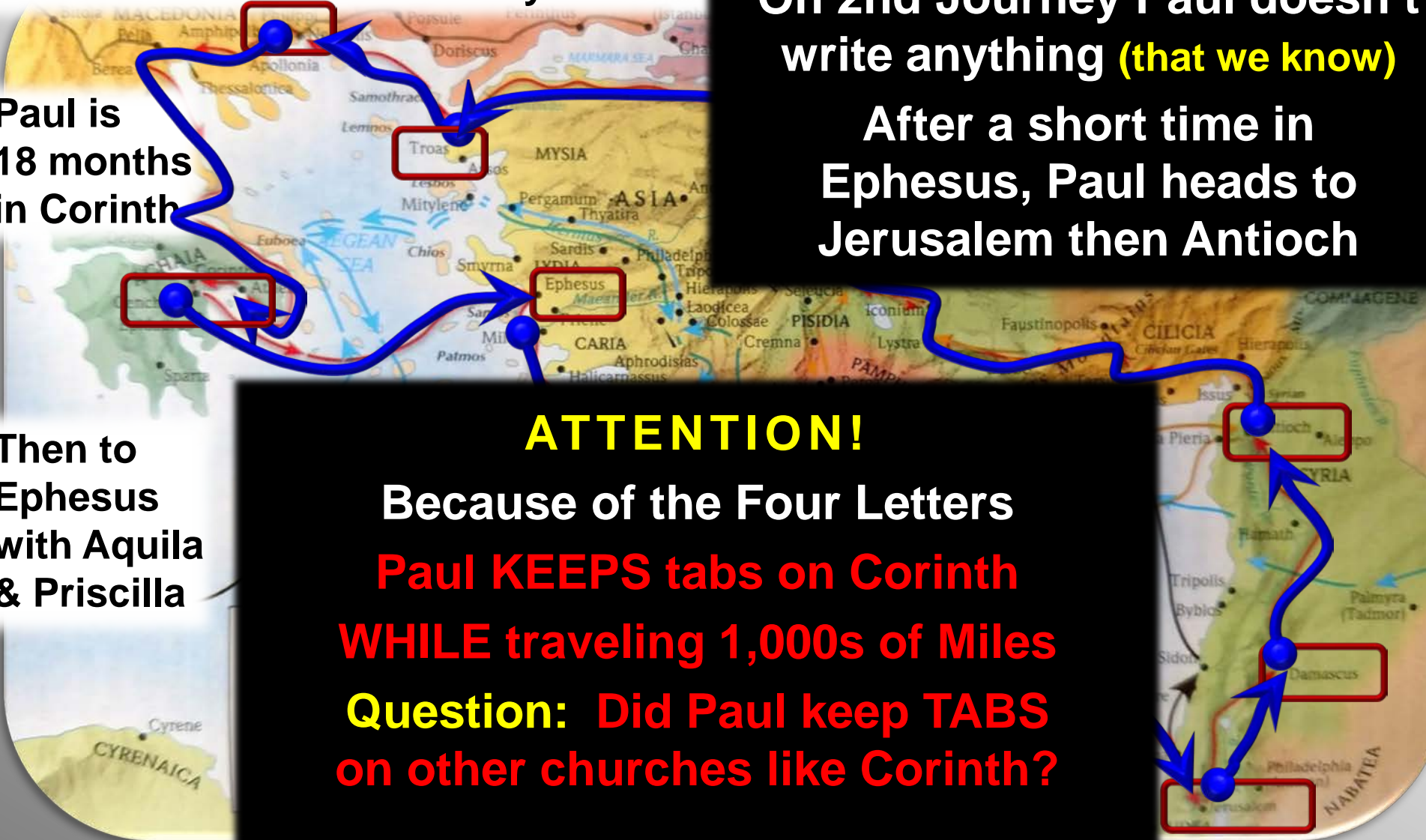
Then to
Ephesus
with Aquila
& Priscilla

On 2nd Journey Paul doesn't
write anything **(that we know)**

After a short time in
Ephesus, Paul heads to
Jerusalem then Antioch

ATTENTION!

Because of the Four Letters
Paul KEEPS tabs on Corinth
WHILE traveling 1,000s of Miles
Question: Did Paul keep TABS
on other churches like Corinth?



