

- Paul's letters are full of historical and personal details which we can compare with the book of Acts.
- Two Types of Agreement
 - Corroboration. Two sources confirming the same details
 - Undesigned Coincidence. Two sources explaining the details of the other in a subtle, but interlocking way.

Priscilla and Aquilla



- Rom. 16:3-5a.
 - Paul, writing to Rome, greets Prisca and Aquilla.
 - He calls them his co-workers, who risked their lives.
 - The Gentiles (non-Jewish) churches are thankful to them.
 - They have a house in Rome.
- Acts 18:1-2
 - Paul comes to Corinth and meets Aquilla and Priscilla.
 - Aquilla had recently left Italy (Rome) because of Claudius (AD 41-54)
 - This agrees with them being from Rome (corroboration)
 - It is also not difficult to assume they returned to Italy after Claudius' reign, which fits with the time Romans is thought to be written (mid-late 50s AD) (undesigned coincidence)
- Acts 18:18-21
 - Paul leaves Corinth and come to Ephesus, then travels to Syria.
 - Priscilla and Aquilla accompany him to Ephesus.
 - This hints at them being his "co-workers", as Romans says (corroboration)
 - Paul leaves Ephesus
- Acts 19:1,29-30
 - Paul returns to Ephesus.
 - A riot breaks out.
 - Paul's companions Gaius and Aristarchus are seized.
 - It is easy to assume that Priscilla and Aquilla also risked their lives in a similar way, in agreement with Romans. (undesigned coincidence)

Apollos in Corinth

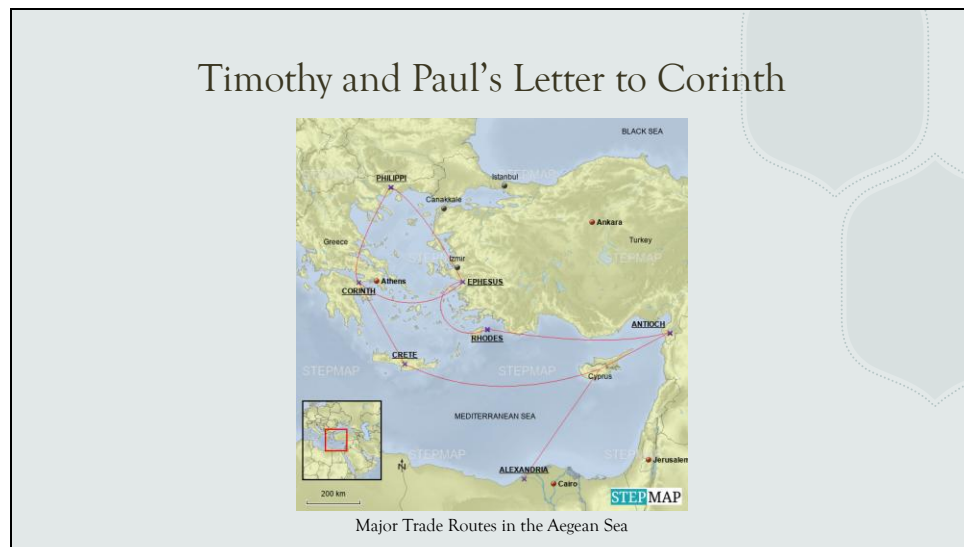


- 1 Corinthians 1:11-12; 3:5-6
 - Apollos had been in Corinth, but Paul had been there first ("planting").
- 2 Corinthians 3:1-3
 - Paul highlights that he did not, "like some people", need a letter of recommendation.
- Acts 18:24-27
 - After Paul has left, Apollos arrives at Ephesus.
 - Priscilla and Aquilla teach him.
 - This also supports Romans, that they were Paul's co-workers
 - Apollos goes to Corinth with their recommendation.
 - An interesting fact in light of Paul's comments about letters of recommendation
 - He "greatly helped" the people in Achaia, where Corinth was
 - This fits with the big following he obtained in Corinth

Paul's Financial Dilemma



- 2 Corinthians 11:7-9
 - Paul did not take money from the Corinthians.
 - He received support from other churches while at Corinth.
 - Brethren came from Macedonia to support him
- Philippians 4:15-16
 - The Philippians (in Macedonia) had previously supported Paul
- Acts 18:1-5.
 - Paul worked as a tent-maker in Corinth
 - This fits with him not living off the Corinthians (corroboration)
 - When Timothy and Silas arrive from Macedonia, he commits himself fully to the gospel.
 - This makes sense in light of 2 Corinthians. Paul was able to commit himself to preaching because he received a financial gift from Macedonia. (undesigned coincidence)

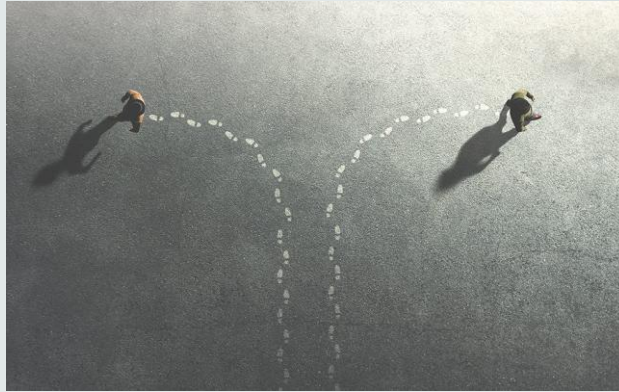


- 1 Corinthians 4:17
 - Paul has sent Timothy to the Corinthians

- 1 Corinthians 16:8,10
 - Paul is writing from Ephesus
 - Paul expects his letter to reach the Corinthians before Timothy, despite him having already left.

- Acts 19:21-22
 - Timothy was sent to Macedonia
 - This was an indirect route to Corinth. The letter would arrive first if it was sent by ship straight there. (undesigned coincidence)

Barnabas and John Mark



- Acts 15:36-40
 - Paul does not want to bring Mark with them because he previously deserted them.
 - But Barnabas disagrees so strongly that he parts ways with Paul
- Colossians 4:10
 - Mark was Barnabas' Cousin
 - It is easy to see that Barnabas might have had a strong loyalty to Mark because they were family (undesigned coincidence)



- Contradictions between Acts 9 and Gal 1?
 - Gal 1:16-20.
 - Pauls goes to Arabia, then Damascus.
 - 3 years later he went Jerusalem for 15 days to meet Peter and James the lord's brother.
 - Acts 9:8-9,17-20,23
 - Paul goes immediately to Damascus "with the disciples", then to Jerusalem to meet the apostles.
 - Note that despite the discrepancy, both Damascus and Jerusalem are mentioned. Why would the author of Acts invent the connection with Damascus, which is an insignificant city to them? Yet they cannot be getting their information from Galatians because of the discrepancy.
 - Paul was forced to leave Damascus by basket after "many days".
 - This could easily include the 3 years mentioned in Galatians plus time spent in Arabia (compare 1 Kings. 2:38-39)
- Neither account is giving all the details because that is not their purpose. It is not difficult to surmise that Paul initially went to Damascus, where he received his sight but only stayed briefly before going into Arabia. He then returned to Damascus and preached there for the remainder of the three years before meeting the apostles. There is no need to take the phrase "at once" too literally (compare how the same gk word is used frequently in Mark's gospel as narrative device).