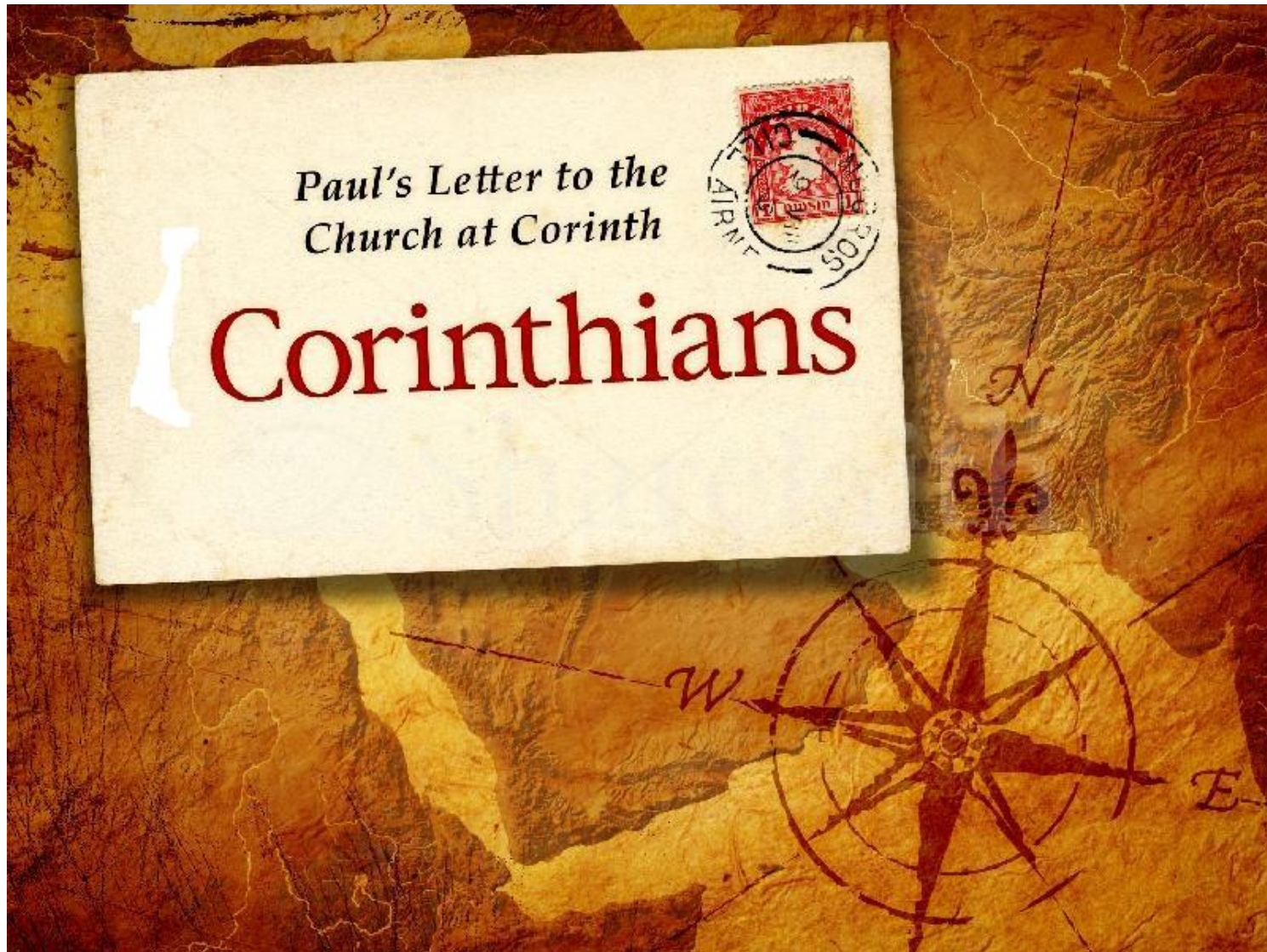


1 Cor. 4:9-13 Suffering Is Involved in Paul's Ministry



Today's Outline*



The Problem of Division Addressed 1:13 to 4:21

Unity by Considering the Nature of Christian Service 3:5-4:21

a. The Worker Is Only a Servant in the Hands of God 3:5-9

b. Service Will Be Rewarded in Accordance with Its Quality 3:10-17

c. The Worker Assessed by God's Standards, Not Man's 3:18-23

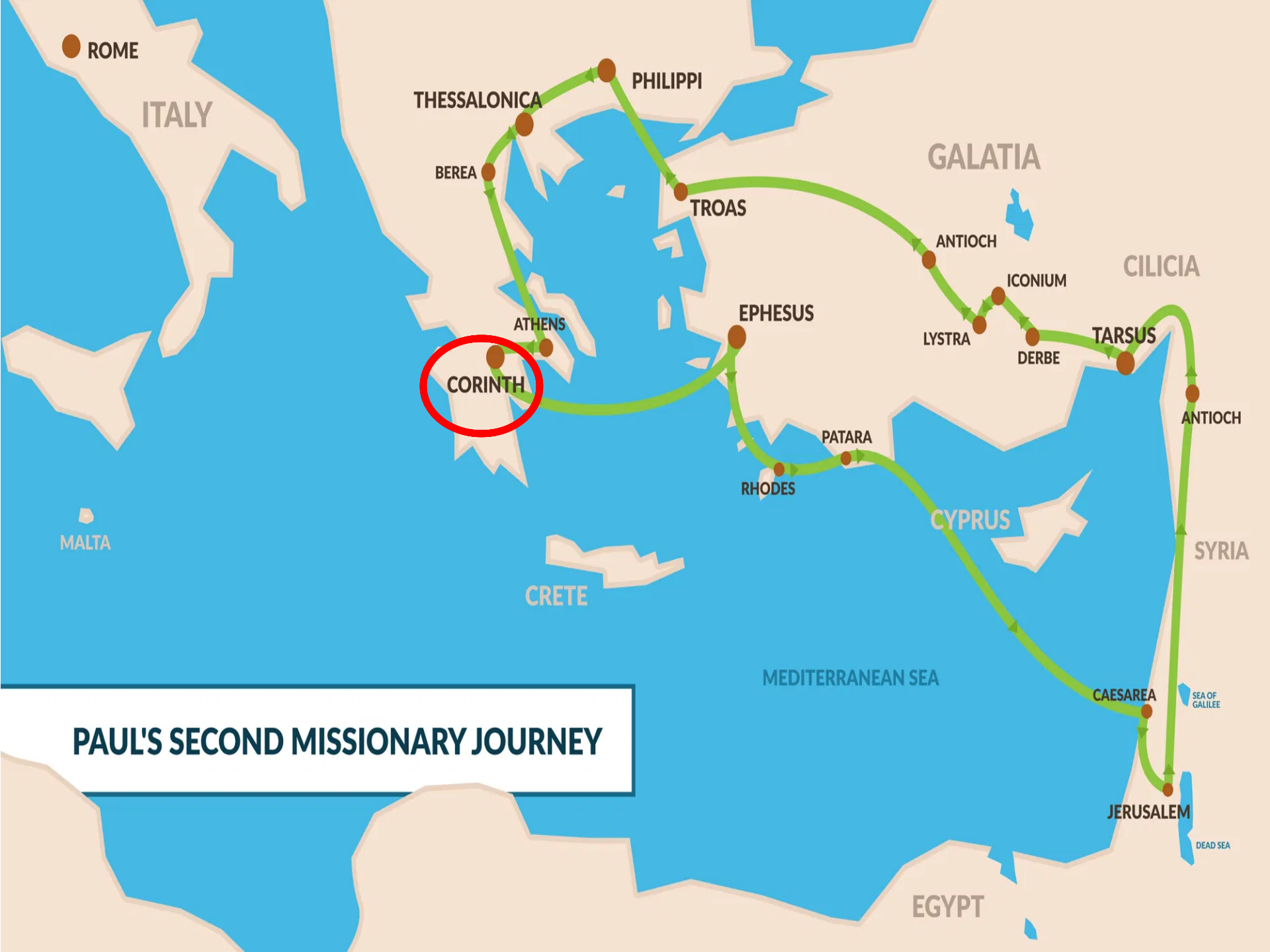
d. The Basic Issue in Service Is Faithfulness 4:1-5

e. Pride Has No Place in Service to the Lord 4:6-8

f. Worker Must Realize Suffering Is Involved in His Ministry 4:9-21

The Apostolic Example 4:9-13

The Apostolic Authority 4:14-21



PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

ROME

ITALY

THESSALONICA

PHILIPPI

BEREA

TROAS

GALATIA

ANTIOCH

ICONIUM

CILICIA

ATHENS

EPHESUS

LYSTRA

DERBE

TARSUS

CORINTH

ANTIOCH

PATARA

RHODES

CYPRUS

SYRIA

MALTA

CRETE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

CAESAREA

SEA OF GALILEE

JERUSALEM

DEAD SEA

EGYPT



⁸ You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.

⁹ For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

¹¹ To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;

¹² and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;

¹³ when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now.

8 You are already filled, you have already become rich, you have become kings without us; and indeed, I wish that you had become kings so that we also might reign with you.



Statements about the pride in the Corinthian Church

- You are already filled (perfect tense)

[You behave as if] you are already filled and think you have enough [you are full and content, feeling no need of anything more]!