FOUR Letters Storyline

**Acts 19:1, While Apollos was at Corinth,
Paul took the road through the interior
and arrived at Ephesus.**

**Paul in Ephesus 2+ year, Acts 19
3rd Missionary Journey**

Handkerchiefs that touched Paul heal sick

Seven sons of Sceva beaten by possessed man

In Ephesus ... Paul writes two letters:

- 1. Lost Letter in 1 Cor. 5:9**
- 2. 1 Corinthians**



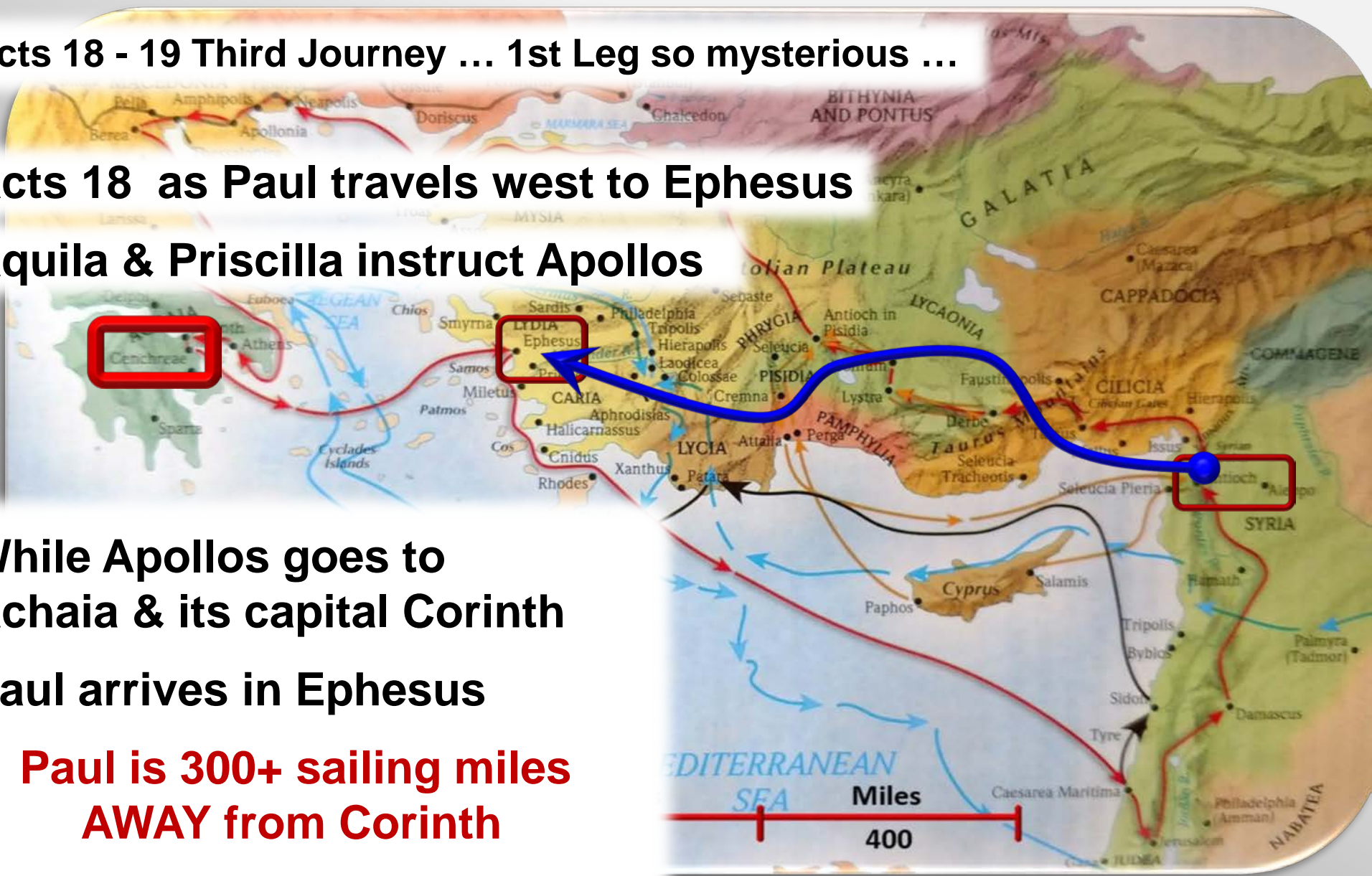
Acts 18 - 19 Third Journey ... 1st Leg so mysterious ...

