

FBC
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUBANG JAYA

GAMMA23

1 CORINTHIANS

The Gospel
in Community

WHEN FAITH & LIFE COLLIDE

Study 1

THE GOSPEL AND THE DIVIDED CHURCH

I Corinthians 1:1-8

GAMMA
SERIES

Author

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

Addressee

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Greetings

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



Corinth

LYDIA & JAILER

AQUILA PRISCILLA

JOHN MARK

Acts 15:1-18:22

A satellite-style map of Greece with several labels in white text on dark blue rectangular backgrounds. The labels are: 'Corinthian gulf' at the top left, 'Greece Mainland' on the right side, 'Isthmus' in the center with a red arrow pointing to the narrow land bridge, 'Peloponnese' at the bottom left, and 'Saronic gulf' at the bottom right. The map shows the coastline and the surrounding sea in shades of blue.

Corinthian gulf

Greece Mainland

Isthmus

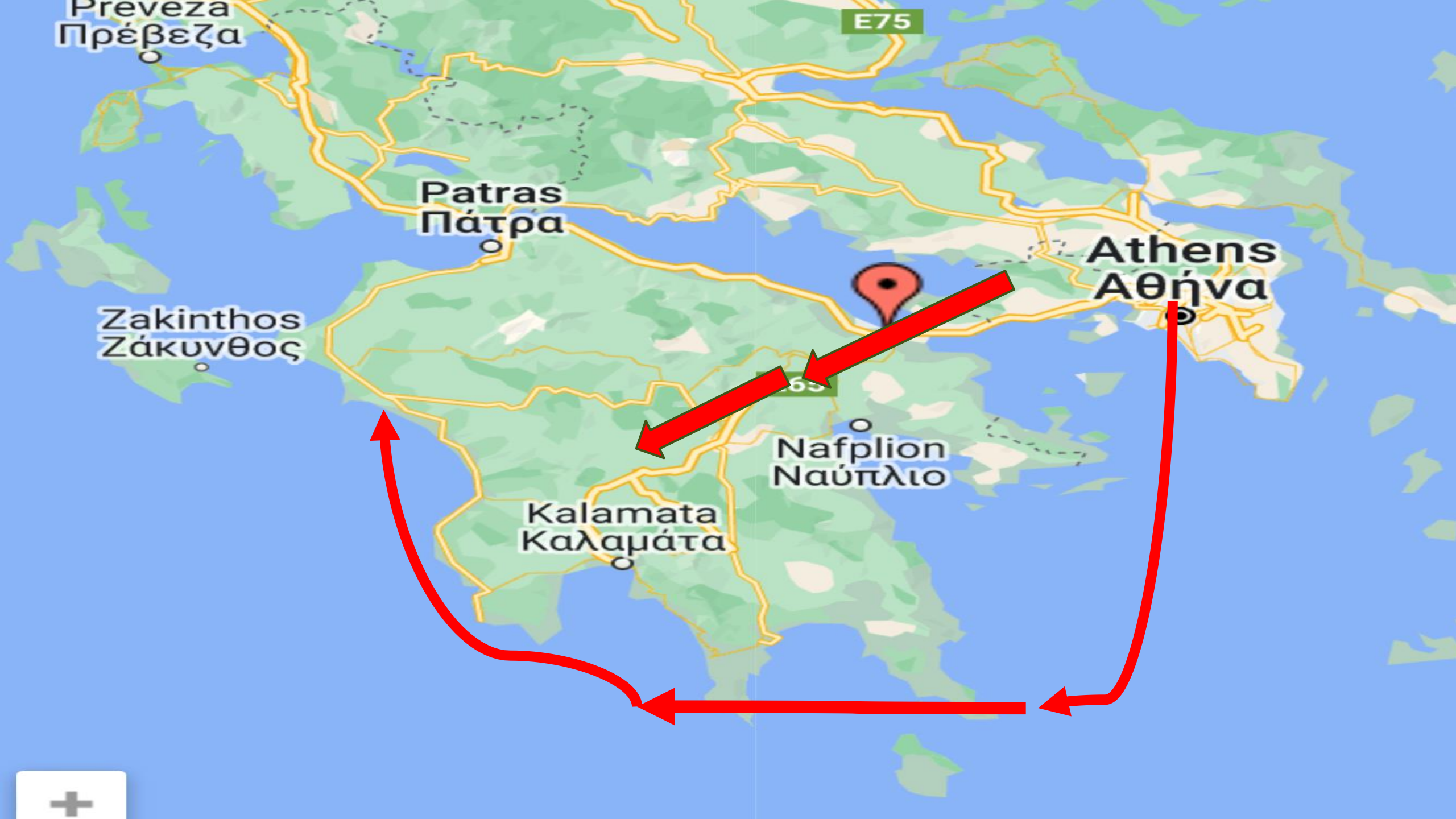
Peloponnese

Saronic gulf



An aerial photograph of a long, narrow canal. The canal is filled with blue water and runs through a deep, earthen trench. The walls of the trench are steep and show signs of excavation. In the distance, a bridge with a metal truss structure spans across the canal. The surrounding area is flat and appears to be a construction or industrial site, with some buildings and utility poles visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

