

Corinth

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-5 Lar/AL - Calvary Kids. Welcome online. Family Movie Night. **Children at Risk**. A21 Global Freedom Summit. **Update Food Drive** – show totals.
- B. Slide6,7 Update **Rohingya Bibles** - \$3000 towards \$4000.
- C. Slide8 **Wed Night series** - We are transitioning from our *Identity in Christ* series to *The Importance of Community*. Consider that God not only gives us an identity, but He also places us in a community. Why? Because *only in community* can we practice our Christlike identity (think *one another* scriptures). *Maker of Community*.
- D. **Prayer:** May this outside **place**, be our **space**, where we **come together** to **connect & communicate** with You Father....*who are in heaven*, but also in Murrieta, **rt now!**

II. Slide9 **Intro:**

- A. Paul now moves from the *intellectual* center of **Athens** to the *commercial* center of **Corinth**.
 1. 10,000 lived in **Athens**, about 3/4 of a million lived in **Corinth** at its zenith.

III. **CORINTH (1)** *Corinth*

- A. **Corinth** was a world famous emporium.
- B. Slide10/11 In Greece, in the province of Achaia, an *isthmus* (*ismes*) joined Greece's mainland to the Peloponnesian peninsula, thus giving it **2 Ports**.
- C. Slide12 It commanded trade routes in all directions. Before the Corinthian canal was cut for 3 1/2 miles across the isthmus, there was a *diolkos* or *slipway* along which cargoes & even small vessels could be pulled using *channels* (saving 200 miles of perilous navigation to go around the peninsula).
 1. Because of these **2 harbors**, the city of Corinth was a city of *seafarers & maritime merchants*.
 2. Hardly surprising that **Poseidon** (Gk god of the sea...Romans called *Neptune*) was worshipped there.

3. The markets would have been stocked with: *Arabian balsam, Egyptian papyrus, Phoenician dates, Libyan ivory, Babylonian carpets, Cilician goats'-hair, Lycaonian wool, Phrygian slaves'*. F. W. Farrar, pg.315.

a) *But what Paul's thinking was...if trade could radiate from Corinth in all directions, so could the gospel. :)*

D. When **the church** gets planted here it's not w/o problems. Some have called **1st Corinth's**, *A People in Process, or A Bride in Rehab.*

1. In 1 Cor. we find: *Divisions, difficulties, factions, lawsuits, immorality, questionable practices, abuse of the spiritual gifts, even abuse of the Lords Supper.*

E. Q: Who do you think of when you hear, *dynamic dou?* tell your neighbor

IV. Slide13a **AQUILA & PRISCILLA (2-11)** *dynamic duo* [mac-n-cheese. HS & you]

A. As we are starting *Importance of Community*. Community at its root means *common: A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.* Thus Paul connects with someone from his own trade.

1. **Tentmakers** – *cloth/leather worker* a course fabric from thick goats hair of his native Cilicia. [They made curtains, rugs, clothing, as well as tents from it]

B. Slide13b **Aquila & Priscilla** originally lived in **Rome**. Were banished. **Went to Corinth** (where they met Paul). **Next** followed Paul to **Ephesus**. **Lastly** back to **Rome**.

1. In church history, we don't hear of any church buildings until the **3rd century**. The little congregations met in *private homes*.

2. We know Aquila & Priscilla had a church in their home in both **Rome** & in **Ephesus**.

3. They seemed to always make their home **a center of Christian light & love**. [Their home was a haven of *rest, peace, friendship*]

C. Home fellowships, Community Groups, Support or Critical Care groups, Men's or Women's groups...these are like *mini-churches*.

1. It is one of the best ways to **grow** in your Christianity (can ask questions). One of the best **accountability's**. **And** brings about **fellowship** (if you're *really* getting to know other believers).
2. Ever think of **attending** one? Ever think of **starting** one? Ever think of **Hosting** one, **teaching** one, **watching children** for one?

V. Slide14a **GALLIO** (12-17)

- A. (12) An inscription at *the Temple of Apollo* in Delphi indicates that **Gallio's** time in Corinth can be dated to **ad 51-53**.
- B. (12-17) **Gallio** – **Not Gamaliel** (Paul studied under). **Not Galileo** (the Italian Astronomer that *Fredy Mercury* sang about in *Bohemian Rhapsody*)
 1. **Gallio** was *a Roman authority* in **Achaia**. (akai/EE/a)
 2. Elder brother of **Seneca** (famous *philosopher*. *Tutor* of Emperor Nero)
- C. **Slide14b** Here's what just happened in this section. (unprecedented, Historic decision)
 1. The **Jews** are forcing **Rome's** hand in regards to *the imperial cult*.
 2. By the time Christianity arrived, the Roman Empire had begun to **deify** its **human emperors**.
 - a) **All Roman citizens** were required by law to participate in the **festivals & ceremonies** that would honor them as **gods**.
 3. This **becomes** a serious problem, **from** the end of the 1st century, **to** Constantine in the 4th century.
 - a) *For 200 yrs the Roman gov was responsible for some of the most indescribable atrocities against Christians ever recorded.*
 4. **Slide14c** **But** this wasn't a problem yet. **Why not?** **Jews**, like **Christians**, also worshiped only 1 God. The Romans had recognized this & had declared Judaism a **religio licita** (*lisita*=allowed), Latin for a *legal religion*.
 5. **Thus** Jews were exempted from the requirements. When Christianity came along, it began a **Messianic Judaism** (a **branch** of Judaism)
 - a) Here in Corinth the Jewish leaders tried to draw the line, & declare Christianity shouldn't be considered a part of Judaism.