Acts 18 as Paul travels west to Ephesus

Aquila & Priscilla instruct Apollos

While Apollos goes to
Achaia & its capital Corinth
Paul arrives in Ephesus

**Paul is 300+ sailing miles
AWAY from Corinth**



FOUR Letters Storyline

While in Ephesus Paul writes

Lost Letter 1 Cor. 5:9

**“5:9” Lost Letter not successful,
as 1 Cor. 1:11, Chloe’s House informs**

TWO YEARS in Ephesus ... Paul has EARS in Corinth

You MUST know ... Paul has EARS in many churches

**Plus! ... 1 Cor. 16:17-18, Stephanas, Fortunatus, Achaicus
come to Ephesus ... tell Paul more**

Paul writes 1 Corinthians from Ephesus

near end of two years in Ephesus



FOUR Letters Storyline

19:21, **After all this** *[Riot in Ephesus]* ... Paul decided to go to Jerusalem, passing through Macedonia and Achaia. “After I have been there,” he said, “I must visit Rome also.”

Acts 20:1 Paul leaves Ephesus for Macedonia & Achaia ... Corinth capital of province of Achaia

Acts 20:2, **He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece...**

From 2 Corinthians, we see Paul's feelings after his

2nd visit to Achaia and Corinth





1. Lost Letter, 1 Cor. 5:9

2. 1 Corinthians

1 & 2 Ephesus

3. Lost Severe Letter, 2 Cor. 2:4 7:8 ~

4. 2 Corinthians

3 & 4 SOMEWHERE
in Macedonia

FOUR Letters Storyline

After Corinth & heading north again thru Macedonia

2 Corinthians tells us of SEVERE LETTER *(we don't have)*

2 Cor. 2:4, For I **WROTE** you out of great distress & anguish of heart & with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.

2 Cor. 7:8-9, Even if I caused you sorrow by my **LETTER**, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it ... yet now I am happy ... because your sorrow led you to repentance.

We don't have that **Severe Letter**

Yet, some see 2 Cor. 10-13 as part of that **Severe Letter**



FOUR Letters Storyline

Paul in Macedonia hears about Corinthians' RESPONSE to that 3rd **Severe Letter** ...

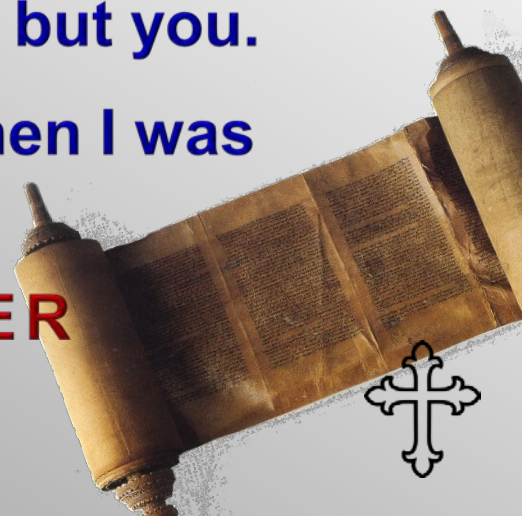
In Macedonia heading to Troas ... remember ... where Paul speaks ALL night & young man falls out of window

In Macedonia, Paul writes **2 Corinthians**

2 Cor. 12:14, **Now I am ready to visit you for the third time ... what I want is not your possessions but you.**

2 Cor. 13:2, **I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it ...**

2 Corinthians is Paul's Fourth Letter ... **KINDER**



FOUR Letters Storyline - CONCLUSION

FOUR Letters to Corinthian Christians

1. Lost Letter, 1 Cor. 5:9
2. 1 Corinthians
3. Lost Severe Letter, 2 Cor. 2:4, 7:8-9
4. 2 Corinthians

From 1 Cor. 1 ... see SEVERAL congregations

Toss into this ... the **Book of Ephesians** is considered a cyclical book, meant to be read to SEVERAL churches

All this to say ... at the START of 1 Corinthians

Paul has a NETWORK informing him ALL OVER



1 Corinthians ... a thoughtful Letter

Written to several congregations in Corinth

**Paul has a NETWORK informing him from ALL OVER
APPARENTLY ... the churches in Corinth**

- ✓ **Love Paul**
- ✓ **Listen to Paul**
- ✓ **Take to HEART Paul's words**

All over ... Paul is the avowed leader of the church

Peter ... “Rock” ... meant his “Confession of Christ = Rock”

Paul ... not only has a network ... he has the Spirit



Have we travelled round the world
to get to the other side of the street? ... *Hopefully Not!*

Serendipitous Treasure ... hitherto uncovered

Treasure is this:

- ✓ Paul NETWORKED ... Loved Unity SO MUCH
- ✓ Paul held HEARTS so dear ... OTHERS helped
- ✓ Paul CHERISHED UNITY so much ... he wrote much

Storyline of the Four Letters ... is *between the lines*

Two LOST Letters ... imply perhaps many other LETTERS

4 Letters = Paul's CONNECTION for years

over 1,000s of miles & 100s of cities ... **unifying**



1 Corinthians ... a thoughtful Letter

Not *intended* by Dr. Luke in Acts ...

