

Boasting in Foolishness

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians



Arnaud's
RESTAURANT

Bienville

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Corinthians

Korinthiazomai

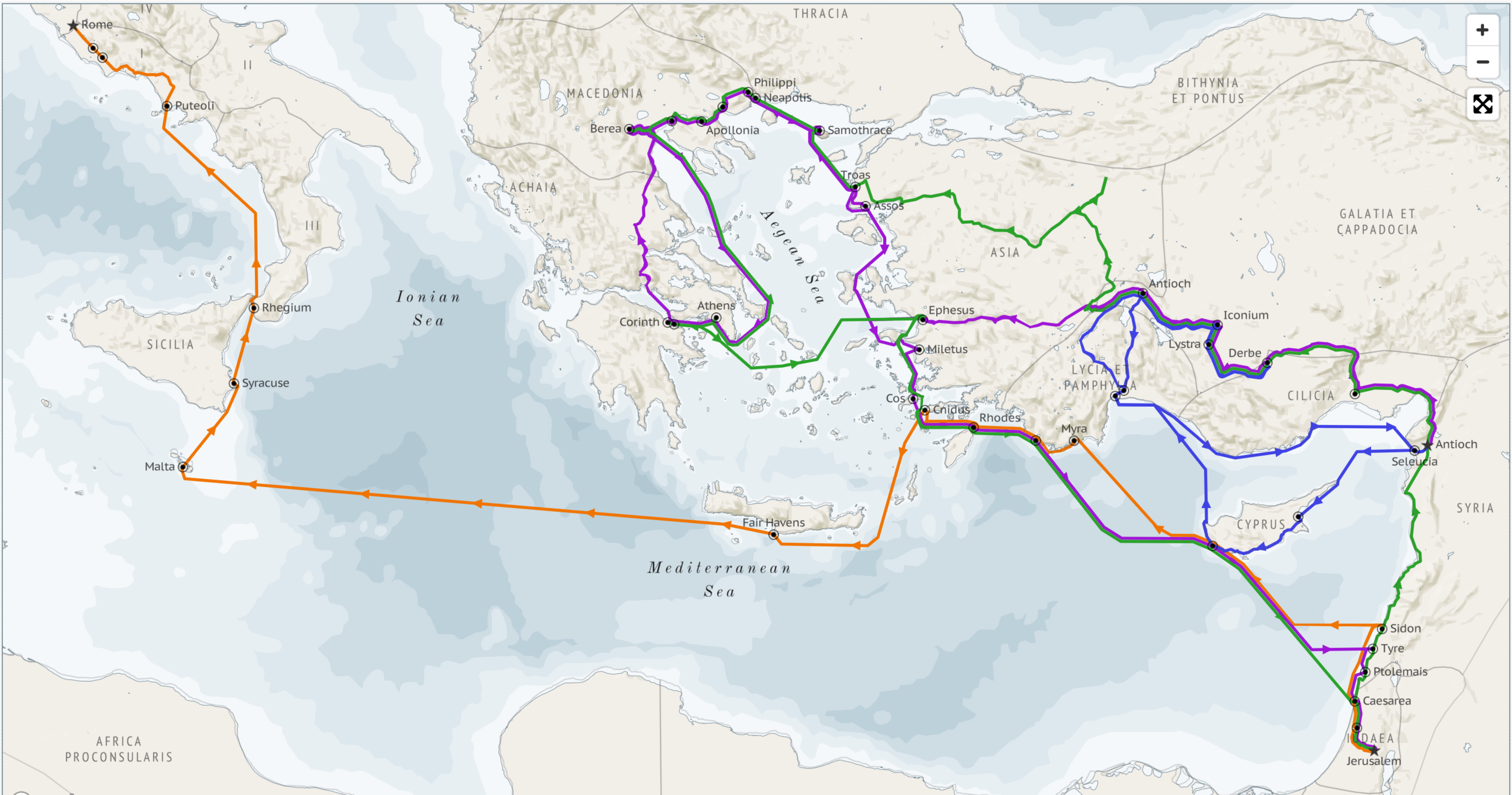
“To act like a Corinthian”

