

CALLED TO BE SAINTS

The background of the slide is a photograph of ancient Greek temple ruins. Several tall, fluted columns stand in a row, supporting a partially collapsed entablature. The ruins are set in a dry, hilly landscape with mountains in the background under a clear sky.

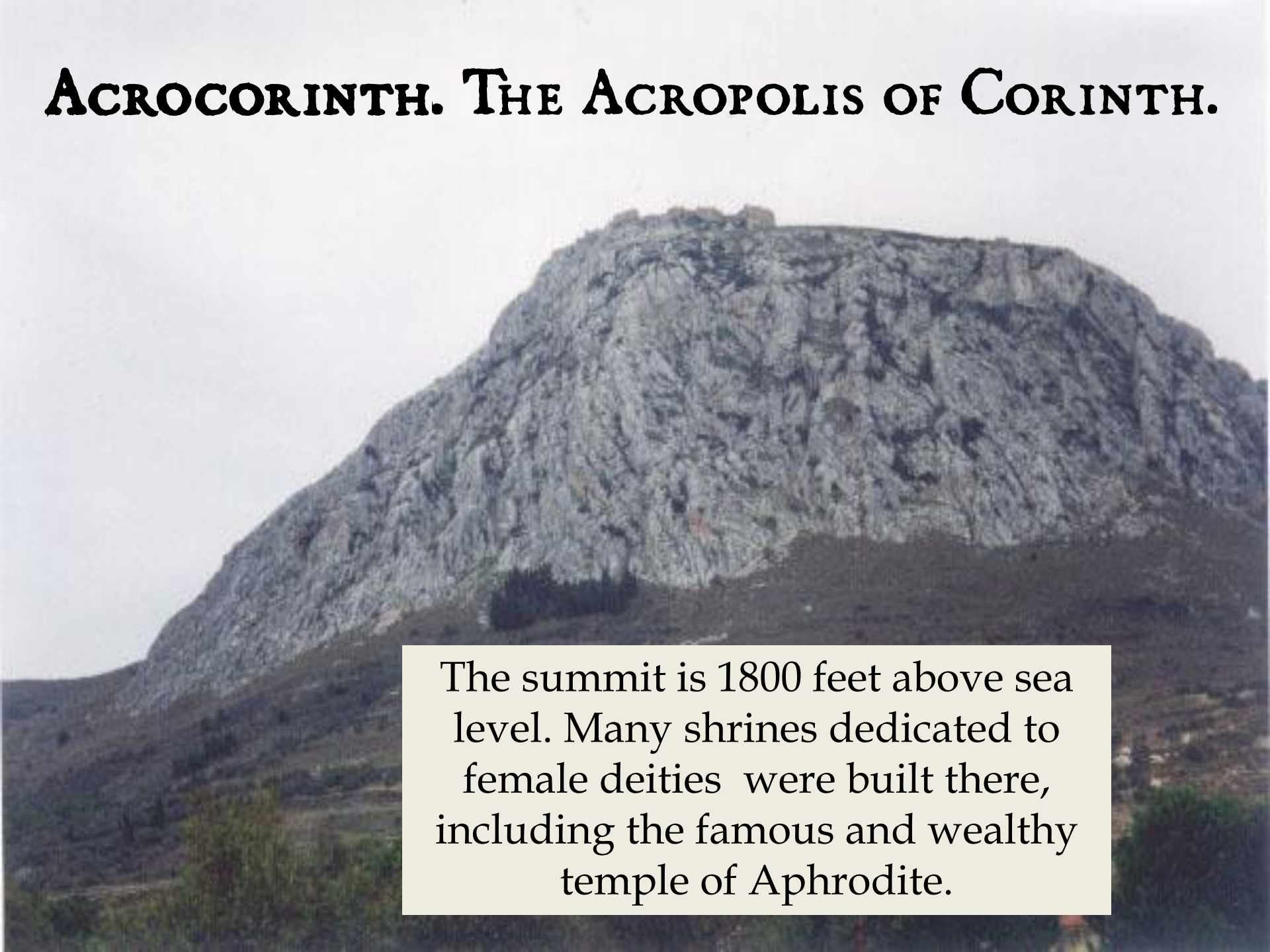
*Introduction To The First Epistle
To The Church At Corinth*