Not *intended* by St. Paul in 1 & 2 Corinthians ...

Serendipitous Treasure ... hitherto uncovered

- ✓ Paul NETWORKED ... Loved Unity
- ✓ Paul worked at Unity while ABSENT from Corinth
- ✓ Worked Corinthian Unity 300 miles away in Ephesus
- ✓ Worked for Corinth while TRAVELLING 1,000+ miles

When was the LAST time you heard of a former Pastor working like this

FOR the church he LEFT?



1 Corinthians ... a thoughtful Letter

Four Letters Storyline =

Paul's **DEEP** Love for Corinth

Paul's **LONG-LASTING** Love for Corinth

Paul's **TIRELESS** Love for Corinth

Likewise LOVE for ...

Ephesus ... Philippi ... Colossae



1 Corinthians ... a thoughtful Letter

Four Letters Storyline =

How ... in A.D. 50-60 ...

How did St. Paul KEEP TRACK?

Paul networked TIRELESSLY over 1,000s of miles!

POSTAGE alone had to be enormous.

Paul relied on TRUSTED Friends ... mostly

What Kind of FRIEND are YOU?

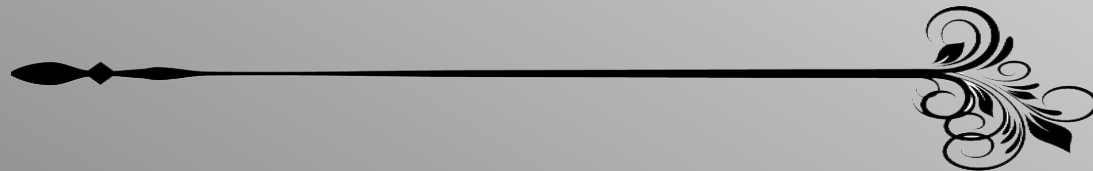
Yes—Lesson is ALL about UNITY!



With then the

The License and The Letters

Yes—1 Cor. 1 is ALL about UNITY!



1:1-9 Most Gracious Greeting & Thanksgiving

Just a few verses 1 Corinthians 1:4-6 ...

⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.

⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech & with all knowledge—

⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you.

Oh ... please ... read all 9 verses ...

HOW Paul treated folks HELPED him keep up

Where is there a kinder, more gentle Pastor



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**1:10 Call for Unity –
United with Same Conviction**

**¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that all of you AGREE with one another in
what you say and that there be
no divisions among you,
but that you be perfectly UNITED
in mind and thought.**

That's the wish of EVERY Pastor ...

How did Paul know about their DISUNITY?



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

he tells us



1:11-16 Contempt for Divisions – Is Christ Divided?

¹¹ My brothers and sisters,
some from Chloe's household
have informed me that there are
quarrels among you.

¹² What I mean is this:

One of you says, "I follow **Paul**";
another, "I follow **Apollos**";
another, "I follow **Cephas**";
still another, "I follow **Christ.**"

What? ... at least FOUR congregations!



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



1:11-16 Contempt for Divisions – Is Christ Divided?

13 Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you?

Were you baptized in the name of Paul?

**14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you
except Crispus and Gaius,**

15 so no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

**16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas;
beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.**

Tad sarcastic ... facetious ... or just humorous



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



**1:17-25 Cross that Divides –
God's Wisdom: Saved by BELIEF**

**¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize,
but to preach the gospel—
not with wisdom and eloquence,
lest the cross of Christ be
emptied of its power.**

**We could be tempted to think Paul used
“wisdom & eloquence” to mean “fancy speech”**

Then, in high-class Corinth & the Greek mainland ...

Throughout the Roman Empire ... RHETORIC reigned



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Greeks made RHETORIC as science itself

Aristotle 384–322 B.C., tutor to
Alexander the Great

Wrote a horde of books on philosophy,
science, politics, ethics

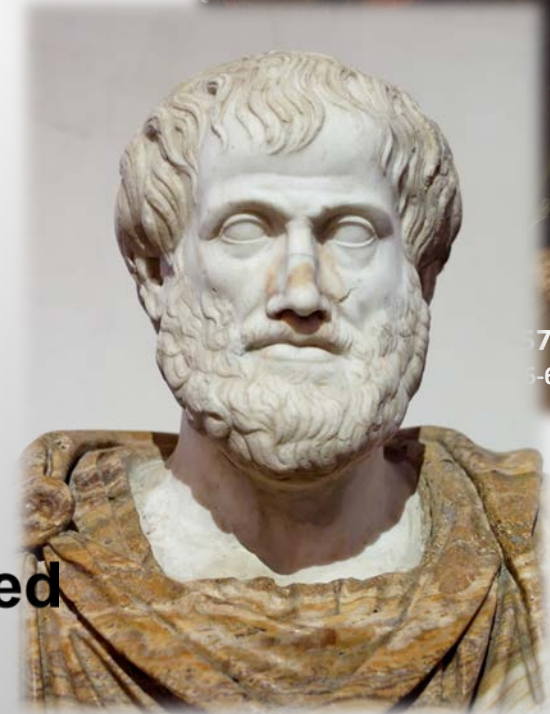
Wrote the book *Rhetoric* ... circa 300 B.C.