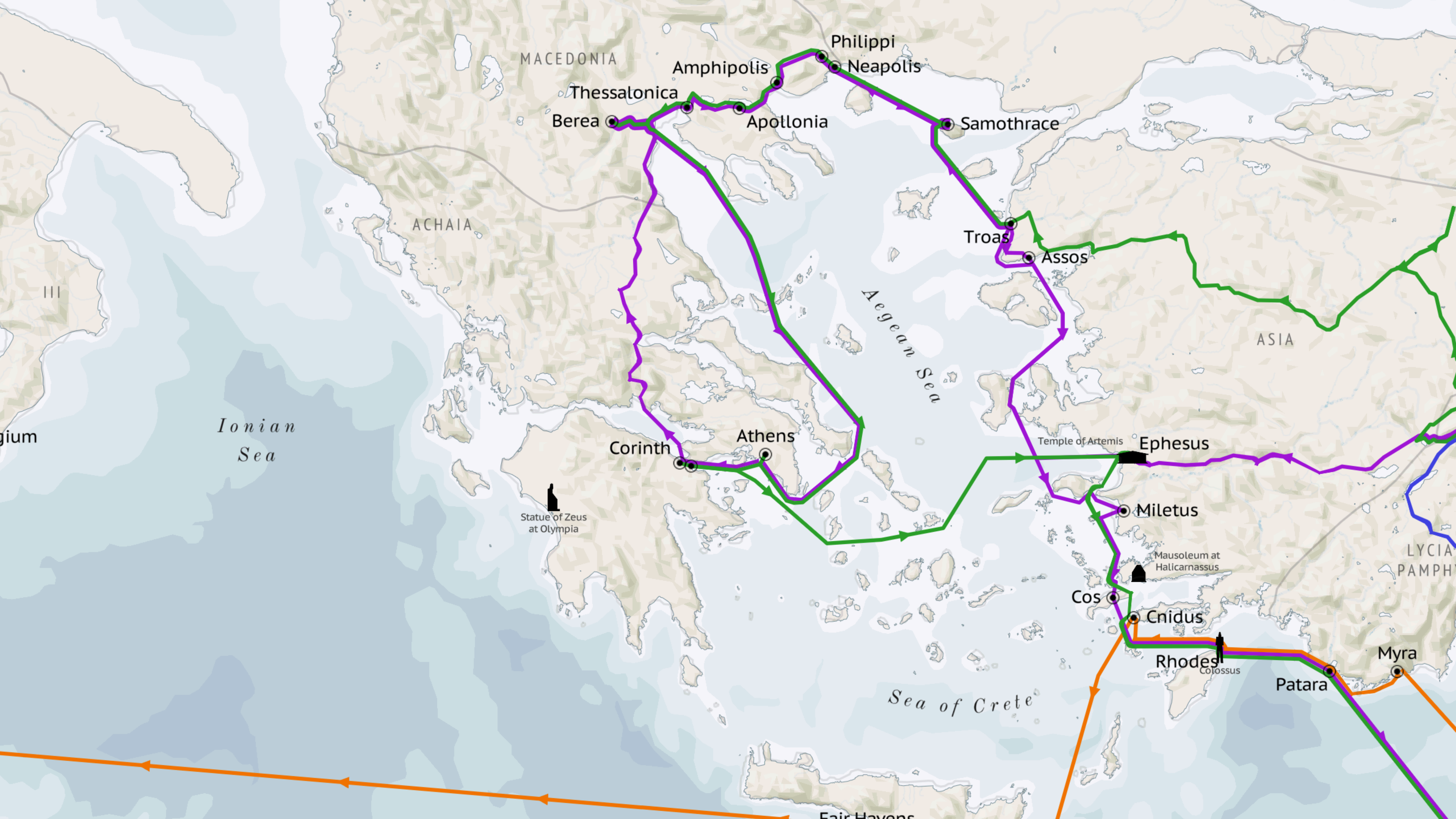




Paul's Missionary Journeys

FIRST SECOND THIRD ROME





MACEDONIA

Thessalonica

Berea

Amphipolis

Apollonia

Philippi

Neapolis

Samothrace

ACHAIA

Corinth

Athens

Troas

Assos

Aegean Sea

ASIA

Ionian Sea

Temple of Artemis

Ephesus

Miletus

Statue of Zeus at Olympia

Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

LYCIA
PAMPH

Cos

Cnidus

Rhodes

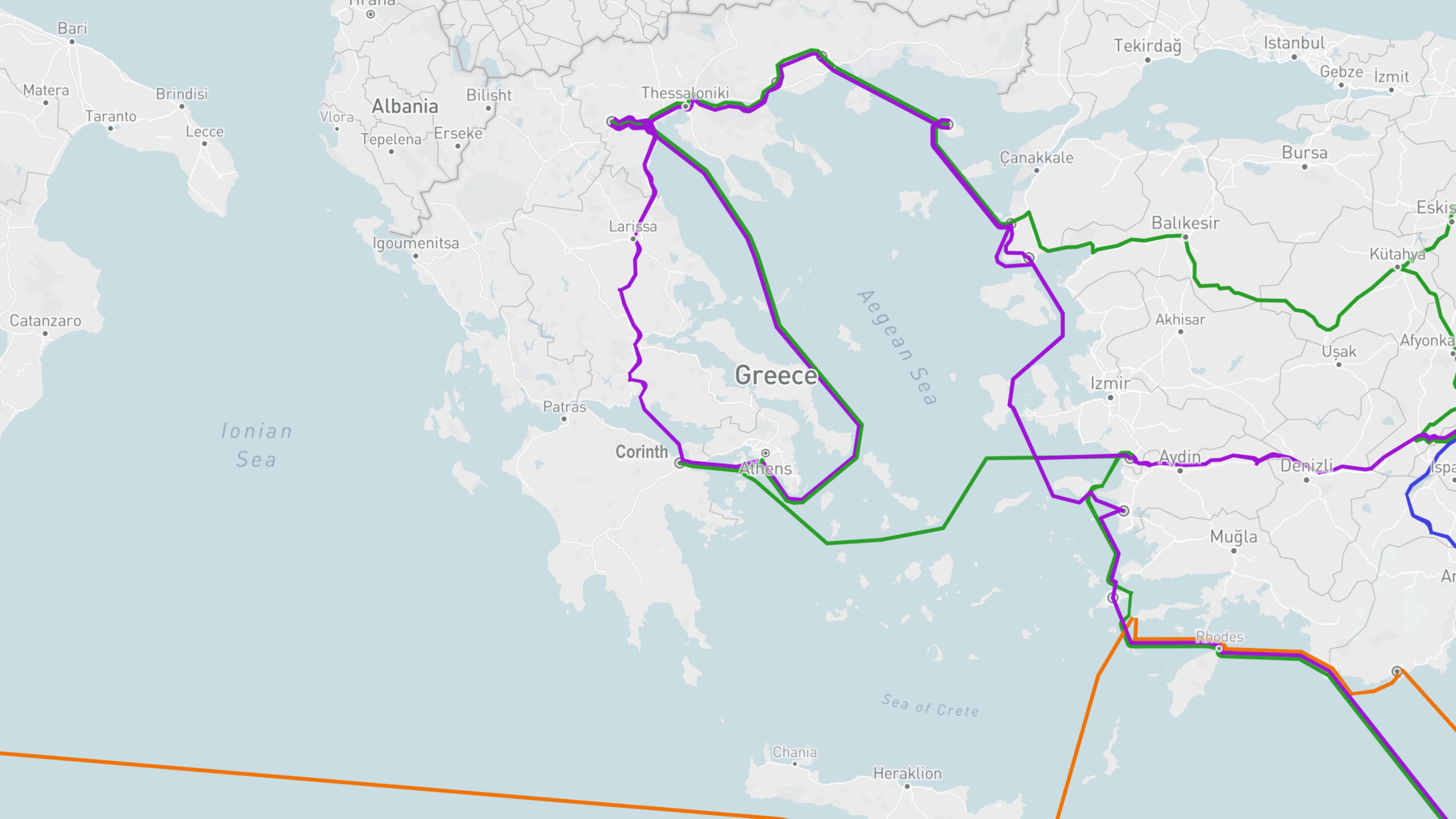
Colossus

Patara

Myra

Sea of Crete

Fair Havens



Bari

Matera

Taranto

Brindisi

Lecce

Vlorë

Albania

Tepelena

Bilisht

Ersekë

Thessaloniki

Tekirdağ

Istanbul

Gebze İzmit

Çanakkale

Bursa

Igoumenitsa

Larissa

Balıkesir

Eskişehir

Kütahya

Greece

Aegean Sea

Akhisar

Uşak

Afyonkarahisar

Ionian Sea

Patras

Corinth

Athens

Izmir

Aydın

Denizli

Isparta

Muğla

Rhodes

Sea of Crete

Chania

Heraklion

Jews and Greeks

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.

Acts 18:9

To the church of God in Corinth,

1 Corinthians 1:2

**To the church of God in Corinth, to those
sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be
his holy people**

1 Corinthians 1:2

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1 Corinthians 1:10

schismata

“split, divide, tear”