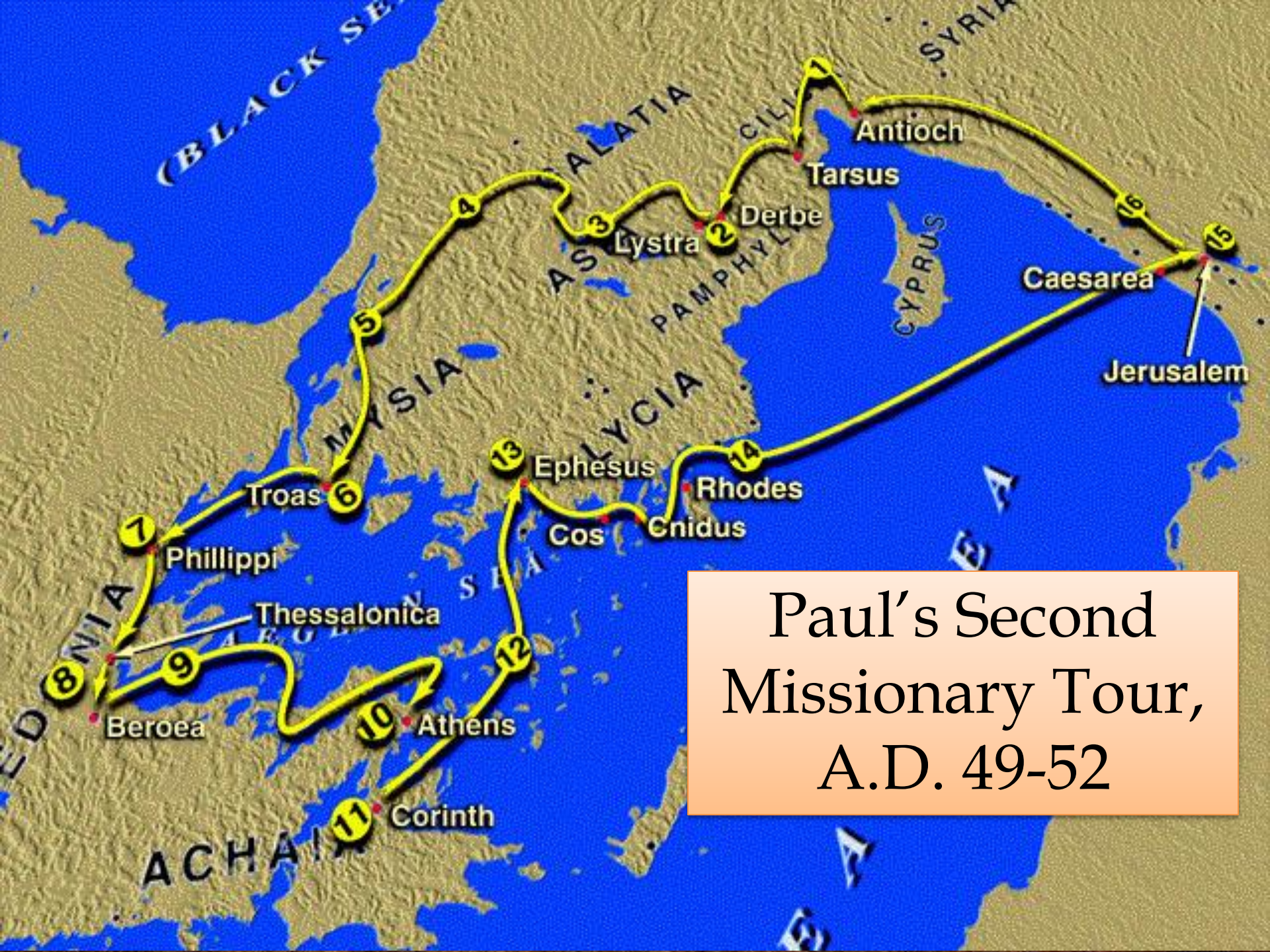
- ◆ Corinth is located on an isthmus, the typical seaport town of its day.
- ◆ Homosexuality, prostitution and idolatry all ran rampant — (likely over 1,000 prostitutes there)
- ◆ "Corinthian," then and now, connotes moral laxity.



