

## So how did Paul get to Corinth?



January 6 & 7, 2018 | Intro to 1 Corinthians | 1Cor. 1:1-3 | Dennis Miller, pastor

### SCRIPTURES

*1Cor. 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

### THE AUTHOR

1. Paul began his letter with his OWN NAME as ALL writers did at that time. *To remind you of who Paul was . . .*

— His given name at birth was SAUL (Shaul), and he was born into a proper and respected JEWISH home.

— He was EDUCATED in the greatest “university” in Jerusalem (Gamaliel) and wanted to stop the MOVEMENT of Christianity because Jews were TURNING to Jesus.

*Acts 22:3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.*

— Paul met JESUS on a trip to Damascus intended to persecute Christians. Jesus CALLED to him, and Paul took no time in turning to this new FAITH. He went back to secular work until 14 YEARS later when he became a preacher and missionary.

— On his **FIRST** missionary journey he was renamed Paul (*a Greek name that means short or little*), because he was going to minister to **GENTILES** (*and probably because of his size*).

— **PAUL** went on to travel on three or four missionary **ADVENTURES**, to preach all **OVER** the Roman Empire, and to write at least **13** **BOOKS** of the New Testament.

2. Paul introduced himself as an **APOSTLE** “*by the will of God,*” not to brag about his position, but to give **AUTHORITY** to his letter. Some people in the first century did not **ACCEPT** Paul as an apostle, but he did not **BACK** down.

*1Cor. 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? 2 Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.*

3. Paul also introduced a person that was **WITH HIM** who gives credibility and **FAMILIARITY** to Corinthian Jewish readers.

*1Cor. 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,*

*Acts 18:12 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment. . . . 14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. 15 But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law—settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.” 16 So he drove them off. 17 Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.*

### **THE AUDIENCE**

1. “*The church of God at Corinth*” — This means that there was just **ONE** Christian **CHURCH** in the city.

2. The city was very **SIGNIFICANT** because of its location in southern Greece and because of **TRADE** routes (isthmus).

3. The city was also known for its **SECULAR** lifestyle and particularly for **SEXUAL** sin. Paul had sent an **EARLIER** letter to these people which is no longer available to us.

*1Cor. 5:9 I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing to you . . .*

— *So how did Paul get to Corinth? (map is on the back page)*

4. Paul stayed in Corinth for **18** **MONTHS** and was followed by two more famous pastors: **APOLLOS** and Timothy. That too would cause **CONFLICT**.

*1Cor. 1:12 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.”*

*1Cor. 4:17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, my son whom I love, . . .*

5. These people were **TRUE** believers in Jesus Christ; that is why Paul calls them “sanctified” and “**HOLY**.” However they were not **LIVING** in a manner that **PROFESSED** their faith.

*1Cor. 1:2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people,*

**Remember:** *Holiness is something that you ARE because of Christ. There is not anything that you can DO to become holy!*

### **THE AUTHORITY**

**WHY** did Paul write this letter? To **ENCOURAGE** the people and to **CORRECT** some major issues of **LIFESTYLE**. (*Not a list of don’ts, but a direction on the proper ATTITUDES and practices.*)

*1Cor. 1:11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.*

*1Cor. 7:1 Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”*

1. **UNITY** in the heart and in the church (1 Cor. 1–4)
2. Proper church **DISCIPLINE** (5)
3. Handling conflict **WITHIN** the church Body (6)
4. A God-honoring **MARRIAGE** (7)
5. Giving up **RIGHTS** for the sake of **OTHERS** (8–10)
6. Understanding **HEADSHIP** (and head-coverings) (11)
7. Holy Communion done **RIGHT** (11)
8. The proper use of spiritual **GIFTS** and **TONGUES** (12–14)
9. The hope of the **RESURRECTION** of the **DEAD** (15)
10. **MONEY** (16)

### **THE AMEN**

*1Cor. 1:3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*