

*Paul's Epistle of*

# 1<sup>st</sup> CORINTHIANS

84<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ – March - May, 2022



# Introduction

- **AUTHOR:** PAUL, the apostle (1:1; 16:21)
- **PLACE OF WRITING:** Ephesus (16:8)
- **TIME OF WRITING:**
  - Probably in the spring of 57 A.D.
  - Shortly before the Jewish feast of Pentecost (16:8)
  - During his third missionary journey (**Acts 18:1-28**).



# Introduction

- **BACKGROUND OF THE CITY OF CORINTH:**

- On the Isthmus of Greece about 50 miles to the east was the city of Athens
- Became a very important commercial center
- Known for its immorality found in the temple of Venus (Aphrodite)

- **BACKGROUND OF THE CHURCH AT CORINTH – Acts 18**

# Map of Ancient Greece - Corinth





# Ancient Corinth



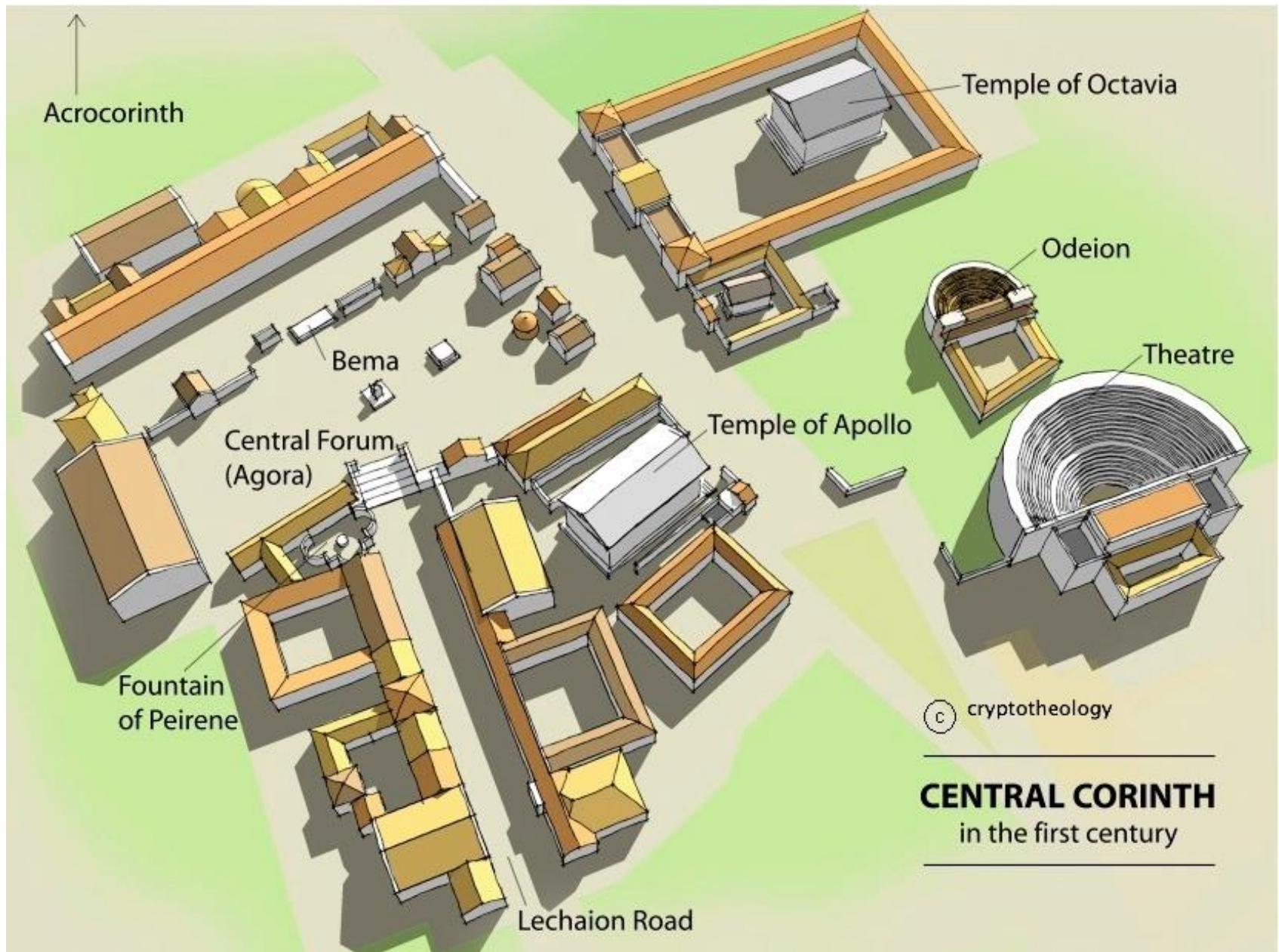


# Ancient Corinth (*reconstruction*)

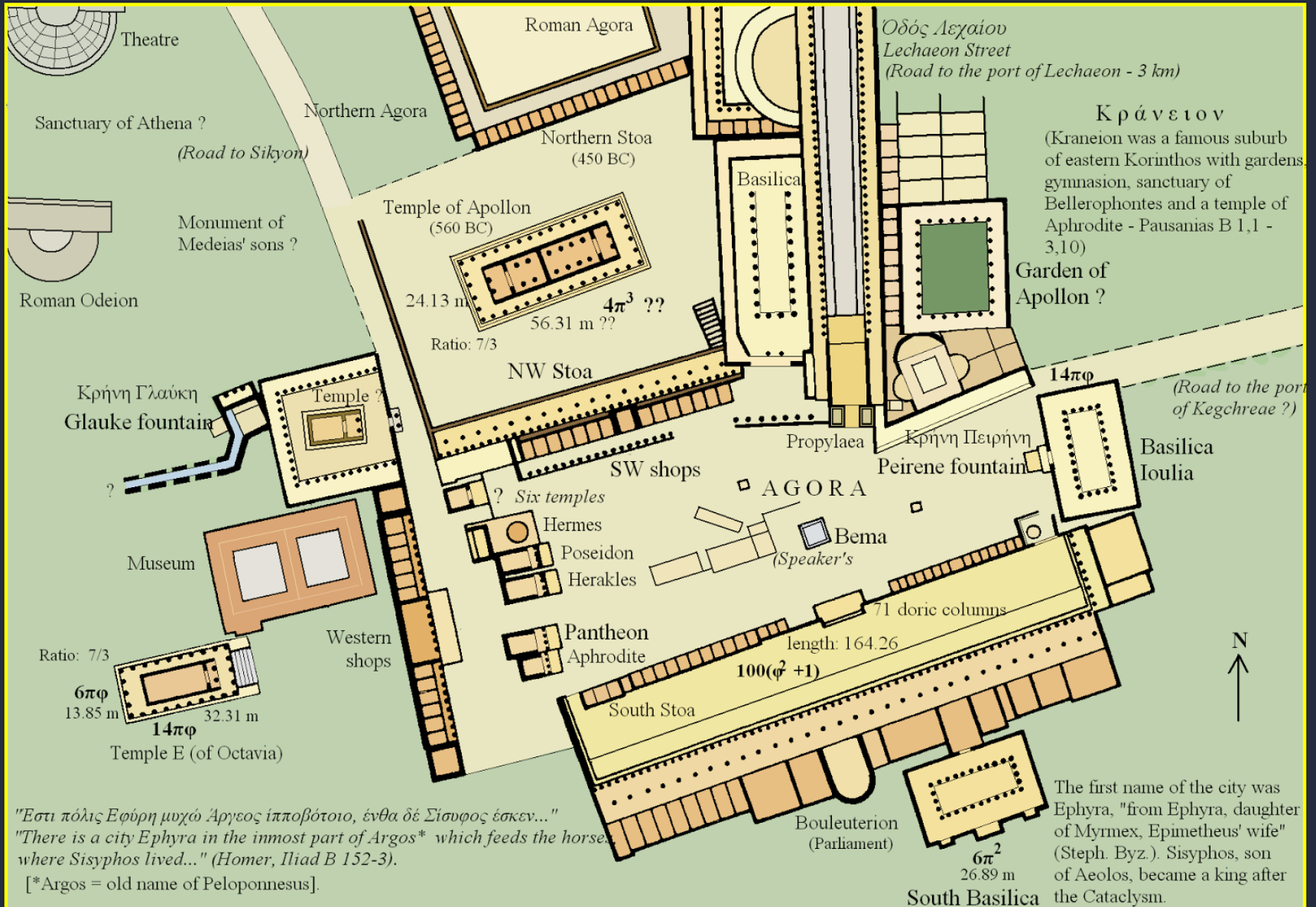




# Map of Ancient Corinth



# Map of Ancient Corinth



"Εστι πόλις Εφύρη μυχῷ Ἀργεὸς ἵπποβότοιο, ἐνθα δὲ Σίσυφος ἔσκεν..."  
 "There is a city Ephyra in the inmost part of Argos\* which feeds the horse,  
 where Sisyphos lived..." (Homer, Iliad B 152-3).  
 [\*Argos = old name of Peloponnesus].

**EPHYRA - KORINTHOS**

The first name of the city was Ephyra, "from Ephyra, daughter of Myrmex, Epimetheus' wife" (Steph. Byz.). Sisyphos, son of Aeolos, became a king after the Cataclysm.



# Outline

## **I. Introduction (1:1- 9)**

## **II. Dealing with Problems Reported to Paul (1:10 – 6:20)**

A. Problem of Factionalism (1:10 – 3:23)

B. Problem of Rejecting Paul's Work (4:1-21)

C. Problem of the Fornicator and Church Discipline (5:1-13)

