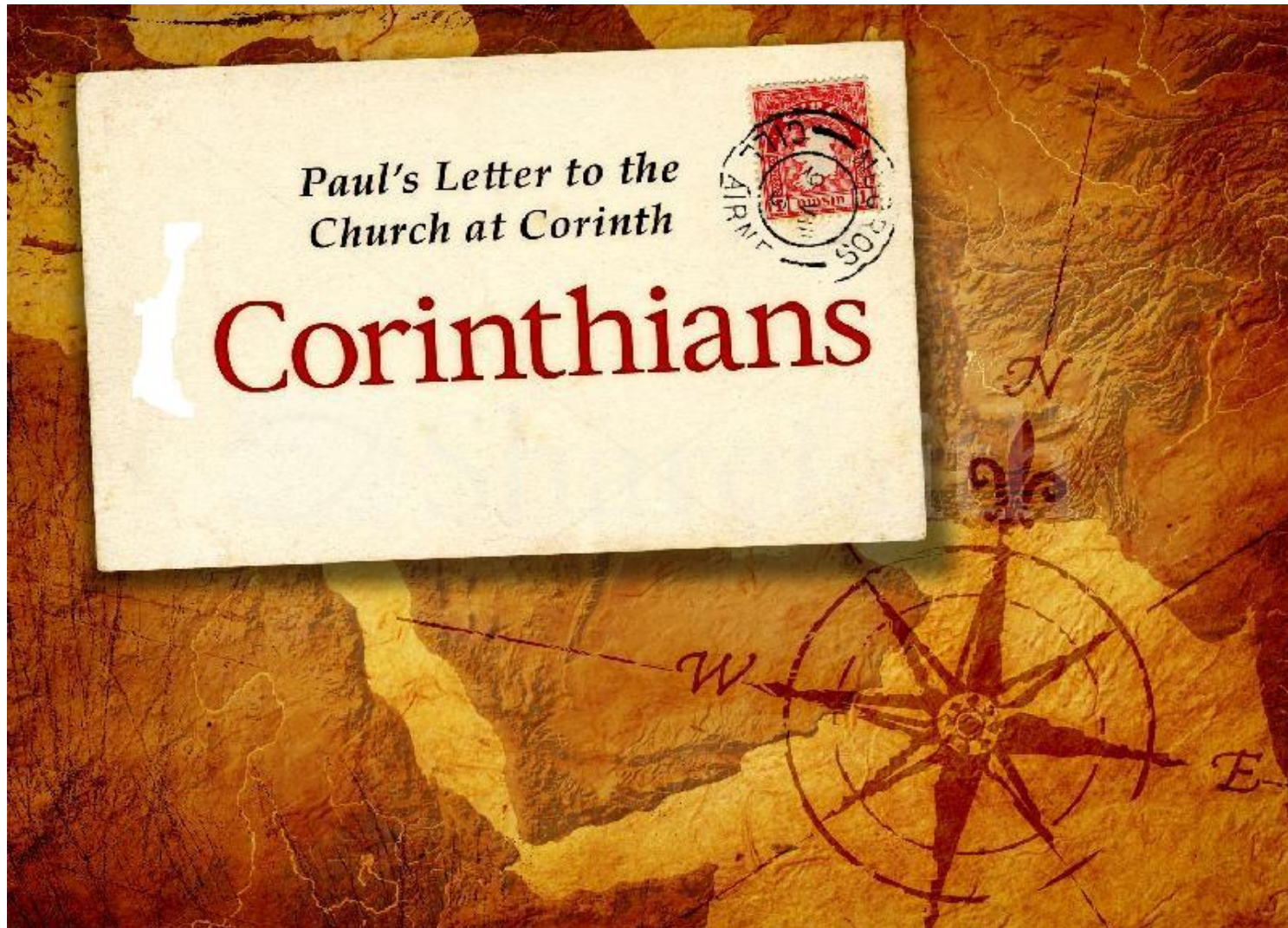


1 Cor. 4:14-17 My Beloved Children and Fatherly Admonishment



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

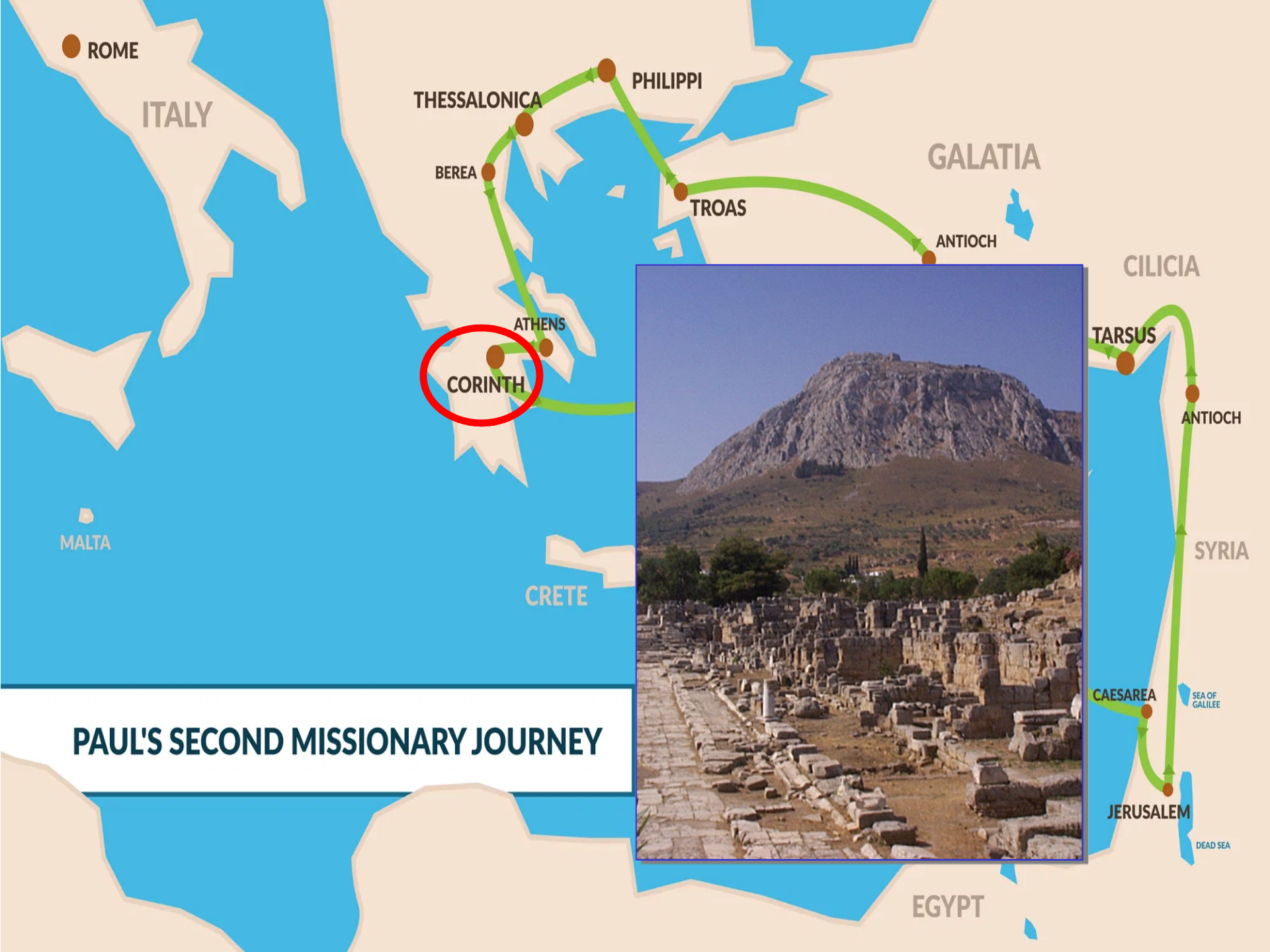
e. Pride Has No Place in Service to the Lord 4:6-8

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

Paul's Example vs Corinthians' Mindset 4:9-13

Paul's Fatherly Admonishment 4:14-17

Paul's Anticipated Visit to Corinth 4:18-21



ROME

ITALY

THESSALONICA

PHILIPPI

GALATIA

BEREA

TROAS

ANTIOCH

CILICIA

ATHENS

CORINTH

TARSUS

ANTIOCH

MALTA

CRETE

SYRIA

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY

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.



Corinthian mindset – pride

- 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's mindset as an apostle

For it seems to me, God has exhibited us apostles last of all

In Roman processions, criminals who were condemned to death were at the end of the procession. McCalley

as men condemned 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."

because we have become a spectacle to the world

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

both to angels and to men - angels observe the activities of believers and desire to understand God's salvation of man



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

- we are fools for Christ's sake,

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.