6 km canal



Preveza
Πρέβεζα

E75

Patras
Πάτρα

Athens
Αθήνα

Zakynthos
Ζάκυνθος

65

Nafplion
Ναύπλιο

Kalamata
Καλαμάτα



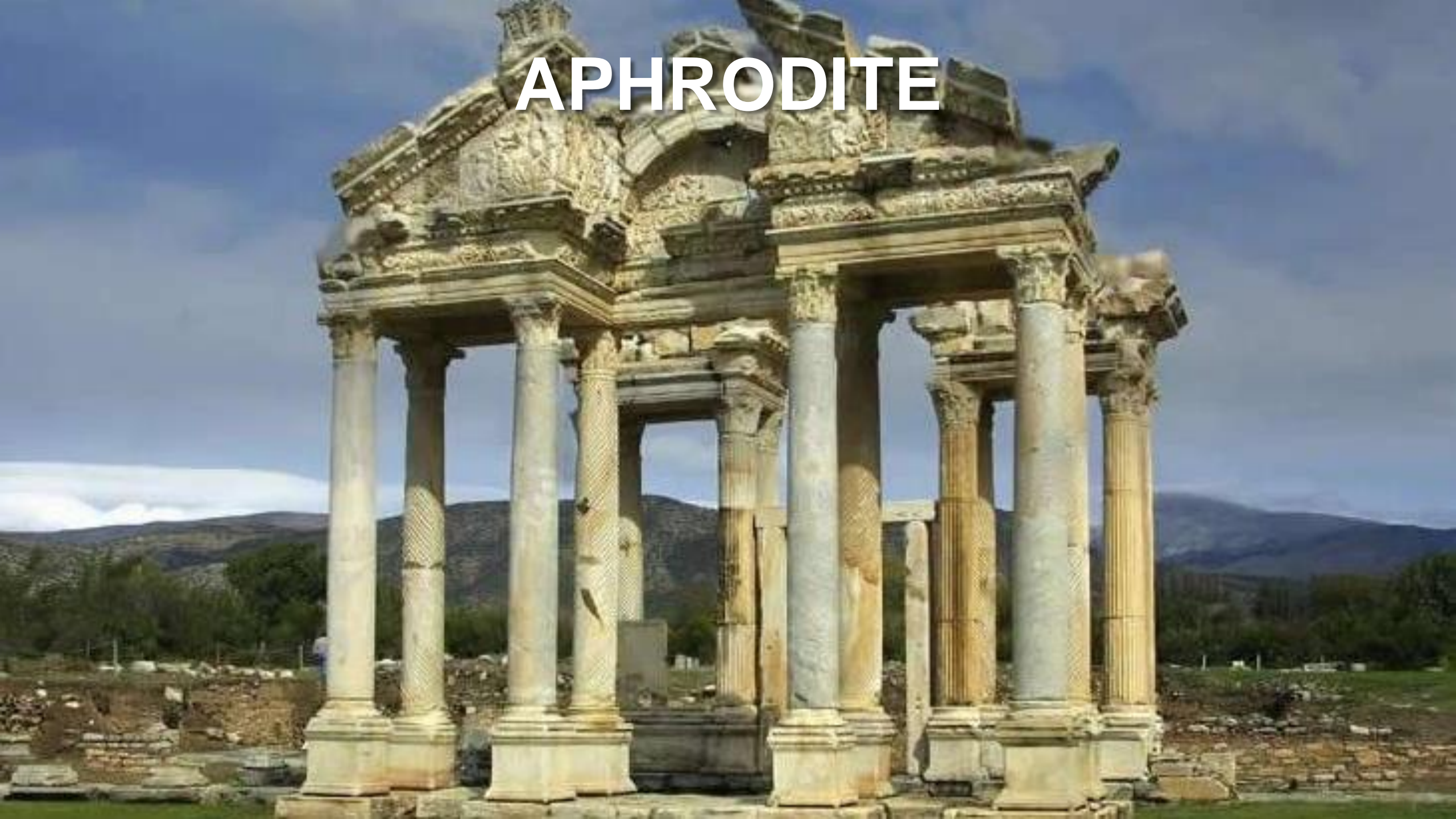
Vice and Religion flourished



Roma



APHRODITE



APOLLO



RECONSTRUCTION OF ANCIENT CORINTH (c. AD 100)

