

# FAMILY UPDATES

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- Budgeted for week 3      \$63,945
- Accumulated income      \$49,769
  - Encourage each other to give with a grateful heart
  - Encourage each other to give regularly
- Tonight, Soup Supper as a network – 5pm
  - Who are we, where are we, where are we going?



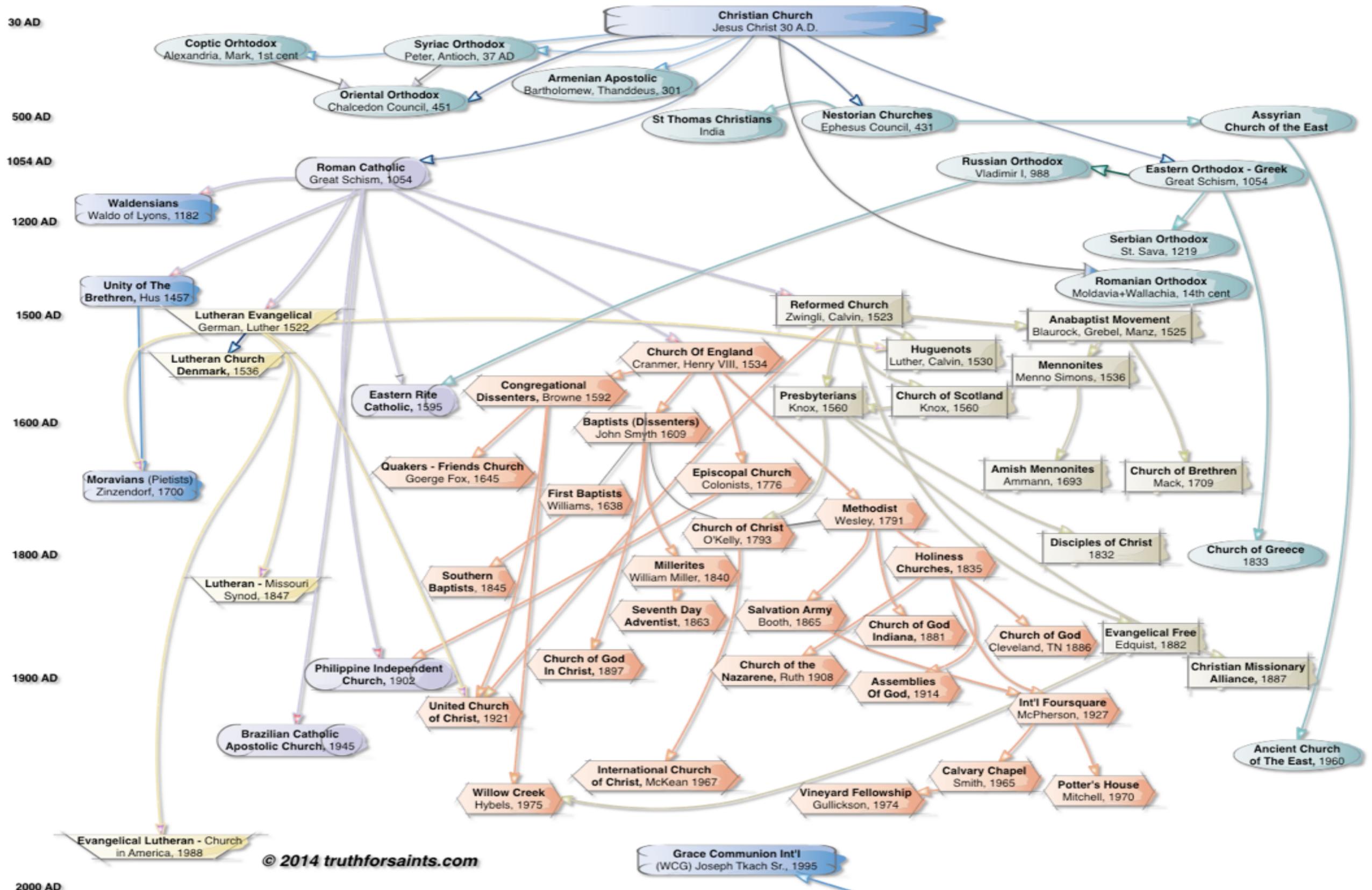
# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS

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Luther recovered the gospel, but failed to build networks of churches on it. As a result, all kinds of secondary traditions were built on it leading to denominationalism.

- Today we have churches that say:
  - We follow Lutheran traditions/teachings
  - We follow Reformed-Calvin traditions/teachings
  - We follow Southern Baptist traditions/teachings
  - ....and so many more





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2000 AD

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The church around the world is full of division and disunity.

- Consequently, the church around the world does not do Theology in Culture. We don't engage our culture; rather, we tell the culture what they need to believe to join our churches. The church today is known for what we are against, and is therefore irrelevant to the ordinary person's day-to-day life.
- In addition, the North American church mistakenly believes that it can accomplish God's purposes through religious or political means. Rather than aligning our lives with God's Story and The Teaching, in the context of the church, we fall for other agendas.