D. Taking Problems between Brethren to Civil Courts (6:1-11)

E. Responsibility to Glorify God with the Body (6:12-20)

**Last Class**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1**

<sup>10</sup> Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. <sup>11</sup> For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's *household*, that there are contentions among you. <sup>12</sup> Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?



# A Look at 1 Corinthians 1:14-31

## **1. NATURE OF THE DIVISION AT CORINTH (1:10-17)**

### **A. AS REPORTED TO PAUL (1:10-12)**

- 1) His plea for unity (10)
- 2) Some in Chloe's household reported contentions among them (11)
- 3) Involved factions following men (12)

### **B. PAUL'S INITIAL REACTION (1:13-17)**

- 1) Rhetorical questions illustrating the absurdity of following after men (13)
- 2) Gratitude that he personally baptized few of them (14-17)
  - a) Lest any should accuse him of baptizing in his own name (14-15)
  - b) Being the one to baptize the believers was not his chief purpose (16-17)

## **2. FOLLY OF BOASTING IN HUMAN WISDOM (1:18-31)**

### **A. GOD WILL DESTROY WISDOM OF WISE (1:18-25)**

- 1) Granted, the message of the cross is foolish to some, but not to the saved (**18**)
- 2) But God will the destroy the wisdom of the world (**19-20**)
- 3) God chose to use what man deemed foolish and weak to save those who believe (**21-25**)
  - a) The world through its wisdom did not know God (**21a**)
  - b) God chose to save mankind through "the foolishness of preaching" [message preached - Christ crucified] (**21b-24**)
  - c) God's "foolishness" and "weakness" [as man might see it] is wiser and stronger than men (**25**)



## **B. CORINTHIANS' CALLING DEMONSTRATED THIS TRUTH (1:26-29)**

- 1) Not many of them were "wise, mighty, or noble" (26)
- 2) But God has chosen those things that are "foolish, weak, base, despised, and which are not" to show their folly (27-28)
- 3) So that no flesh should glory in His presence (29)

## **C. INTENT WAS TO SHOW GLORY OF LORD (1:30-31)**

- 1) Those in Christ showed the wisdom of God, through righteousness and sanctification and redemption (30)
- 2) We should glory only in Him (31)

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1

<sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. <sup>16</sup> Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”



# Questions

11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. “For since, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ did not know \_\_\_\_\_, it pleased God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message \_\_\_\_\_ to save those who \_\_\_\_\_.”
15. What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_
17. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_
18. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1

<sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. <sup>16</sup> Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”



# Questions

11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. “For since, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ did not know \_\_\_\_\_, it pleased God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message \_\_\_\_\_ to save those who \_\_\_\_\_.”