Bouleuterion

South stoa

Bema

Agora

Peirene fountain

Basilica

Lechaion Way

Temple of Octavia

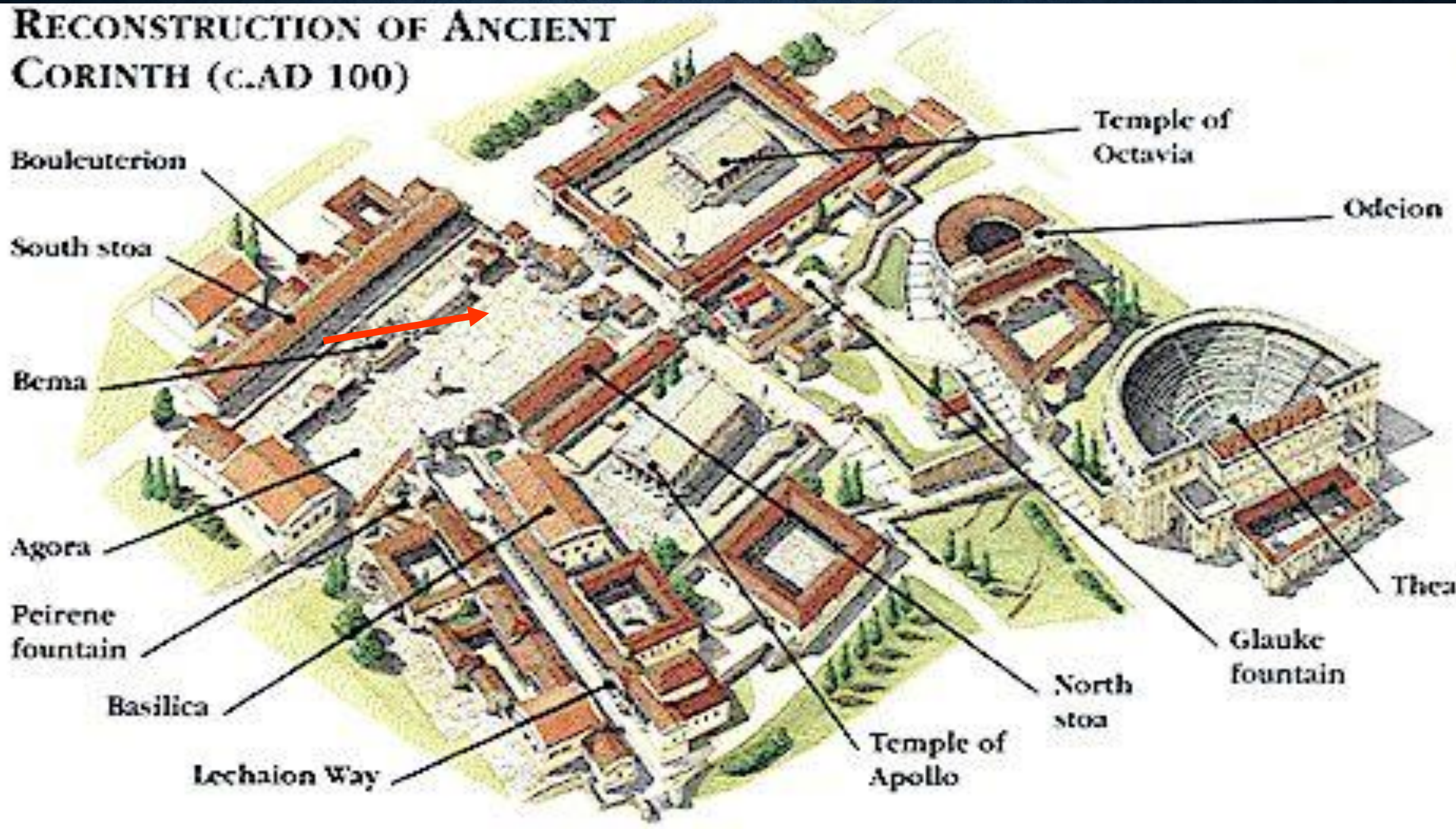
Odeion

Thea

Glauke fountain

North stoa

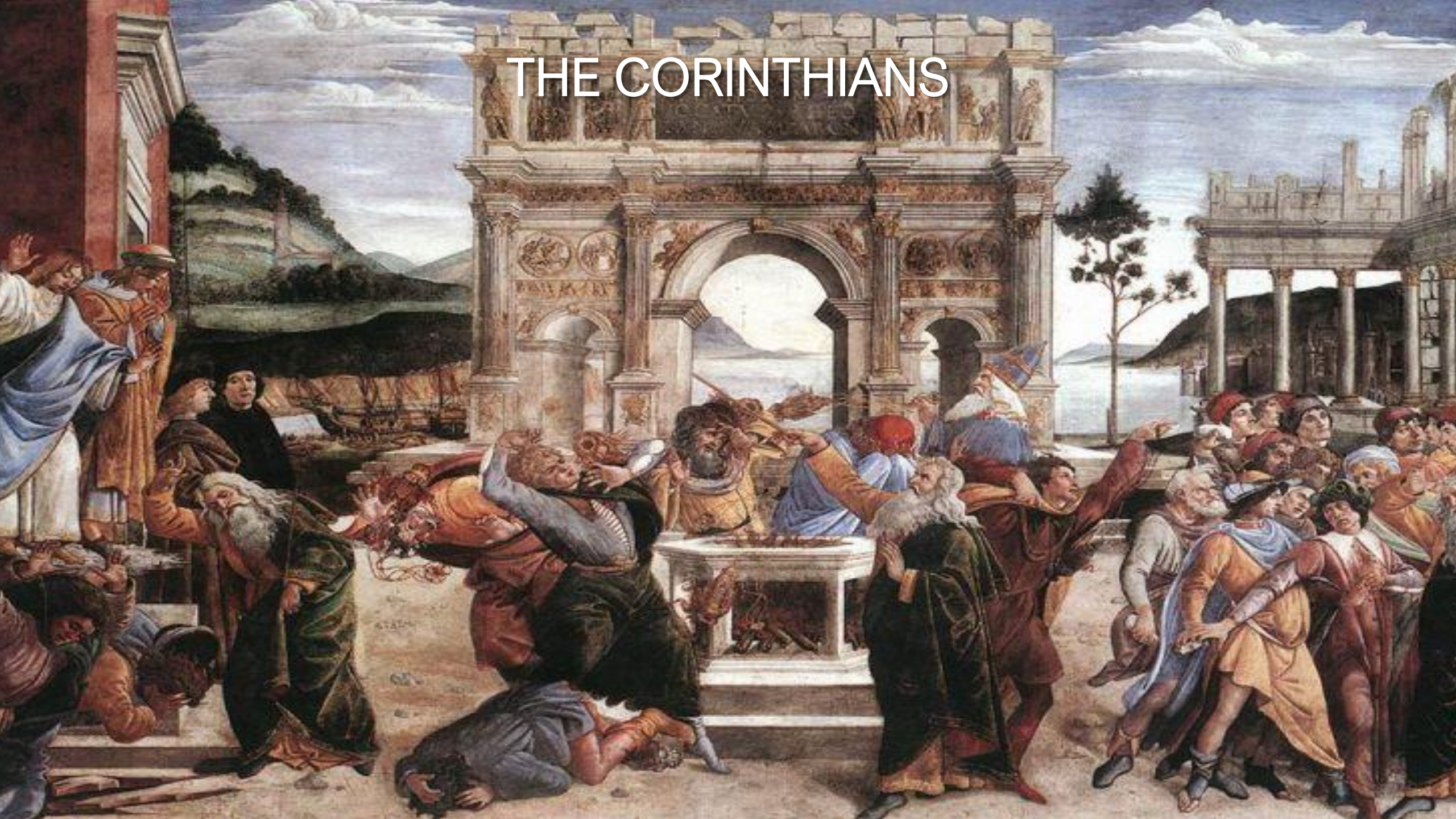
Temple of Apollo





Agora NW shops

THE CORINTHIANS



CHURCH ISSUES



Disunity



Splits



Pride--Sophistication



Immorality



Law suits



Compromise



Ascetism



Reject apostolic authority



Question resurrection



THE LAYOUT OF LETTER

Chapter 1-4

Gospel negates human pride

Chapters 5-16

Deals with Issues

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The nature and calling of the church
2. The blessings of the church
3. The unity of the church

