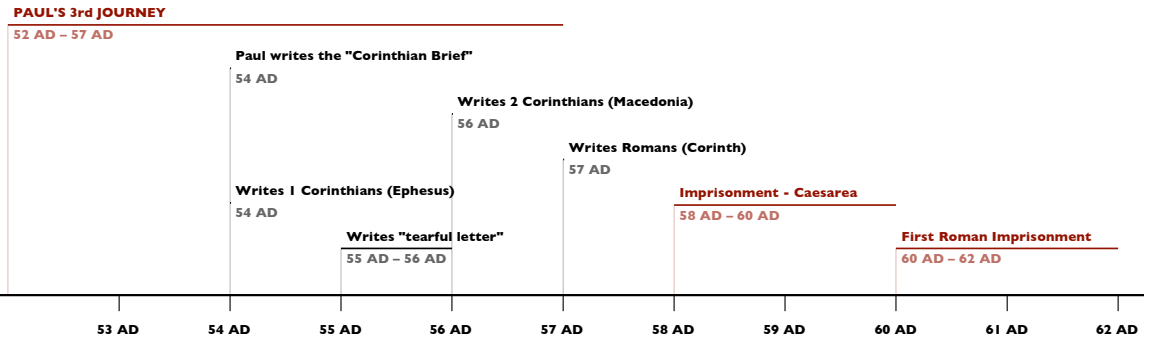


NOTES

I. **UNIT 12b - CORINTH: PAUL'S "PAINFUL PARISH"** (2 Corinthians cont'd)

A. Four Letters to the Same Painful "Zip Code"

1. Paul's heart for the Corinthians is evident in both the quality *and* _____ of his correspondence with them.
 - a. It is likely that he wrote _____ letters to the Corinthians, even though we only have two of them preserved for us in our Bibles:



- b. There is no other place in all of Paul's 43,281 words where he is more vulnerable *and* self-_____.

Audience	1PSP	P.F.*	T.F.**	2PP
Galatians	106	34	32	99
Thessalonians	9	3	58	168
Corinthians	501	35	35	75
Romans	193	20	23	214
Colossians	30	15	51	98
Ephesians	27	9	27	82
Philemon	39	85	80	37
Philippians	123	57	35	75
Timothy	95	24	15	59
Titus	9	10	9	10

* "Personal Factor" (PF) based on (#1PSP ÷ #words × 1000)

** "Teaching Factor" (TF) based on (#2PP ÷ #words × 1000)

2. Paul's difficulties with the Corinthians stemmed from their insistence on being "*Corinthian* _____," instead of Christians who happened to live in Corinth.
3. This manifested itself in a number of ways:
 - a. Their persistence on maintaining a the _____ "social life" of the affluent elite in Corinth, including banquets in idol temples (1 Cor 8; 10:14-22; 2 Cor 6:14 - 7:2).
 - (1) There are _____ references to "food" and "drink" in the New Testament; _____ of them are in these letters! (47 in 1 Corinthians).
 - b. Their insistence on "_____ " their spiritual shepherd (1 Cor 3:1-4; 4:14-16; 2 Cor 1:23-24; 3:1; 7:2-4; 10:1-11; 11:1-6; 13:10).

- I.
 - c. Their insistence on keeping certain aspects of their personal lives _____ of The Story (e.g. wealth, friendships, patrons, etc.; cf 2 Cor 8-9).
 - d. Their obsession with “_____” (social status in the eyes of their friends):
 - (1) The word “_____” appears 34x in these letters, compared to only 12x in the rest of Paul’s writings!
 - (2) Manifested in their constant criticism of Paul’s _____ of “sophistication” (1 Cor 2:1-5; 2 Cor 10:10).
 - (3) Their criticism of Paul (their “teacher”) for working with his _____ (2 Cor 11:7).
 - (4) Their refusal to acknowledge Paul’s _____ because of *his* lack of “dignitas.”
 - (a) The word “apostle” appears _____ in these letters, nearly as much in the other 11 letters of Paul combined!
 - (5) Their unwillingness to be associated with the aspects of The Story that their *friends* would consider “_____” (i.e. lacking *dignitas*).
 - (a) The words “wise” and “foolish” appear _____ as much in these two letters as in all of Paul’s other writings combined (19 out of 30)!

B. Getting The Straight “Scoop” on The Story

- 1. Paul’s closing comments cut to the heart of his “problem _____”:
 - a. Instead of “examining” themselves and each other by the standards of their social context, they need to examine _____ to determine if they’re really *in* The Story!

