

11 Corinthians 1:12-24 Paul, Why Did You Not Come Sooner? 10/26/2025

Background: (Chapter 18-20 of Acts) He stayed 18 months in Corinth. More than enough time for them to discern his character. Hours of teaching small and large groups, (not merely 75, 40 minutes sermons in 18 months, lol.), with personal Q and A, praying together, fellowship, and witnessing in the area together as a church.

He wrote 11 Corinthians about a year after writing 1 Corinthians.

News between Ephesus and Corinth traveled quickly across the trade routes of the Aegean Sea. About 250 miles between them. Ships could travel between 2-3 knots, (3 knots=3.45 MPH.) Letters could arrive in 3-4 days.

Chronology of his travels to Corinth:

1st Visit: Church founded. Acts 18

2nd Visit: Before writing 11 Corinthians (II Cor. 13:2)

1st Letter he wrote? We do not have it. (Mentioned in I Cor. 5:9) But his second letter is our 1st Corinthians letter.

Our 1st Corinthians letter clears up misunderstandings of the first letter, so we don't need the first letter.

Yet the I Cor. letter did not fix the problems!

One purpose of the II Cor. letter is to express how they had improved. It also lets them know the deeper reason for his change of plans to visit. He prepares them for a third visit (11 Cor. 13:1). Of course, his accusers will say he was indecisive. He has to deal with that in this passage today.

His original plan was to go to **Corinth, then Macedonia, then Corinth**, then to Judea with the relief offering.

He received bad news about the believers at Corinth (I Cor. 1:11) and wrote 1st Corinthians.

In 1st Corinthians you see the **change of plans** (I Cor. 16:5).

He will now go directly to Macedonia, then visit Corinth. ~~Not; visit Corinth –Macedonia-Corinth.~~ (Acts 20:1 ff., 11 Cor. 2:12-13, 7:5) **This set the ground for the accusation!**

1:12 Paul had always been frank and open in his dealings with them. No hidden agenda, no politics, no manipulations. Fleshy wisdom relishes in crafty manipulations and “got you” moments.

1:13 A play on words here.

“**You read again and know**” Ana = do again / Ginowkete= know

“**know on top of what you have known**” epi = on top (of the existing layer) / Ginowkete= know

“ **that you fully know even more than that to find its full extent**” epi= on top of the last layer/ Gnosesthe= know to the fullest extent.

“ **To know it, and deepen in your knowledge, and finally know it completely.**”

1:15-20 No matter what changes happen to us down here in this fallen world; we are the redeemed!

The promises of God are always a resounding YES! Fulfilling now, and ends in a glory which cannot be imagined this side of glory. It will all end in victory!

Our new life in Christ can be pressed down at times (1:8-10), by our own old nature; the world system; and the Devil. The training program is intense, but your new life; hidden in Christ (Col. 3) cannot be diminished, but only increase and given a shared glory with Christ!

Don't let your real hope fade along with your temporary earthly goals.

1:21-22 “Sealed” in the Holy Spirit! Incredible comfort that salvation is a gift (Romans 6:23/ Ephesians 2:8-9) that we cannot earn, or even keep on our own. Sealed in the Spirit is a great truth about eternal security. You can know you are saved, right now! This sealing is proof that we belong to Him. A part now, of the whole that is yet to come. To seal an official document by a king was serious! No one can break the seal of God!

11 Cor. 5:5 “Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, **who gave us the Spirit as a pledge.**”

Ex. Buying a house. If you want to make sure nobody else gets that house you must provide “**EARNEST MONEY.**” A sum of money to show you are serious! Part of the money given in advance as security for the rest. In KJV it is the word “earnest.”

Ex. Song – Blessed Assurance- “Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine , oh what a **foretaste** of glory divine!”