ACROCORINTH. THE ACROPOLIS OF CORINTH.



The summit is 1800 feet above sea level. Many shrines dedicated to female deities were built there, including the famous and wealthy temple of Aphrodite.



Paul's Second
Missionary Tour,
A.D. 49-52



- ✦ Beginning of the church recorded in Acts 18
- ✦ First converts: Crispus and his household specifically mentioned, (Acts 18:8), but likely others were Christians first (Aquila and Priscilla, Justus, (Acts 18:1-7).
- ✦ Stephanas and Fortunatus likely carried the letter.

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PAUL'S FIRST STAY

- ◆ Paul spent 18 months in the city before the Jews of the city charged him with breaking the law and brought him before Gallio at the city's place of judgment (bema).
- ◆ The mention of Gallio provides an anchor for NT chronology as we know from Roman sources that Gallio was proconsul of Achaia from June 51 to May 52.
- ◆ The proconsul dismissed the charges against Paul as a dispute of Jewish law and not of a criminal nature.

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PAUL'S SUBSEQUENT MINISTRY IN CORINTH

✦ **Paul addressed at least three letters to this church.**

- a. Ante-Corinthians (I Corinthians 5:9)
- b. 1 Corinthians (1:1) – (54 or 55 AD)
- c. 2 Corinthians (1:1) – (56 or 57 AD)

✦ **Paul visited Corinth at least twice after his initial visit.**

- a. Paul visited on the last leg of the third journey (Acts 20:1–3).
- b. Yet, Paul calls this trip “the third time” (II Corinthians 12:14; 13:1).

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PURPOSE OF EPISTLE

- ♦ To deal with carnality –
- ♦ To deal with Jew / Gentile problem –
- ♦ To deal with the immorality problem –
- ♦ To answer their questions –
- ♦ To answer his critiques and false teachers –
- ♦ To focus them on the resurrected Lord – Jesus Christ –

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SYNOPSIS BY CHAPTERS

- 1- Greetings / Salutations; Divisions; God Makes Foolish the World's Wisdom
- 2- Revelation of God's Wisdom by the Spirit
- 3- Problem of Carnality; Foundation & Building the Temple of God
- 4- Stewardship & Apostleship
- 5- Problem of Individual Immorality & Congregational Arrogance

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SYNOPSIS BY CHAPTERS

- 6- Problem of Litigation; Problem of Harlotry
- 7- Instructions on Marriage
- 8- Instructions on Meat Sacrificed to Idols
- 9- Rights of Apostles & Preachers
- 10- Israel's Example: Flee Idolatry; Lawful vs. Expedient
- 11- Proper Subjection to Your Head; Problems relating to the Lord's Supper

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SYNOPSIS BY CHAPTERS

- 12- Purpose of Spiritual Gifts; One Body, Many Members
- 13- Superiority of Love
- 14- Proper Use of Spiritual Gifts
- 15- Resurrection of Christ; Resurrection of the Dead
- 16- Collection of Benevolent Funds; Acknowledgment of Individuals

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The background of the slide features a photograph of ancient ruins, likely the Temple of Apollo in Corinth. It shows several tall, weathered stone columns and a large archway, set against a backdrop of a hillside with some trees under a clear sky.

A PRACTICAL STUDY

- ◆ The church at Corinth was far from being a perfect church –
- ◆ The problems in Corinth are problems that still effect the church today.
- ◆ The solutions to those problems are the same today as then –

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Charts by Don McClain

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West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using PPT 2010 –

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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