AUTHOR

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

APOSTLESHIP

The Twelve

Acts 1:21-22

Been with Jesus
Witnesses
resurrection

Paul

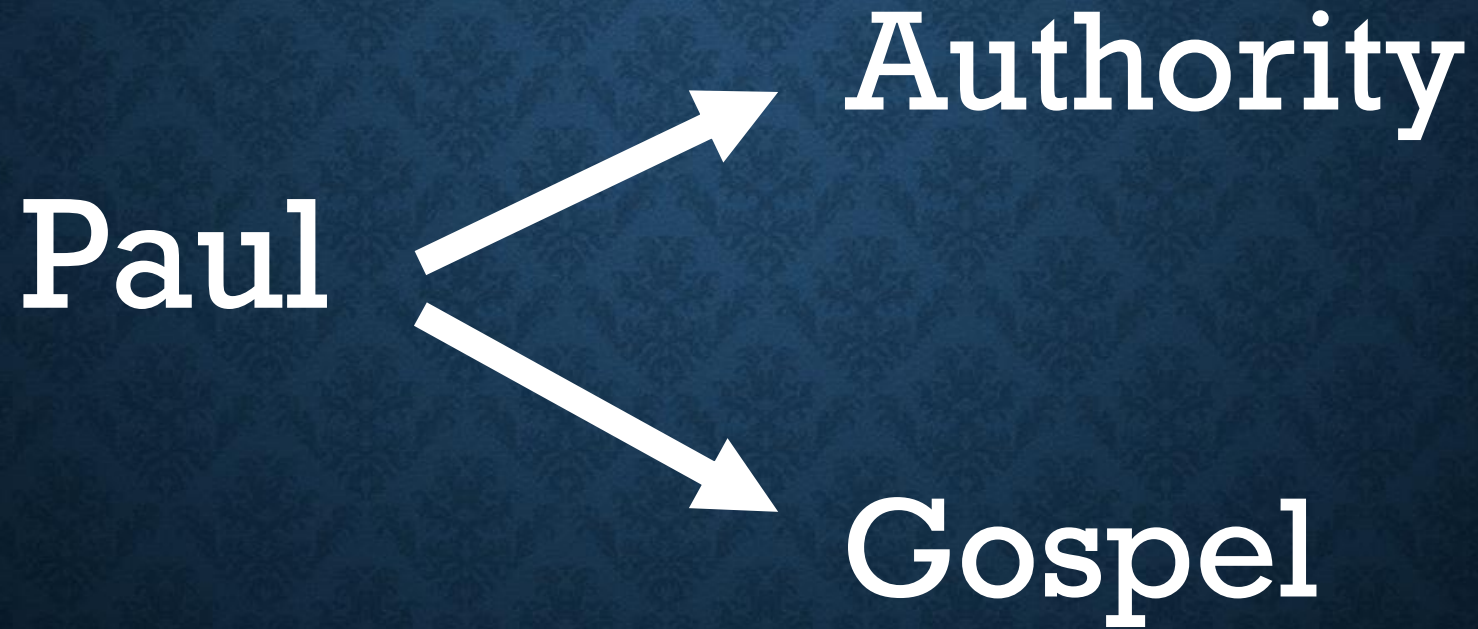
1 Cor 15:8-9

1 Corinthians 15:8-9 (ESV) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God

Gift of
apostleship

Barnabas, James the Lord's brother, Apollos, Silvanus, Titus, Epaproditus, Andronicus , Junias
Sent ones by Christ to plant new churches in different territories

CONFLICT



THIS IS SECOND LETTER

- 1 Corinthians 5:9 (ESV) I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 (ESV) Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE CALLED OUT ONES



WHICH MORE ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE WORD?



NOTICE THE SUBTLE DIFFERENCE?

To the church **of God** that is in Corinth

(ESV) To the church of the Thessalonians in God (1 and 2 Thess)

(ESV) To the churches of Galatia:

(ESV) To the saints who are in Ephesus

(ESV) To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi,

(ESV) To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae

THE CONTEXT

1 Corinthians 1:11-12 (ESV) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

THE CHURCH

“You are a called out people that belong to God not to factions”

NATURE OF THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 (ESV) Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

Hagios –Holy ...made holy

Hagios –noun –holy ones

2 to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus called to be saints together with all those who in every place