Many have translated the Greek version

POINT – Greek plays & Lawsuits depended
upon FINE speech ... ART of persuasion

Paul KNEW this ... as “artful” as Paul was

Christ did NOT send to PERSUADE



Aristotle (384–322 B.C.)
bust in Marble,
Roman copy of Greek bronze
by Lysippos from 330 B.C.



**1:17-25 Cross that Divides –
God's Wisdom: Saved by BELIEF**

**¹⁸ For the message of the cross is
foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved
it is the power of God.**

**¹⁹ For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”**

Salvation in Christ ... has an inherent simplicity.

In the “Confession of Christ” – the Rock – All Saved

To DRIVE this home ... Paul slips in Rhetoric of his own



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



1:17-25 Cross that Divides –
God's Wisdom: Saved by BELIEF

²⁰ Where is the wise person?

Where is the teacher of the law?

Where is the philosopher of this age?

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God

the world through its wisdom did not know him,

God was pleased through the foolishness of
what was preached to save those who believe.

By “foolishness,” Paul was pointing to himself.

Paul, Ex-Enforcer, now a Church Planter—*foolish!*



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



1:17-25 Cross that Divides –

God's Wisdom: Saved by BELIEF

In an artful FURTHERMORE, Paul says

²² Jews demand signs and

Greeks look for wisdom (*read science, rhetoric*),

²³ but we preach Christ crucified (*implying “raised” too*)

a stumbling block to Jews and

foolishness to Gentiles,

Implied ... with no sleight of hand ... *yet so artfully*

For Christians ... Christ Crucified & Raised is

ALL ... EVERYTHING



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Our UNITY depends on AGREEMENT upon a few tenets many **Jews & Greeks Find Foolish**

- ²⁴ but to those whom God has called,
both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and
the wisdom of God.
- ²⁵ For the foolishness of God
is wiser than human wisdom, and
the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Paul leads them to UNITY ... in his Second Letter



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Paul's Second of FOUR Letters ... we know as

1 Corinthians

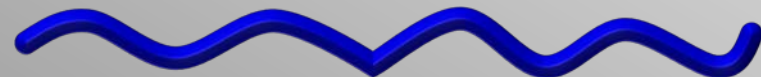
Paul encourages them to AGREE ...

AGREE on the essentials of Christ Crucified

They have some trouble with that ... **cause**

- ✓ Paul will visit them AGAIN
- ✓ Paul will write a 3rd **Lost Severe Letter**
- ✓ Paul will CONTINUE to Keep Track of them
- ✓ Finally, Paul writes a 4th Letter: **our 2 Corinthians**

If there is any **KEY to Unity** – **it is Networking!**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)

Paul did not merely “preach” and leave
Paul LOVED them enough to Keep Track

- ✓ Keep Track without telephones ... email
- ✓ Keep Track without Facebook & Twitter
- ✓ Keep Track without Cell Phones

You understand ... Paul’s appeal to Unity

Flows through his careful **Networking**

Corinthians LOVE Paul ... they accept these letters

Paul LOVES them ... so much, he LEARNS their needs

KEY to Learning Needs = NETWORKING



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



Oh my ... my oh my ...

How Paul LOVED them ... to KEEP TRACK

We have trouble KEEPING TRACK of our CLASS

Some move ... will move ... never hear again

Paul ... the Greatest Christian ... LOVED

Like Christ LOVES & keeps TRACK too

Jesus said in Matthew 10:29-31

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?

**Yet not one of them will fall to the
ground outside your Father's care.**



Apostle Paul, c. 1657
Pieter Paul Rubens (1606-69)



Yes ... God is keeping track of you

Matthew 10:29-31

**30 And even the very hairs of your head
are all numbered.**

**31 So don't be afraid;
you are worth more
than many sparrows.**



That leads me a closing question.



What are YOU doing for the

UNITY of Woodville FBC?

Answer is easy to **SEE:**

Who are YOU

Keeping Track of?



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS

