

Book Review

(1) Location

- a. Doorway to Rome
- b. Major Commercial City
- c. Strategic Military Position
- d. Rebuilt by Julius Caesar 46 BC

(2) Vital Statistics

Most Important
Cities in Roman
Empire
1 Rome
2 Alexandria
3 Antioch (Syria)



- a. Population 600,000
- b. Wealthiest and most powerful city in Greece
- c. While founded by the Romans it was predominantly Jewish and Greek
- d. It was the capital of Achaia
- e. Governed by a Proconsul (Acts 18:12)

(3) Religion

- a. Jewish Synagogues
- b. Worship of Venus (Aphrodite)
- c. Christianity introduced in AD 52 (Paul wrote to the Romans while in Corinth and described some of what he saw – see Romans 1:21-52)
- d. Philosophy
- e. Isthmian Games (Games became so widely celebrated that it bordered on worship)

(4) Origin of Church in Corinth

- a. Founded by Paul on 2nd Missionary journey
- b. He was alone, broke and a stranger to the city

- c. Lived and worked with Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3)
- d. Preached in the synagogue until ejected by Jews
- e. Converted Crispus the leader of the synagogue and his family
- f. Despite gains Paul felt the pressure of his work (1 Cor. 2:3) but the Lord comforted and protected him (Acts 18:9,10)
- g. Jews charged Paul in a Roman court with a violation of Jewish law (Acts 18:13)
- h. Prosecuted by Sosthenes but acquitted by Gallio (Acts 18:14)
- i. Spent 18 months teaching these new Christians (fulfillment of the 2nd part of the great commission – Mt. 28:20)
- j. Undoubtedly best taught congregation among the churches

(5) Purpose of Paul's letter

- a. Congregation was unraveling
- b. Questions were being asked (1 Cor. 7:1)
- c. Paul attacks factious spirit (1 Cor. 1)
- d. Paul condemns incest and litigation among Christians
- e. Paul answers questions on marriage and eating meat offered to idols
- f. Paul describes divine authority and the Lords Supper
- g. Paul describes love, the purpose and end of spiritual gifts and closes his letter with the collection for the saints

(6) The Collection 1 Cor 16:1-3; Romans 15:26; 2 Cor. 8:1,2; 2 Cor. 9:1,2

- a. The great famine predicted by Agabus Acts 11:27,28
- b. The area of Judea was especially hard hit
- c. Christians were affected more than most
- d. Safeguards were in place for those like the Jews – they had some community help but nothing was in place for Christians (cp Jewish practice of gleaning)
- e. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians illustrates two needs for a collection
 - i. Support the gospel
 - ii. Support the poor saints

f. Paul lays out the same plan given to the Galatians

The fact that the Galatians were instructed to do the same and the Corinthians still doing the same a year later (2 Cor. 8:10,11) indicates Paul was with divine approval establishing a divine ordinance

(7) The Plan

- a. On the 1st day of the week
 - i. The day Christ was raised
 - ii. Christ met with his disciples 3 consecutive 1st days after his resurrection
- iii. Holy Spirit was given on the 1st day
- iv. The 1st day was the day to engage in the “apostles doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers” (Acts 2:42)
- v. The only service with precept and example in scripture
- b. Lay by in Store – individual responsibility to set apart a portion of one’s income to be placed in a treasury
- c. As God has prospered you

(8) History of Giving

- a. Time – Including Sabbath, feast days, Sabbatical years and the year of Jubilee the Jews gave 1/3rd of their time to the Lord (Lev. 25:1-43)
- b. Income – the Jews gave 1/10th of their annual increase to the Lord (Deut. 14:22-27)
- c. Government – they gave 1/10th of their annual increase to their King
- d. 1/5th of their income was given to support their religion and government (b + c)
- e. Each man over the age of 20 was required to give (1/2 shekel) to the service of the tabernacle every atonement day (Exo. 30:10-16)
- f. Every man was required to bring a gift, as much as he was able, when he attended the three annual feasts (Deut. 16:16-17)
- g. Also required were burnt offerings, peace offerings, drink offerings and various other sacrifices and vows (Lev. 1-5, 23, 37, 38)
- h. They were required to give to the poor (Lev. 19:9,10; 25:35; Deut. 15:7-11)
- i. If a loan were made to a poor man no interest could be charged (Lev. 25:35-37)
- j. Malachi said **“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”**
- k. Everything considered, some Jews gave nearly half of their income to God or God ordained purposes!

(1) Do we rob God?

- a. Should we give as the Jews?
- b. Giving is a proof of love (cp Jn. 3:16)
- c. Would love ask how much must be sacrificed?
- d. Doesn't love say every possible sacrifice will be made?
- e. Does a mother ask how much she must sacrifice for her child? In every case the amount of sacrifice is determined by love.
- f. Our willingness to sacrifice for God is a manifestation of our love for him
- g. Sometimes the amount is unimportant but the circumstances or conditions from which our giving arises means the most – i.e. the churches of Macedonia, 2 Cor. 8:2-4, **“that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to [their] ability, yes, and beyond [their] ability, [they] [were] freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.”**