call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

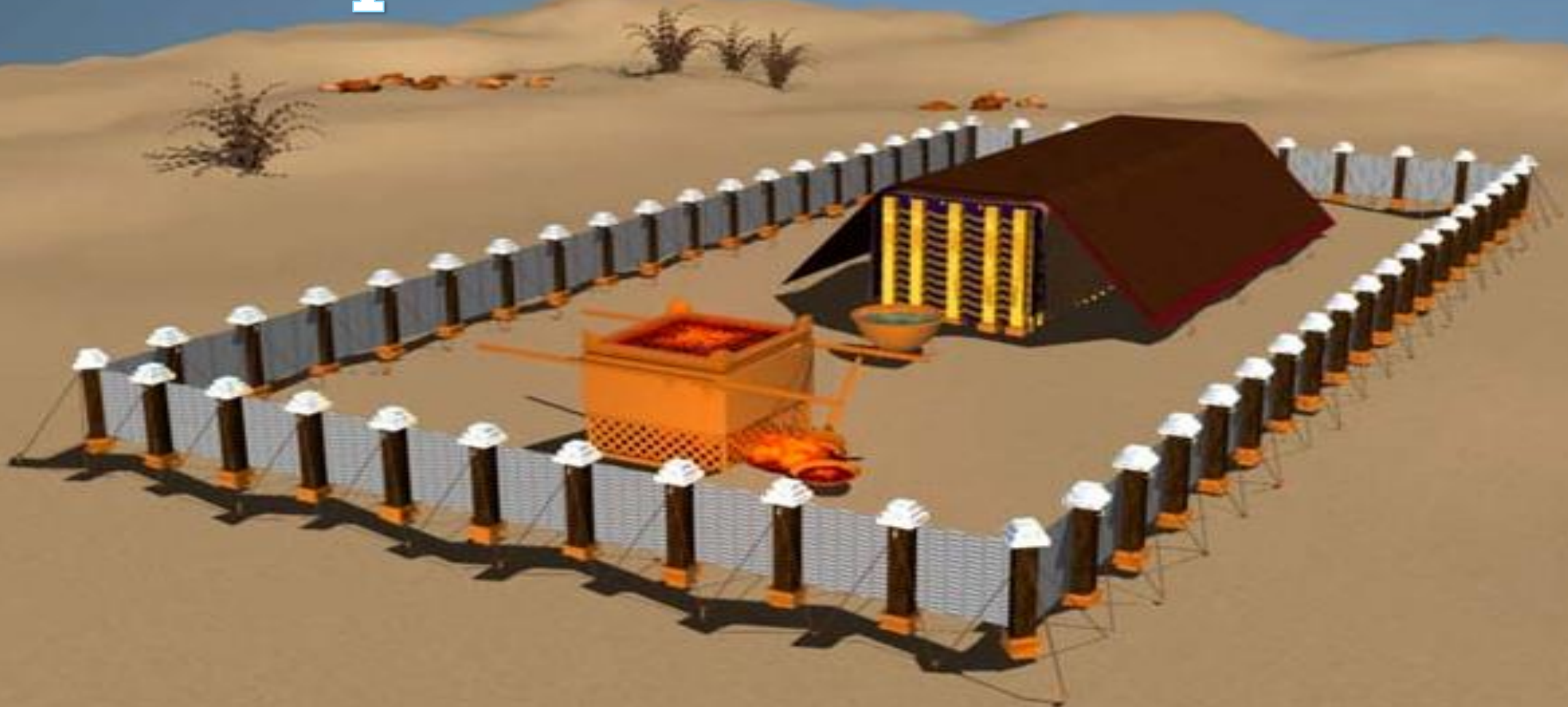
HOLINESS

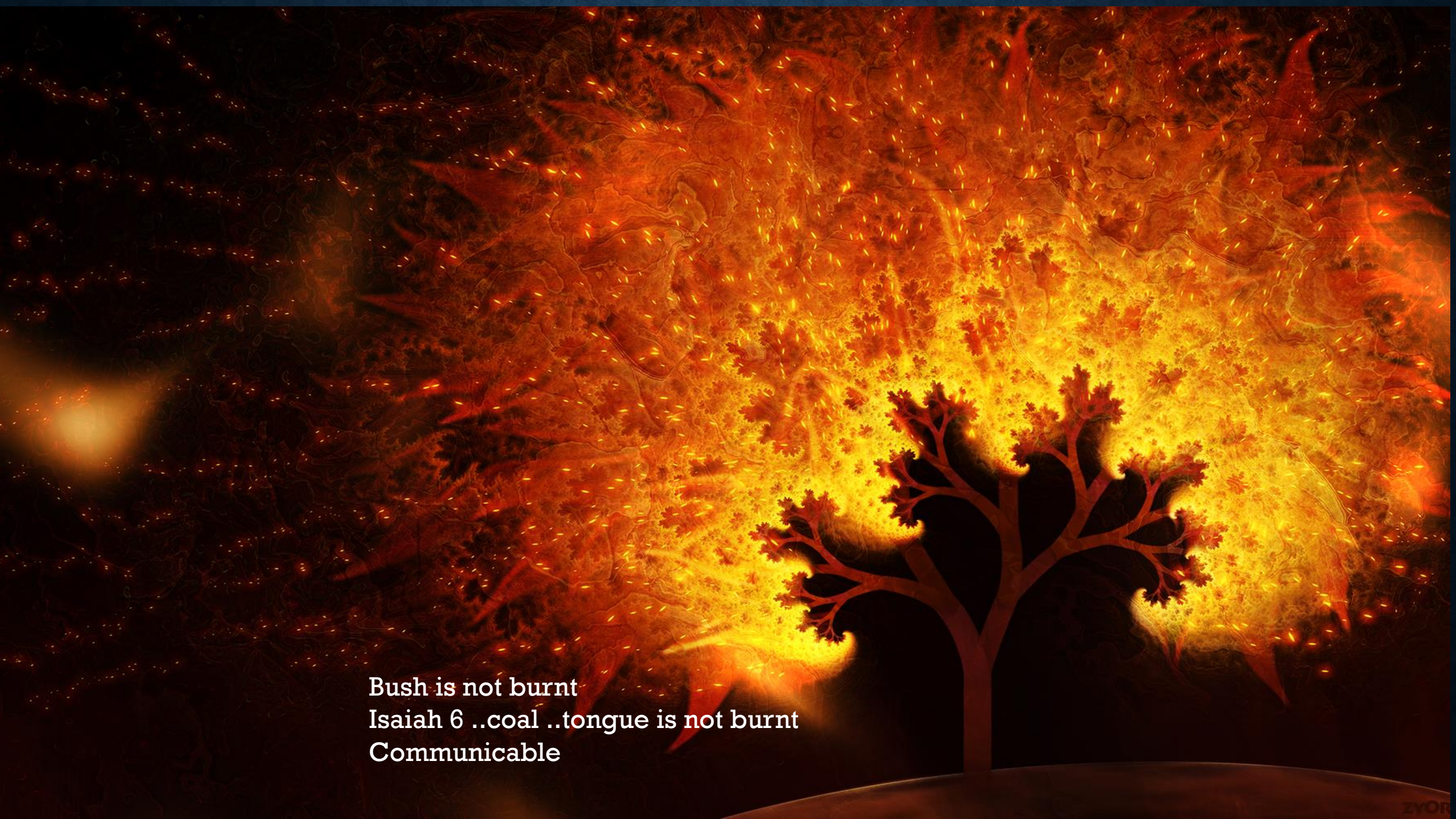
God's holiness means that he is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor.

(Grudem's Systematic Theology)

Separation

Dedication





Bush is not burnt
Isaiah 6 ..coal ..tongue is not burnt
Communicable

Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh



1541

Henry VIII Granting a Charter to the Barbers and Surgeons Guilds 1541



Royal

PRIME DIRECTIVE IN LIFE

HOLY



Identity and calling



Choices we make



Outcomes in life

Misconceptions of holiness



Do not personally desire to be holy

Austere, joyless, sterile

Modern generation concept of God only as a God who

provides mercy, not judgment

Holiness is optional

THOMAS BROOKS 1662
THE CROWN AND GLORY OF CHRISTIANITY



“Holiness is happiness in the bud, and happiness is holiness at the full. Happiness is nothing but the quintessence of holiness.”

Psalms 19:7-8 (ESV) The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;8 the precepts of the LORD
are right, rejoicing the heart;

Psalms 33:1 (ESV) Shout for joy in the LORD, O you
righteous! Praise befits the upright.

A photograph of John Piper, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie. He is gesturing with his right hand raised, pointing towards the text on the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

JOHN PIPER

. “If you tried to describe for me what it means to be a holy person, leaving out happiness in God, you can’t do it.

There is no such thing as holiness *minus*

happiness in God.

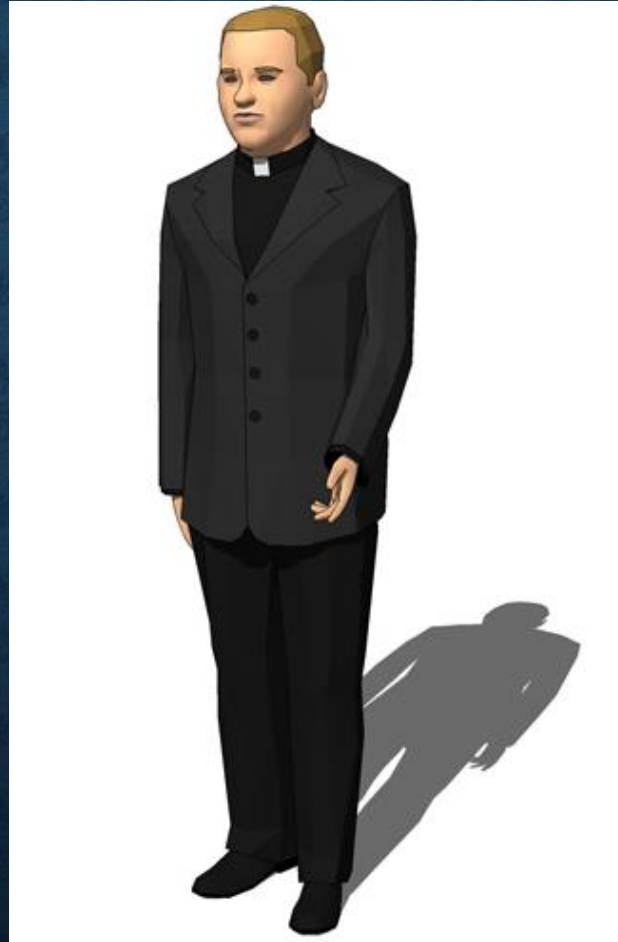
Happiness in God is — I will risk it — the *essence* of holiness.”

