



October 3
Corinth

i'm always
with you



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(Acts 18:9-18)

Paul and His Vision in Corinth

**WISH YOU
WERE HERE**



Corinth:

Paul leaves Athens for Corinth. He spent approximately 18 months there, making it one of the longest periods he stayed in any city during his missionary travels.

In Corinth, Paul stayed with a couple named Aquila and Priscilla, who were tentmakers by trade. He joined them in their work and used it as an opportunity to connect with the local community. Corinth was known for its immoral and corrupt reputation, but Paul remained dedicated to spreading the teachings of Christianity.

During this time, he preached in the local synagogues and converted both Jews and Gentiles to Christianity. People tried to get Paul arrested, but authorities refused. Aquila and Priscilla joined him in his mission.



One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; 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." He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal. They said, "This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law." 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; 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." And he dismissed them from the tribunal. 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.

After staying there for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow.

My dear Little Flower - co-pilgrims on the journey,

For the final stop of our journey, we continued to reflect upon the spiritual lessons of St. Paul's time in Corinth, a bustling commercial hub in the ancient world, and how his mission there speaks to the vocation and sanctification of our work today.

Paul, a tentmaker by trade and an apostle by vocation, illustrates that work, when offered to God, becomes a powerful means of evangelization and helps forward God's kingdom on earth.

Corinth as a Setting for Christian Vocation

Corinth was a city of opportunity but also moral and spiritual challenge. In this environment, Paul lived out his dual vocation: he labored both as a tentmaker and as a preacher of the Gospel. He preached at the synagogues and *agoras* (market places) where he converted Jews and Gentiles alike. His stay in Corinth teaches us that work and faith are not separate; rather, they intersect profoundly. In Corinth, we see Paul living out his vocation as a worker while at the same time using his labor as a context for evangelization. His life was a witness to the Corinthians: work done in God's presence is part of the Christian mission.

How can we, like Paul, view our daily work—whether in the home, office, or any place—as part of our calling to be witnesses to Christ?

The Dignity of Work

Paul's tent-making reminds us that all labor has dignity when it is offered to God. It is not only religious work or ministry that can be sanctified, but all honest work can become holy. St. Paul's example affirms that work is a means through which we participate in God's creative and redemptive mission.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters” (Colossians 3:23). Paul encourages us to see our work as an offering to God, regardless of its nature. The act of working diligently and honestly is itself a form of evangelization, demonstrating the joy and purpose that come from being part of God's kingdom.

In what ways can we transform our work, however simple or complex, into an act of worship and service to God?

Evangelization Through Work

Paul's work as a tentmaker allowed him to connect with people in Corinth in a non-religious context, building relationships that became opportunities for evangelization. His labor placed him alongside the people, giving him credibility and a platform to share the Gospel.

"Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible... I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Paul's example encourages us to engage with others in our workplaces and communities in ways that are humble and approachable, always seeking to share the light of Christ through our work and our witness.

How can we evangelize not only with words but through the example of how we conduct ourselves in our work environments?

The Sanctification of Work

By offering his work to God, Paul shows us that work becomes more than a means to earn a living; *it becomes a path to holiness*. When we consciously unite our labor with Christ's work, we participate in the ongoing sanctification of the world. By our work, we make the world - not only a better place, but the best place! Through our work, we can make the world around us holy!

– "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" 1 (Corinthians 10:31).

Sanctifying our work means doing it with integrity, love, and a spirit of service. It also means seeing the spiritual fruits of labor, recognizing that through work, we contribute to the building up of God's kingdom on earth.

How can we more intentionally offer our work to God and use it as a means of growing in holiness?

Vocation and Work as Part of God's Kingdom

St. Paul's life teaches us that our work is not just about productivity, but about *participation in God's redemptive plan for the world*. When our labor is aligned with God's will, it helps build up His kingdom by serving others, sharing Christ's love, and contributing to the common good.

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Ephesians 4:11-13). Just as Paul saw his vocation as a laborer and apostle as one whole, we too are called to see all aspects of our lives, including our work, as ways to cooperate with God's grace and further His mission in the world.

How can our work become a means of fulfilling our Christian vocation and contributing to the Church's mission in the world?

St. Paul's experience in Corinth reveals the profound relationship between work, vocation, and evangelization. As we follow in his footsteps, we are called to sanctify our work by offering it to God, evangelizing through our labor, and recognizing our work as a vital part of God's kingdom. May we, like Paul, see our daily tasks as opportunities to glorify God and witness to the Gospel in the world.

As we come to the close of this our journey together, I am reminded of the words of the Lord to Paul in his vision in Corinth (Acts 9b-10a): *"Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you..."* Our own journey in life, though different in the details as that of St Paul, shares the same spirit of perseverance in trials, faithfulness to the gospel, and trust in God's grace. Like St Paul, we have walked through seasons of joy and challenge - and like Paul, we are invited always to strive to bring the love of Christ to those around us.

Now, as this chapter of our pilgrimage together draws to a close, we do so with hearts full of gratitude, knowing that every step we have taken has been guided by the Lord's hand.

Ευλογημένη μέρα! A blessed day!

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino

The Mystery of the Eucharist celebrated in Corinth TODAY: Life & Wholeness Amid Death & Ruins

In the Eucharist, the paradox of life and death is brought to its fullest meaning. In Corinth, the ancient ruins spoke of a city that had died and fallen, yet within this setting, the Eucharist proclaimed, by our pilgrimage group that day, the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection - the victory of life over death.

"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ will be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22).



While the ruins of Corinth may serve as reminders of humanity's frailty, the Eucharist reveals the mystery of Christ's triumph over death. As the early Christians gathered amidst the city's dying culture and structure, they celebrated a sacrament that transcended time and space, a mystery that infused life where death once reigned, and was bound to happen.

The ruins of Corinth remind us of the impermanence of human achievement, yet they serve as a backdrop to the eternal reality and power of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Just as Christ's presence transforms bread and wine into His Body and Blood, He transforms every part of our hearts that has been shattered and ruined; He transforms the ruins of our lives and our world into something eternal. The Eucharist is our source of hope, reminding us that, though earthly structures crumble, Christ's kingdom endures forever.



In the Eucharist, we encounter the living Christ, who brings life out of death and calls us to live in the promise of His eternal kingdom.