- b) If they could only get it declared *religio illicita*. (an illicit religion)
- 6. Gallio couldn't understand **theological** nuances, like most of us today couldn't analyze the differences between **Sunni & Shiite Muslims**.
- 7. For the next 10-12 years, until **imperial** policy toward Christians underwent a complete **reversal** (they remained free to share the gospel).

VI. Slide 15a **JESUS (9,10)** *Jesus always wrote in red :*)

A. (9,10) Paul had a lot of reasons to be **encouraged**: Priscilla & Aquila, Silas & Tim, financial help, a full-time ministry, encouraging results.

- 1. **But** in the midst of this, he fell prey to **fear and discouragement**. Fear seems to do its best haunting **at night**. What are your late night fears telling you? In which area of your life do you need to hear, **do not be afraid**?

B. Slide 15b **Do Not Be Afraid** (9a) *do not be afraid*

- 1. Paul was afraid. *Why?* people just got saved/baptized. This seems a little random, but 1st Corinthians fill in some blanks for us.
 - a) Slide 15c/d He wrote in 1 Cor. 2:2,3, *I resolve to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you and weakness and fear, and with much trembling.*
 - b) Slide 15e It was surely the **pride** and **immorality** of the Corinthian people which intimidated Paul, **since the cross** comes into *direct collision with both*.
- 2. The Corinthians were a **proud** people.
 - a) They manifested intellectual arrogance. They were proud of **their city**. They boasted of its **wealth** and **culture**. Of the world-famous **Isthmian games**. And of its **political prestige** as the capital of provincial Achaia.
 - b) **But the cross** undermines *all human pride*. It insists that we sinners have absolutely nothing with which to **buy**, or indeed **contribute to**, **our salvation**.
- 3. Corinth was associated in everybody's mind with **immorality**.

- a) Behind the city, nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, rose the rocky eminence called the **Acro-corinth**. On its flat summit stood the temple of **Aphrodite** the goddess of love.
- (1) Where 1000 female slaves served her and roamed the city's streets by night as prostitutes.
 - (2) The sexual promiscuity of Corinth was proverbial, so that *korinthiazomai* meant to practice immorality, and *korinthiastēs* was a synonym for a harlot.
- b) The gospel of *Christ crucified* summoned the Corinthians to **repentance** and **holiness**, and warned them that *the sexually immoral would not inherit the kingdom of God*.
- c) It is in these ways that **Christ's cross**, in its call for self-humbling and self-denial, is a *stumbling-block* to the proud and the sinful.

C. Slide 15f **Keep Ministering** (9b) *go on speaking and do not be silent*

1. Think of this... **Weakness is the secret strength of God's most effective servants**. Kent Hughes

- a) If you're feeling weak, if you're feeling fearful... **rely on Him & His power to be made perfect in your weakness**. Then all the glory will go to Him.

D. Slide 15g **Receive His With Promise** (10a) *I am with you*

1. Here Paul is **fortified** by the presence & protection of Christ.

2. Hildebert of Lavardin: **God is over all things; outside all; within but not enclosed; without but not excluded; above but not raised up; below but not depressed; holy above presiding; holy beneath sustaining; wholly within, filling.**

3. *I am with you* – the promise God gave to Isaac, Jacob, the Jewish remnant returning from Babylon, Jeremiah, the Jews rebuilding the temple. **And Jesus gave to us**. (Mt.28:20).

- a) Where do you need the truth that *He is here* inscribed on your life?
- E. **Slide15h Recognize Your Work Will Not Be in Vain** (10c) I have **many** in this city who are *my people*
1. **Paul's work would not be fruitless.** According to Paul's *other writings* this fruit would include: *Erastus, Gaius, Stephanos, Fortunatus, and Achaicus.*
- F. **Note that I left out** (10c)...*no one will attack you to harm you.* Paul wasn't promised this before **or** after Corinth, **&** I can't promise you *no one will attack you to harm you.*
- G. *So don't be afraid. Stop borrowing trouble. Look to me, I love you. Keep ministering. Keep caring. Keep speaking my name. Believe that I am with you and I will protect you when I believe you need it. Believe that your Life will bear fruit, I promise.*
- H. **Slide16** According to an ancient story, when **Leonidas** (think *Gerard Butler/300*), the noble hero of the **Spartans** who defended **Greece** from the **Persians**, was in battle against thousands of invaders, one of his men said to him, General, ***"when the Persians shoot their arrows, there are so many of them that they darken the sky."*** Leonides replied, ***"Then we will fight in the shade."***
1. Paul continued **serving** the Lord and **fighting** the battle, **regardless of** his **feelings**, **no matter** what **circumstances** he saw on the horizon.
 2. **We must do the same.** **No matter** how our elections turn out. **No matter** how the Coronavirus turns out. ***Then we will fight in the shade!***
 - a) You probably think 2020 is the worst year. But, turns out, it's not. **A volcanic eruption in Iceland in early 536** led to incredibly large quantities of **ash** being spread across much of the globe, plunging **Europe, Africa and Asia** into darkness 24 hours a day, for nearly **2 years**. This eruption was so immense that it altered the **global climate** and adversely affected **weather patterns** and caused **crops to fail**, creating **mass starvation**. This resulted in the **coldest decade** (the dark ages) in 2,000 years **and** was accompanied by the **bubonic plague** which killed over 100 million and almost half of the Byzantine Empire. ***Then we will fight in the shade!***
- I. **Communion:**