SURROGATES FOR HOLINESS

Christian Service

Gifts -Miraculous

Achievement



Theology

Position

Reputation



We lack a practice of personal holiness because we've lost a theology of divine holiness

- 1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV) To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
- 1 Corinthians 1:7-9 (ESV) so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9

HOLY AND CALLED TO BE HOLY

Christ Accomplished

**Holy Ones
Saints**
(Legal Status)

“sanctified in
Christ Jesus”

Our calling Holy living



...”called to be saints”

Our ultimate glory

**Holy
Perfectly**

..” guiltless in
the day of our
Lord Jesus
Christ”.

1 Corinthians 1:8 (ESV) who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

TENSION

Already
Righteous

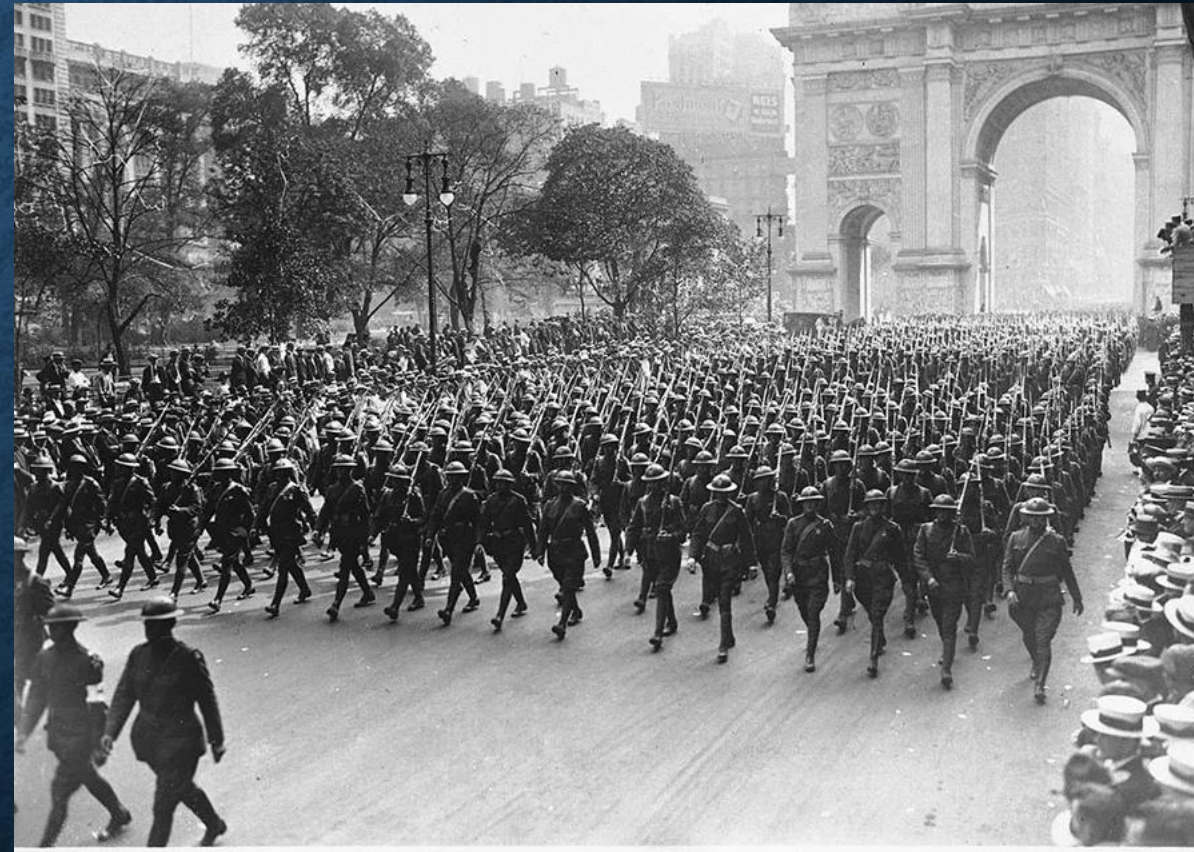
Called to be
Righteous

Righteous at
coming of
Jesus

D DAY



VICTORY DAY



TENSION

Kingdom of God
inaugurated

Kingdom of God
consummated

OVER-REALISED ESCHATOLOGY

Kingdom of God
consummated

Already
No tension

CALLING

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place

call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ both their Lord and ours:

