

## Lecture 19 – Corinthians: Occasion & Purpose

*“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.” 1 Corinthians 1:10*

### Key Terms

City of Corinth, disunity, reconciliation, selfishness, immorality, mind-body dualism, problem with authority

### Objectives

- \*Describe the situation of the city of Corinth in the time of Paul.
- \*Identify the occasion for 1 Corinthians and for 2 Corinthians.
- \*List the issues Paul is addressing in his letters to the Corinthians.
- \*Examine how Paul’s teaching applies to us today.

### Corinthians: Occasion & Purpose

#### I. Introduction

- A. Paul’s letters are aids and instruments for growth, moving toward maturity in Christ.
- B. Was it a “bad” idea that Paul went to Corinth?
  1. He turned up one “rock” after another (plow metaphor).
  2. His pastoral relation with that church was also “rocky.”
- C. If the Gospel is applicable to Corinth, there is hope for us.
  1. Paul never says that the Gospel is for everyone except the Corinthians.
  2. Power splits, immorality, poor fellowship, etc., all mark the Corinthian church.
  3. God has started a work there and Paul is not going to abandon them.
  4. Paul meets great challenges with great hope and devotion.
- D. 1 Corinthians is characterized by:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. 2 Corinthians is characterized by: \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Clement of Rome
  1. Writes to the Corinthians in \_\_\_\_\_ because young people had thrown out the elders
  2. Appeals to them to return from their rebellious ways, to reconcile, and to seek what is biblical, both in the OT and the NT
  3. Reference back to Paul’s letter

#### II. Information on the City of Corinth

- A. Hellenistic
- B. Greek mainland, known to Homer
- C. Ancient wealthy city – a port city
- D. In \_\_\_\_\_ BC destroyed by Rome
- E. In \_\_\_\_\_ BC rebuilt by Julius Caesar as a Roman colony
- F. The society has little roots or sense of identity.
- G. It becomes a cosmopolitan town with little historical roots.
- H. Culturally and ethically diverse
- I. Immorality and decadence abounds in Corinth.

#### III. Paul’s Time in Corinth

- A. Stays 18 months

B. 1 Cor. 2:3: "I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling."

C. A church is established.

IV. Characteristics of the Church at Corinth

A. Disunity/fighting amongst themselves

B. Selfishness

C. Immorality

1. Neo-platonic way of thinking

2. Mind-body dualism

D. Problem with authority

V. The Purpose of 1 Corinthians and the Situation in Which Paul Writes

A. The goal is to bring the church to a place of morality, unity and reconciliation.

B. AD 52-57: After leaving Corinth in AD 52, he embarks on his third missionary journey. He establishes his new base in Ephesus.

C. Probably written in \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_

D. Paul has had correspondence from Corinth and is concerned with the things that are going on in that church.