Amplified

- You have already become rich

Already you have become rich [in spiritual gifts and graces]! [Without any counsel or instruction from us, in your conceit]

Amplified

- You have become kings without us

You have ascended your thrones and come into your kingdom without including us!

Amplified



⁹ For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

- Paul will now describe what a true Christian servant can expect.
- Paul will also describe his life as an apostle.

for, I think - for it seems to me (Wuest)

God has exhibited us apostles last of all

Subject: God [He is the one who is producing the action]

Verb: has exhibited – to show forth

D.O. : us (the apostles)

last of all - *eschatos* - of apostles as "last" in the program of
a spectacular display Vine



⁹ For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

as men condemned to death

condemned to death – *epithanatos* - doomed to death

Rom 8:36 Just as it is written, "for your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

- Paul tells us this in the context of who will separate us from the love of Christ. (Rom 8:35)
- In Roman processions, criminals who were condemned to death were at the end of the procession. McCalley



⁹ For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

because we (apostles) have become a spectacle to the world

spectacle - *theatron* - theater, a place where drama and other public spectacles were exhibited

Heb 10:32 But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, ^{33a} partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations ---

both to angels and to men

- angels observe the activities of believers and desire to understand God's salvation of man 1 Peter 1:12

¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ;
we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished,
we are without honor.

we = apostles; **you** = Corinthians (how they saw themselves)

we are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ

- 1 Cor 1:18 For the “word of the cross” is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- The doctrine (word) of the cross is the teaching that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died a death wherein the guilt and penalty of man’s sin was placed on Him, making it possible for salvation to be extended to those who believe in Christ.

prudent – wise - 1 Cor 3:18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise.

¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.



we are weak, but you are strong

2 Cor 12:10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

strong - *ischyros* - the church at Corinth, 1 Cor. 4:10, where the Apostle reproaches them ironically with their unspiritual and self-complacent condition

But as for all of you, you are those who are mighty. Wuest

¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor.



you are distinguished, but we are without honor.

distinguished – held in honor

1 Cor 1:12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

without honor

John 4:44 For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country.



11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;

Paul now enumerates the items of the apostle's suffering.

to this present (or very) hour

- This is the present condition of Paul.

These items that follow are the basic needs of life:

we are both hungry and thirsty and are poorly clothed

we have gone both hungry and thirsty; we [habitually] wear but one undergarment [and shiver in the cold] Amplified

¹¹ To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;



Next we have how Paul was treated by most people.

(we) are roughly treated, and are homeless

maltreated and, going from place to place, we have no fixed home

Wuest

2 Cor 11:27 *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

¹² and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now.



Now Paul continues with his description of his apostleship

- we toil, working with our own hands

Acts 18:3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers.

- when we are reviled, we bless

1 Peter 3:9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.



¹² and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now.

- **when we are persecuted, we endure**

John 15:20a "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you;"

- **when we are slandered, we try to conciliate**

When we are slandered and defamed, we [try to] answer softly and bring comfort. Amplified

Prov 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

¹² and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now.



we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, *even* until now.

We have become in the estimation of the world as the filth discarded by humanity as the result of cleansing one's self, dirt scraped off of all things, to this very moment.

Wuest

Now let us review why Paul would receive such a treatment at the hands of the Corinthian church!

2:1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.



and when I came to you, brethren, proclaiming to you the testimony of God

proclaiming - *katangellō* - to declare, proclaim (or preach)

testimony – *mystērion* – the New Testament use of the term relates it to some work or purpose of God hitherto unrevealed

- The gospel was both the message God had previously not revealed that the apostles made known and the message to which they bore witness. Constable



2:1 And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God.

I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom.

with – *kata* – according to

superiority - *hyperochē* - meaning superiority, excellence

The --- expression (**speech**) refers to rhetorical skill and has to do with his method of preaching. McCalley

wisdom – *sophia* – speaking of man's wisdom here

- We saw this word in 1 Cor 1:17 not in cleverness (**wisdom**) of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void.

2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.



Now we will see Paul's true focus with the Corinthian

For I determined to know nothing among you

determined - *krinō* - to determine, resolve, decree

As far as his preaching went, Paul only spoke about
Christ crucified. This was his regular practice (Gal. 3).
He left all other knowledge aside. Constable

The next part of the verse tells us what Paul had resolved
to preach.

2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.



except (*to know*) Jesus Christ, and Him crucified

The person of Jesus Christ

- Christ is both with God and is God; Christ is the creator of all things; in Christ is life and that life is the light of men; Christ is the image of the invisible God.

The work of Jesus Christ

Died for all sins:

- Christ is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Died unto the sin (nature):

- He died with respect to our sinful nature once for all.
- God having sent His own Son --- as an offering for sin, He condemned the sinful nature in the flesh.

Final Thoughts



Philippians 4

¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

¹³ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.