EFFECTUAL CALL/GENERAL CALL

God

Calls

Calls



NEVER SEEN IN SCRIPTURE

God



Rejects

Calls



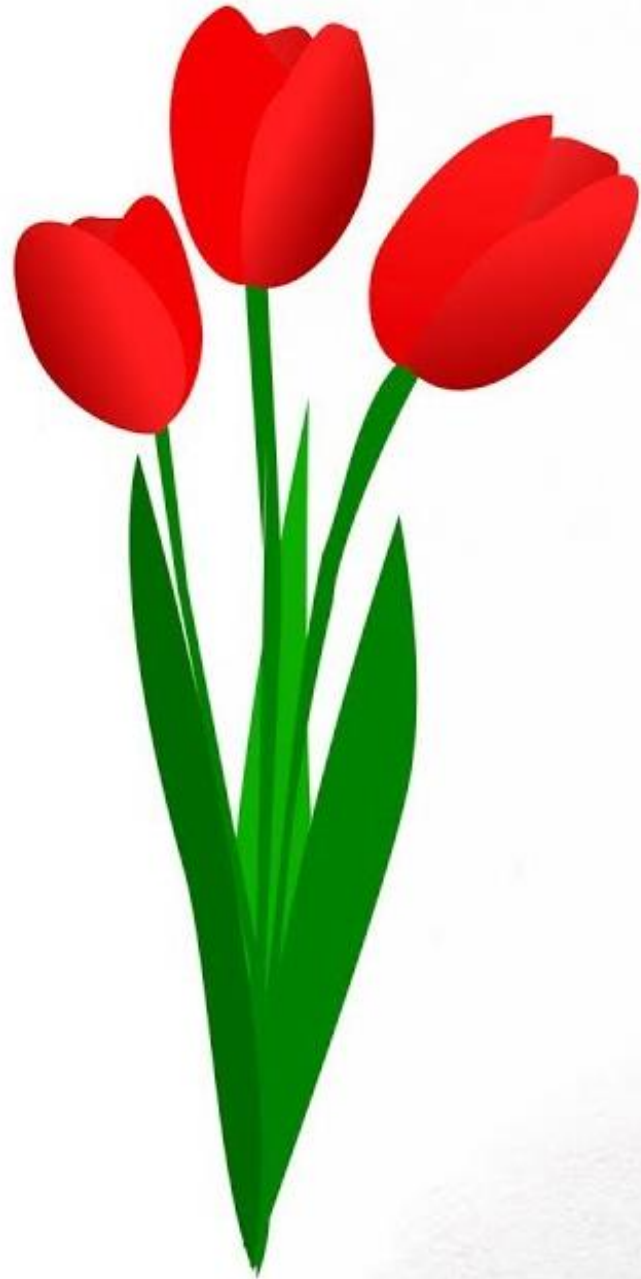
Rejects

Calls

GOD'S EFFECTUAL CALLING

John 6:44 (ESV) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Acts 16:14 (ESV) One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul



Total Depravity

Unconditional Election

Limited Atonement

Irresistible Grace

Perseverance of the Saints

“We are set apart to live up
to our calling to bear God’s
image”

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The nature and calling of the church

2. The blessings of the church

3. The unity of the church

Sum total of all of Gods actions
towards us...undeserved favour

1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV) Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always
for knowledge, which has been given to you by the gospel of Christ

Jesus, 5 that in every way the evidence of the effectiveness of the gospel of Christ
and all knowledge, which has been given to you by the testimony about Christ

confirmed and because of our union in Christ God himself will preserve and perfect us to the end

any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will

sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus

Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the

fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

“We have been richly blessed with all spiritual blessings and gifts and a guarantee of eternal salvation which we all received by grace

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The nature and calling of the church

2. The blessings of the church

3. The unity of the church

The image shows a close-up of a weathered, grey concrete or plaster wall. The surface is heavily cracked and peeling, revealing a network of dark, rusted metal reinforcement bars (rebar) embedded within the structure. The rust is a prominent orange-brown color, contrasting with the grey of the concrete. The overall appearance is one of significant structural decay and neglect.