15. What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

18. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_

# Questions

11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**13.** What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. “For since, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ did not know \_\_\_\_\_, it pleased God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message \_\_\_\_\_ to save those who \_\_\_\_\_.”

15. What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

18. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1

<sup>20</sup> Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.



# Questions

11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**14.** “For since, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ did not know \_\_\_\_\_, it pleased God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message \_\_\_\_\_ to save those who \_\_\_\_\_.”

15. What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

18. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1

<sup>20</sup> Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

# Questions

11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. “For since, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ did not know \_\_\_\_\_, it pleased God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message \_\_\_\_\_ to save those who \_\_\_\_\_.”

**15.** What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

18. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_



# Questions

11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. “For since, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ did not know \_\_\_\_\_, it pleased God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message \_\_\_\_\_ to save those who \_\_\_\_\_.”

15. What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

**16.** What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

18. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1

<sup>20</sup> Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

# Questions

11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. “For since, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ did not know \_\_\_\_\_, it pleased God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message \_\_\_\_\_ to save those who \_\_\_\_\_.”

15. What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

**17.** How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

18. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_



# Questions

11. Why did Paul say he was glad he had only baptized a few in Corinth? Was it because baptism was not important? Prove your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. In what two ways do men view the message of the cross? \_\_\_\_\_

---

13. What is meant by the term “message of the cross”? \_\_\_\_\_

---

14. “For since, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ did not know \_\_\_\_\_, it pleased God through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the message \_\_\_\_\_ to save those who \_\_\_\_\_.”

15. What does the text say that the Jews were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What does the text say that the Gentiles were seeking? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

**18.** How was the message of a crucified Christ seen by the Gentiles? \_\_\_\_\_

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1

<sup>26</sup> For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.* <sup>27</sup> But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are <sup>29</sup> that no flesh should glory in His presence. <sup>30</sup> But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — <sup>31</sup> that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

# Questions

19. “For you see your \_\_\_\_\_, brethren, that not many \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_, not many \_\_\_\_\_, not many \_\_\_\_\_, are \_\_\_\_\_.”

20. Why has God chosen the foolish, weak and base things of the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Thought Question:**

Why are most of the worldly wise, wealthy and noble not attracted to the gospel message? How has the world changed the gospel message to attract those who are not attracted to the original gospel message? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1

<sup>26</sup> For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.* <sup>27</sup> But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; <sup>28</sup> and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are <sup>29</sup> that no flesh should glory in His presence. <sup>30</sup> But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — and righteousness and sanctification and redemption — <sup>31</sup> that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.”

# Questions

19. “For you see your \_\_\_\_\_, brethren, that not many \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_, not many \_\_\_\_\_, not many \_\_\_\_\_, are \_\_\_\_\_.”

20. Why has God chosen the foolish, weak and base things of the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Thought Question:**

Why are most of the worldly wise, wealthy and noble not attracted to the gospel message? How has the world changed the gospel message to attract those who are not attracted to the original gospel message? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Questions

19. “For you see your \_\_\_\_\_, brethren, that not many \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_, not many \_\_\_\_\_, not many \_\_\_\_\_, are \_\_\_\_\_.”

20. Why has God chosen the foolish, weak and base things of the world? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Thought Question:

Why are most of the worldly wise, wealthy and noble not attracted to the gospel message? How has the world changed the gospel message to attract those who are not attracted to the original gospel message? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Next Class:**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians

---

## Chapter 2