- but you are prudent 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 - 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.
- but you are strong – in your own strength
- you are distinguished – held in honor by men, not God
- but we are 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 apostle's suffering.

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

(we) are roughly treated, and are homeless

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.*



Paul continues with his description of suffering:

- we toil, working with our own hands
- when we are reviled, we bless
- when we are persecuted, we endure
- 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

Today's verses



¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

¹⁵ For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

¹⁶ Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

¹⁷ For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.



I do not write these things

What “things” is Paul talking about?

the “things” that Paul previously told us in verses 8 to 13 about the Corinthians

to shame you (Corinthians)

shame - *entrepō* - to put to shame or chiding

- So Paul does not want his writing in this chapter to put the Corinthians to shame! Later in chapter 6 this will change.
- We see Paul’s intent in the remainder of the verse.

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.



but to admonish you

but – *alla* – in contrast

admonish - *noutheteō* – made up of a verb meaning to *put or place* and a noun meaning *mind*;
literally, it means “to place in the mind” McCalley

Eph 6:4 And the fathers, stop provoking your children to anger, but be rearing them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

Wuest

Preaching is not intended to create a guilt complex among believers; preaching is intended to edify and build up believers.

McCalley

¹⁴ I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.



as my beloved children

as [like as] my children, beloved ones

Wuest

1st – Paul considers the Corinthians as his spiritual children.

2nd – They are Paul's beloved ones.

beloved - *agapētos* - the word used of divine love from
agapaō - to love

- It is used of Christ as loved by God - Matt 3:17b --- "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
- It is used of believers by the Apostle John - 1 John 4:7a Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

¹⁵ For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ,
yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ
Jesus I became your father through the gospel.



for if you may be having ten thousand tutors in Christ

if you may be having – hypothetical case

ten thousand - *muríos* - used to denote an indefinite, large
number from the word for myriad

tutors - *paidagōgos* - "a guide," or "guardian" lit., "a child-
leader" (pais, "a boy/child," agō, "to lead")

in Christ

- notice that this is a person who is leading them in the things
of Christ

¹⁵ For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.



yet you would not have many fathers (in Christ)

Paul will now explain what he means by a father in Christ

for in Christ Jesus through the gospel, as for myself, I begot you (Wuest)

I begot you

begot - gennaō - of one who by means of preaching the gospel becomes the human instrument in the impartation of spiritual life [in Christ] Vine
(past point fact)

¹⁵ For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet *you would not have* many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.



in Christ Jesus

in my living union with Christ, I was God's instrument in bringing you spiritual life [in Christ]

through the gospel

through – dia – by means of

gospel – as given in 1 Cor 15:3-4

Christ died - Christ was buried - Christ was raised

- Christ died for our sins (on behalf of our sins) – our substitute
- Christ was buried - you only bury a dead man
- Christ was raised - God raised Him up again, --- since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power

16 Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.

therefore – based on what I told you about my spiritual fatherhood



I exhort you - I beg of you

be imitators of me

be - *ginomai* - become (become what you already are)

imitators – *mimatai* – the idea here is centered in our faith in Christ, not in our ability to copy or do what another believer or God has done

- we are to imitate Paul - I Cor 11:1
- we are to imitate other churches in their faith I Thess 2:13
- we are to imitate God - Eph 5:1
- we are to imitate stable believers - Heb 6:12

McCalley

16 Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me.



1 Cor 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Eph 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

1 Thess 2:14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews.

Hebrews 6:12 So that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.



For (because of) **this reason I have sent to you Timothy**

What is this reason?

This is stated in 2nd half of the verse

1st - who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord

Paul continues to use the father to son metaphor.

Timothy has two qualities from this verse:

- my beloved - strongest word for affection
- faithful child - notice it is “in the Lord”

17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.



now we have the reason for Timothy being sent !

2nd - he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ

will remind - *anamimnēskō* - signifies in the active voice
"to remind, call to one's mind,"

the ways of me in Christ

Interlinear

This could be some of the items listed in verses 9 to 13:

- we are fools for Christ's sake
- we are weak (in ourselves)
- we have become a spectacle to the world (for Christ)

17 For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.



just as I teach everywhere in every church

Paul message was the same to all the churches:

- It was Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
- We proclaim Him (Christ), admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. Col 1:28
- For I neither received it (gospel) from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ. Gal 1:12

Final Thoughts



My born ones [my little children], concerning whom I am again striving with intense effort and anguish until Christ be outwardly expressed in you.

Moreover, I was wishing that I were present with you at this very moment and could thus change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.

Gal 4:19-20