

Studies in First Corinthians

NT Survey Lesson 86--Introduction

Introduction: Paul's first letter to the Corinthians reveals the difficulties of a local church struggling to separate itself from a pagan background. It has sometimes been called a casebook of church problems, since Paul's obvious purpose in writing is to correct the shortcomings of these new Christians. Paul's approach reveals that he appreciates the decision that they have made to follow Christ and that he has confidence that the Lord will bring them to the state of holiness to which they were called.

Lesson aim: To understand the historical background of Paul's first letter to Corinth

The establishment of the church at Corinth--Ac. 18

1. On which preaching journey of Paul was the church at Corinth established? Where did Paul begin his work in the city? (v. 4) How did Paul support himself at the beginning? (v. 2-3) How later? (Cf. 2 Cor. 11:8)
2. After the Jews rejected the word, where did Paul move his primary place of teaching? (v.7)
3. What were the initial results of Paul's work? (v. 8) Who did Paul remember personally baptizing: (1 Cor 1:14) For how long did he work there? (v.11)
4. Before what governor was Paul brought? (V. 12) What were the results? An archaeological find has confirmed the date of Gallio's proconsulship. See if you can find out the year when Gallio ruled.
5. Who else preached and apparently made converts in Corinth? (Ac. 19:1; Cf. 1Cor. 1:12) Could Peter also have taught and baptized some the Corinthians? (1 Cor. 1:12)
6. Is it possible that the Sosthenes who was leader of the synagogue after Crispus (Ac. 18:17) was converted and joined Paul in writing 1 Corinthians (1 Cor. 1;1)? Could this be another man?

The historical backdrop of Paul's letter

1. Had Paul written the church anything before the letter known as 1 Corinthians? (Cf. 1 Cor. 5:9) Do we have the contents of this letter?
2. Who had more recently informed Paul about the situation at Corinth? (1 Cor. 1:11)
3. Were some of the contents of the letter based on questions sent to Paul by the church? (cf. 1 Cor. 7:1)
4. Who from the church had visited Paul in Ephesus? (16:15-18) What had they done for Paul?
5. Who had Paul wanted to return to Corinth to help with problems? (16:12) Did he? Who does it appear Paul would send instead? (1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10)
6. What were Paul's plans at the time of writing? (1 Cor. 16:5-9)

An overview of the letter--1Cor. 1:1-16:24

1. What problem does Paul address in chapters 1-4?
2. What case of immorality is discussed in chapter 5?
3. What problems are addressed in chapter 6?
4. In chapter seven Paul answers questions concerning what?
5. What issue does Paul discuss in chapter 8-10?
6. What two problems arose in the worship of the Corinthians? (1 Cor. 11)
7. Chapters 12-14 deal with what subject?
8. What great doctrinal truth was challenged by some at Corinth? (1 Cor 15)

9. How did Paul urge the Corinthians to prepare for the great collection for the saints in Jerusalem? (1 Cor. 16:1-4)