“But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.” 1 Cor 4:3

“Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you, for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me.” 1 Cor 9:1-3

“Not that we dare to classify or compare ourselves with some of those who are commending themselves. But when they measure themselves by one another and compare themselves with one another, they are without understanding.” 2 Cor 10:12

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” 2 Cor 13:5

2. Paul’s “Portrait” of a Genuine Character in “The Story”:

Characteristic/Quality	Scripture
someone “sanctified in Christ Jesus”	1 Corinthians 1:2
someone “called to be a saint”	1:2
[those] “called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ”	1:9
“those who are being saved”	1:18; 15:2; 2 Cor 2:15
“those who are called”	1:24
“God’s field,” “God’s building,” God’s Temple”	3:9,16; 2 Cor 6:16

NOTES

Characteristic/Quality	Scripture
[those who have been] “washed, sanctified, justified in the name of Christ Jesus”	6:11
[those who] “are not your own...bought with a price”	6:19-20
[those] “baptized by one Spirit into one body”	12:13,27
[those who] “will bear the image of the man of heaven”	15:49
[those who] “will be changed...imperishable”	15:51
[those who] possess God’s Spirit and bear His “seal”	2 Corinthians 1:22
[those] “being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another”	3:18
[those who are] “a new creation”	5:17
[those who are] “the righteousness of God”	5:21
[those who are] “in the faith”	13:5
[those whom] “Christ Jesus is in...”	13:5

3. Paul’s “Self-_____” of An UNSophisticated “Story Teller” (1 Cor 4:9-13; 2 Cor 1:8-10; 4:7-9; 6:4; 11:23-12:10)
- a. Those *proven* (*apodeiknumi*) by God to be least _____ in culture (1Cor 4:9,13; the two words in 4:13 refer to those kept alive only to bear the curses of a city).

“We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things”. *The Greek word which we render filth, is perikayarmata, a purgation, or lustrative sacrifice; that which we translate offscouring is periqma, a redemption sacrifice. To understand the full force of these words, as applied by the apostle in this place, we must observe that he alludes to certain customs among the heathens, who, in the time of some public calamity, chose out some unhappy men of the most abject and despicable character to be a public expiation for them; these they maintained a whole year at the public expense; and then they led them out, crowned with flowers, as was customary in sacrifices; and, having heaped all the curses of the country upon their heads, and whipped them seven times, they burned them alive, and afterwards their ashes were thrown into the sea...”* — Adam Clarke’s Commentary (1 Cor 4:13)
 - b. A “public _____” (*theatron*; “spectacle”); a form of entertainment to the world, angels, and people (like an execution in ANE, 4:9).
 - c. Considered a weak, foolish and valueless to those _____. The Story (4:10).
 - d. Poorly dressed (by comparison), lacking a permanent _____ and abundant food and drink (4:11; cf. Matt 6).
 - e. Work long, exhausting _____ in The Story (4:12).
 - f. Endure afflictions _____ enough to induce despondency (2 Cor 1:8-10; the Greek word, *thlipsis* appears 12x in 2 Corinthians).
 - g. Ordinary “_____” of an extraordinary Story (4:7).
 - h. Facing “some of every kind” (Gk - *pas*) of _____ (4:7).
 - i. Often _____ about what to do next (4:8).

- j. Aggressively pursued and attacked by those _____ to The Story (4:9).
- k. Often dishonored and _____ (Gk - *kataballō* "cast down low").
- l. Continually _____ to the point of weakness and powerlessness (4:10-11).
- m. A life characterized by needing to _____ suffering in general ("afflictions, hardships, calamities), particular types of suffering (beatings, imprisonments, riots), and suffering that is chosen (labors, sleepless nights, hunger). [2 Cor 6:4]
- n. A life characterized by _____ that is unaffected by circumstance or audience (6:6-8).
- o. A life characterized by spiritual *warfare*, not _____ (6:7).
- p. A life whose value system is " _____ " to the culture (6:8-10).
- q. Enduring "countless" (Gk - *hyperballontos*) beatings (whips & rods); cf. Acts 16:23-33
- r. Condemned to death *and* _____...*twice!* (Acts 14:19)
- s. _____ four times (11:25 and Acts 27-28).
- t. Every conceivable type of relational and circumstantial " _____ " (Gk - *kindunos*; 9x in NT, all by Paul; 8 in 11:26; other is in Paul's litany of Romans 8:35).
- u. Self-sacrificing, ceaseless toil for the _____ needs of others (11:27).
- v. A deep sense of spiritual _____ for the spiritual health of those in his life (11:28-29).
- w. A deep _____ conviction that God is noticed most when Paul is noticed least (12:9-10).

II. "Corinthian Questions": Learning the Most From the Worst

- A. Question:** "How much of my own Christian identity and lifestyle is a product of my own _____ rather than The Story?"
- B. Question:** "Who am I _____ to within the Body of Christ (i.e. Who is my shepherd?)"
- C. Question:** "What is my current understanding about the place of _____ in the life of a Christian?"
- D. Question:** "Do I see my personal _____ in light of the Mosaic Covenant or the Abrahamic Covenant?" (Deut 28; Lev 26; Gen 12; 2 Cor 8:12-15; 9:6-8).