Disunity

1 Corinthians 1:10-11 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

THE CAUSE OF DISUNITY

1 Corinthians 1:11-12 (ESV) For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."

LOYALTY

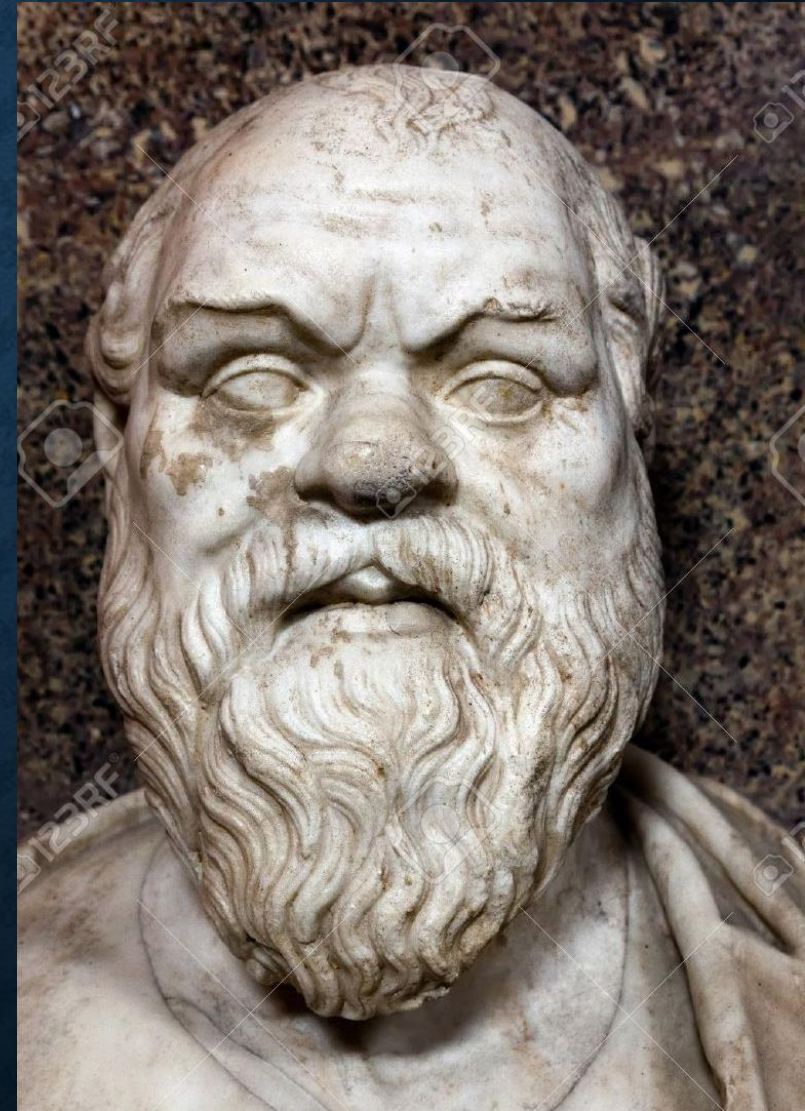
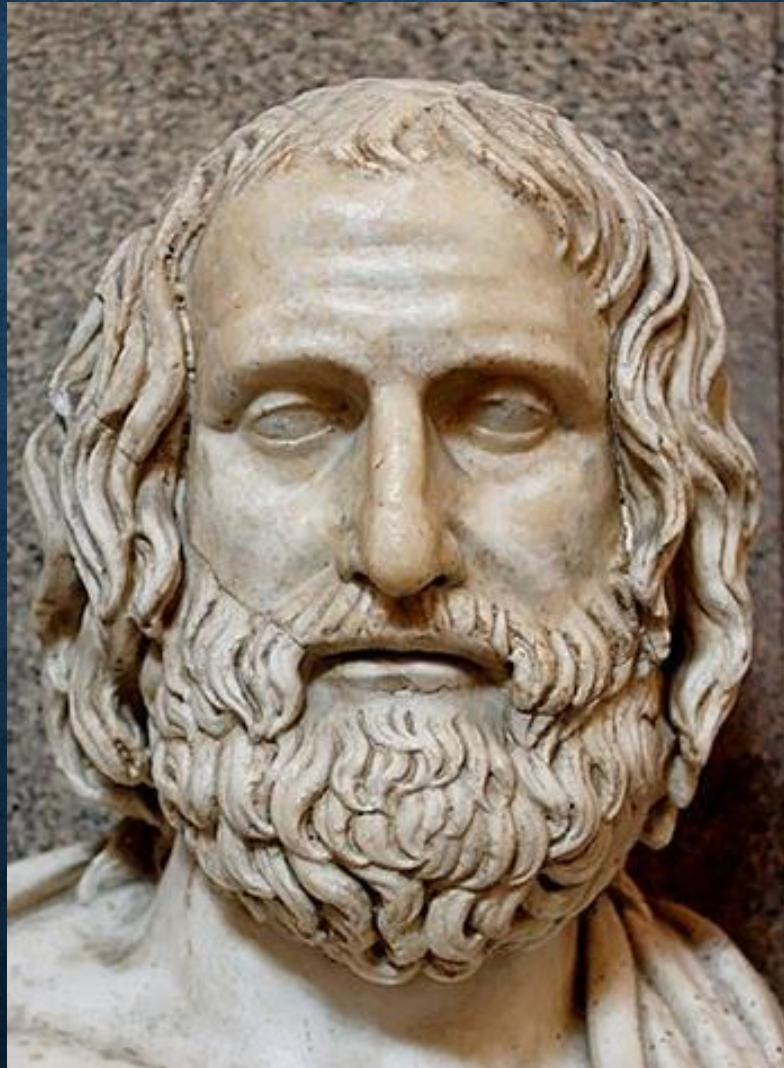
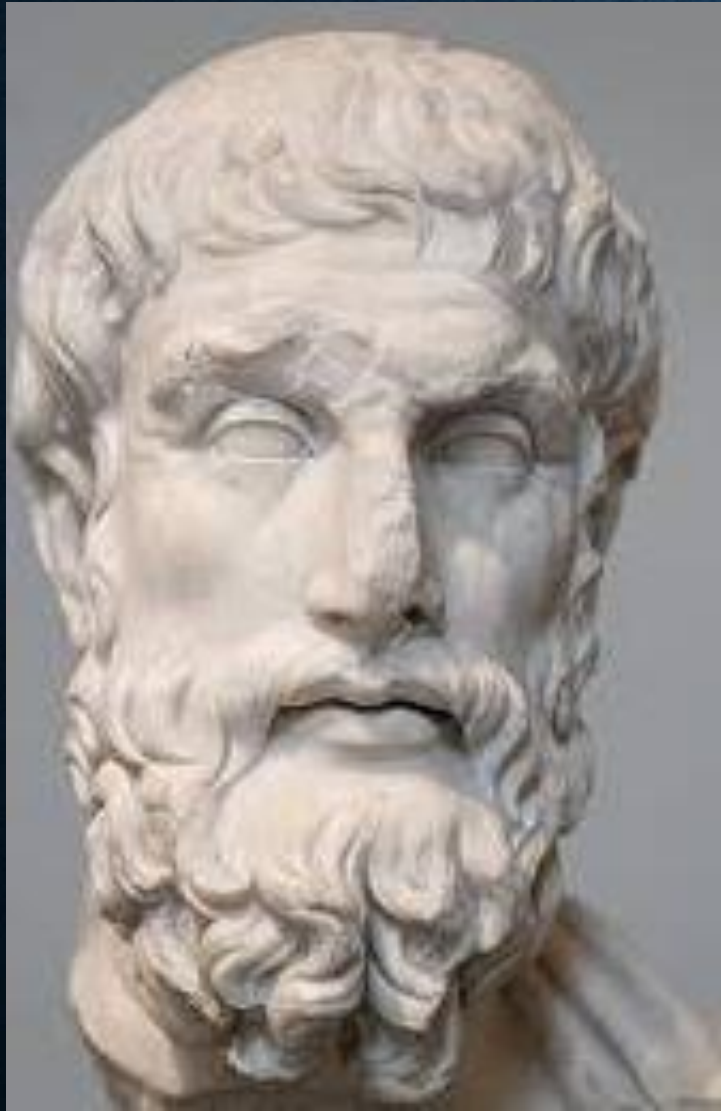
Personal

Truth

THE CAUSE OF DIVISION

1 Corinthians 1:17 (ESV) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS



**Basking in reflected glory
We won**

MANCHESTER IS MY HEAVEN

A large crowd of football fans is seated in a stadium, many wearing red. A prominent red banner with white text reads "MANCHESTER IS MY HEAVEN". The banner is held by fans and spans across the seating area. The background shows more fans and stadium seating.



REFLECTED GLORY



**Merit of Wisdom to
have chosen a winner**



THEY LOST





children born after the election were given names that sounded more 'African American' than were children born before the election.

**Basking in reflected glory:
the election of President
Obama and naming
behaviour**

THE REASON FOR UNBELIEF

John 5:44 (ESV) How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

SOCIAL IDENTITY



THERE IS NO REFLECTED GLORY

1 Corinthians 1:13-17 (ESV) Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you
baptized in the name of Paul

We have one Lord Jesus Christ ..unifying factor in our DNA

A woman with brown hair, wearing a dark blue shirt, is shown from the chest up, looking upwards and to the right with a thoughtful expression. Her hand is resting on her chin. Four thought bubbles of different colors (pink, orange, green, and purple) are positioned around her head, each containing text. The background is plain white.

Praise from others

Emotionally
upset with lack of
appreciation or
others taking
credit

Decisions driven
by opinion of
others

Self confidence
when others
praise

VULNERABLE

1 Corinthians 1:13-17 Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. 16 (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

THE REAL FOCUS

Gospel of
crucified
Christ

Baptism
of faith

Clever Rhetoric

The real power

14 KEY REASON FOR THE BREAKDOWN OF CHURCH UNITY THOM RAINER

- **Gossip.**
- **Actions cloaked in darkness.**
- **Failure to confront church bullies.**
- **Self-serving church members.**
- **Lack of prayer.**
- **Fear of confrontation.**
- **Adopting the hypercritical spirit of culture.**
- **Low expectations.**
- **No church discipline.**
- **Churches known more for what they are against rather than what they are for.**
- **Fear of losing members.**
- **Failure to be evangelistic.**
- **Power groups.**
- **The silent and fearful majority.**

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

1. The nature and calling of the church
2. The blessings of the church
3. The unity of the church