

# 1 Corinthians – An Overview

January 31, 2011

In 1 Corinthians, the apostle Paul writes to a congregation that he himself started. The origin of the Christian community in Corinth is detailed in Acts 18:1-18. Paul came to Corinth, a city with an eastern port on the Aegean Sea and a western port on the Adriatic, in southern Greece, after leaving Athens. He met Prisca and Aquila, fellow tentmakers, stayed with them, and they assisted in building the church. After 1 ½ years, Paul, along with Prisca and Aquila, left Corinth for Ephesus, where Prisca and Aquila remained. Paul went on to other cities to preach the gospel.

The city of Corinth was, like many seaside cities, a place where many different ideas and religions met. It had a huge market place, theaters, baths and temples. It had a large community of Jews, but also cults of Roman and Greek gods. It was the capital of the Roman province of Achaea, which consisted of Central and Southern Greece. Thus, Paul encountered these differing ideas, and the church had problems sifting through those ideas.

There were two reasons why Paul wrote the letter to the church at Corinth. First, members of the church itself had written to ask a number of questions about proper conduct both in the worship life of the congregation, and in their interaction with their pagan neighbors. But Paul was aware that while some members of the congregation sought his opinion, others were not interested in what he had to say. They came after he had served as the founding “pastor” of the church, and they often differed from those who were followers of Paul. From 1 Corinthians, it appears that the disputes between groups devoted to different pastors of the church were causing division in the congregation. Paul seeks to remind the Corinthians of what they have in common.

Most scholars believe that 1 Corinthians was written about the same time as the letter to the Galatians, about AD 54 – 55. Paul draws on the arguments in both 1 Corinthians and Galatians when he writes Romans. We can draw on his arguments in 1 Corinthians as well, to help us in our lives as we seek to keep the main thing the main thing. What does that mean? We’ll find out as we study 1 Corinthians together.

*Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing*  
A Bible Study on the book of 1 Corinthians  
Mondays, January – April 2011  
6:30 – 7:45 pm

Class Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
1/31/11	Introduction and 1 Corinthians 1
2/7/11	1 Corinthians 2 - 3
2/14/11	1 Corinthians 4 - 5
2/21/11	No Class – Presidents' Day
2/28/11	1 Corinthians 6 - 7
3/7/11	1 Corinthians 8 – 9
3/14/11	1 Corinthians 10 – 11
3/21/11	1 Corinthians 12 – 13
3/28/11	1 Corinthians 14 – 15
4/4/11	1 Corinthians 16 and Wrap-Up

*If you cannot attend a class, you may download the worksheet from our website:  
[www.standrewslcsd.org](http://www.standrewslcsd.org)*