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My desire is for each of us to truly understand the Kerygma-Didache on which we are built. I don't want any of us to be building our lives on a secondary tradition that is "stuck" in that era of time. We don't live in the time of Protestant Reformers, we live today, in a world that is asking questions about meaning/purpose and by building our lives on the Teachings of Christ and His Apostles, we will be able to provide answers to our present world.



# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS

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## The City of Corinth

- Two days journey from Athens
- A center for trade, vigorous cosmopolitan center
- Destroyed by Romans in 146 BCE and restored by Julius Caesar in 44 BCE
- There were about 80,000 people in Corinth in 51-53 AD
- The principal competitors for the young church would have been the well established religious and civic cults
- Greatest social pressures would most likely come from the associations, professional colleagues, business associates to which the converts still belonged

Dunn, James. Beginning from Jerusalem. Pg 695





**PAUL'S FIRST AND SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS**

- City
- ← 1st missionary journey: outbound
- 1st missionary journey: inbound
- ← 2nd missionary journey: outbound
- 2nd missionary journey: inbound

# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS

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Luke gives us some context in Acts 18:1-17

- Luke shows divine assurance and providential events that confirm the work in Corinth
  - Claudius' expulsion of Jews from Rome – Aquila and Priscilla thus moved to Corinth. A partnership with Paul began – 18:2-3
  - Paul received a vision that God would be with him and that there were many people in this city - 18:9-11
  - Favorable ruling of the proconsul Gallio in Corinth – he ruled that public sentiment against the missionaries (like the one in Thessalonica), would not happen in Corinth. – 18:12-16



# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS –

## ACTS 18:1-17

- 1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. 4 Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks.
- 5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. 6 When they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”



# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS –

## ACTS 18:1-17

- Acts 18:1–17 (NRSV)
- 7 Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized. 9 One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people.” 11 He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS –

## ACTS 18:1-17

- Acts 18:1–17 (NRSV)
- 12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal. 13 They said, “This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law.” 14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy, I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews; 15 but since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I do not wish to be a judge of these matters.” 16 And he dismissed them from the tribunal. 17 Then all of them seized Sosthenes, the official of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things.



# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS

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## The City of Corinth

- Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months – Acts 18:11
- Paul wrote at least one previous letter before 1 Corinthians – 1 Cor 5:9-11

**9** I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral persons— **10** not at all meaning the immoral of this world, or the greedy and robbers, or idolaters, since you would then need to go out of the world. **11** But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone....



# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS

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Paul got reports from the Corinthians from:

- Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus, three members of the community of Jesus-followers in Corinth, carried a letter/information about Corinth over to Paul.  
1 Cor 16:17-18

*17 I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus, because they have made up for your absence; 18 for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. So give recognition to such persons.*



# EXPLORING CORINTHIANS

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Paul got reports from the Corinthians from:

- Servants of an Ephesian woman named Chloe returned from doing some business in Corinth and told Paul about additional problems. 1 Cor 1:11

*11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.*



# OUTLINE OF CORINTHIANS

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Organizing the letter, my habits

1. Kindle - Read the Books of the Bible. Shows it in “letter” form, no chapters or verses
  - Use highlights and notes to mark sections and key arguments
2. Take these highlights, notes and find the chapter, verse references
  - Organize the outline in a document while reading again for clarity
3. Put together first attempt at intention and design of book



in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment. “This man,” they charged, “is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.”

Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law—settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.” So he drove them off. Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.

Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken. They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. But as he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.” Then he set sail from Ephesus. When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in

## 1 Corinthians Intention Statement

To set them straight in the teachings that were delivered to them, standing firm and being unshakable, addressing their specific concerns while continued to build on the gospel that he first brought to them.

### Addressing the Reports Paul has Received

By urging them to strive for unity, with no divisions, being perfectly united in mind and in thought  
1:10-4:13

By dealing with people who claim Christ, but do not put aside immoral ways  
5:1-12

By responding to fellow believers bringing lawsuits to each other  
6:1-20

### Now for Matters they Asked Paul

By answering questions about marriage, divorce, being single and the body  
7:1-39

By dealing with food that is sacrificed to idols  
8:1-13

By defending his stewardship as an apostle  
9-10:53

By reminding them to stand firm in the good news he delivered to them  
Christ is the head, man and women roles in the household 11:2-16  
Meals at the assembly meetings 11:17-34  
Understanding the Spirit's work 12-14:28  
Reminding them of the good news 15:3-8  
Understanding the resurrection 15:12-58  
11-15:58

By concluding with details on the collection, his travel plans and honoring other leaders  
16:1-24



# DISCUSSION

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1. Why is it important to understand the author's intention and the outline/design of the letter?
2. In your own reading of Corinthians, what have things have you learned?
3. Why is understanding the author's intention and letter design an important aspect for doing Theology in Culture?