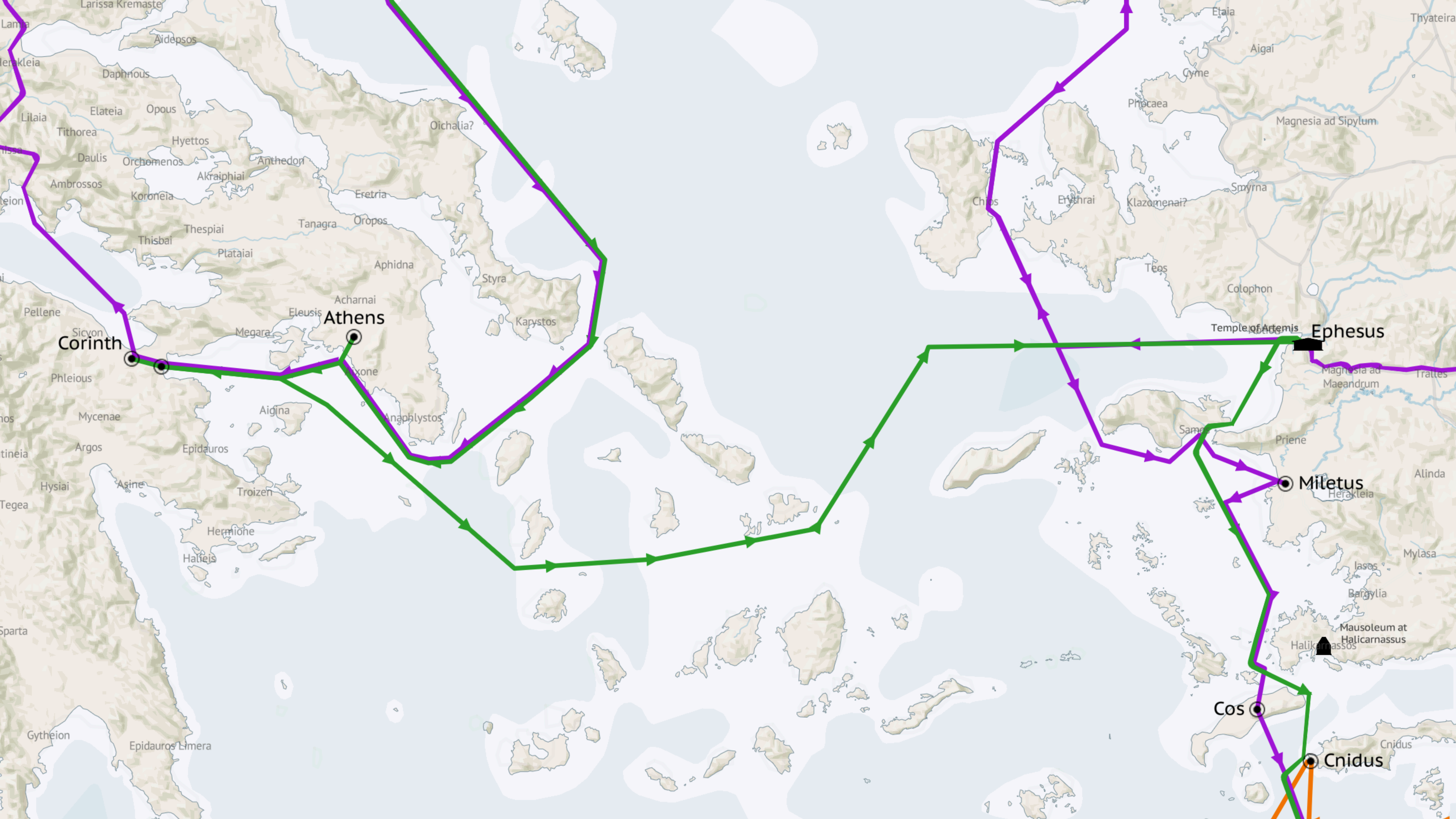
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1 Corinthians 1:10

katartizó

“mend, repair, knit together”

Unity



Corinth

Athens

Ephesus

Miletus

Cos

Cnidus

“I am of Paul”

“I am of Apollos”

“I am of Cephas”

“I am of Christ”

I am of Paul: The one who
started the church

I am of Apollos: The one who came after Paul. An eloquent and gifted man.

**I am of Cephas (Peter): The first
of the Apostles.**

**I am of Christ: We don't follow
men, we follow Jesus!**

**Is Christ divided?
Was Paul crucified for you?
Were you baptized in the name of Paul?**

1 Corinthians 1:13

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

1 Corinthians 3:5-6

So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:7-9

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

1 Corinthians 1:17

“Foolish” Gospel

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach **Christ crucified:
a stumbling block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles,**

1 Corinthians 1:22

Christ crucified

“Messiah executed”

Jews

Signs

Stumbling Block

Waiting for Triumph

Greeks

Wisdom

Foolishness

Unimaginable Death

**...but to those whom God has called,
both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power
of God and the wisdom of God. For the
foolishness of God is wiser than human
wisdom, and the weakness of God is
stronger than human strength.**

1 Corinthians 1:24-25

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were **wise by human standards; not many were **influential**; not many were of **noble birth**.**

1 Corinthians 1:26

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Wise
Influential
Noble

Foolish
Weak
Lowly/despised

John Calvin

“In putting the strong and wise and great to shame, God does not exalt the weak and uneducated and worthless, but brings all of them down to one common level.”



It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Righteousness
Sanctification
Redemption

**United under Christ
Not a person**

**Salvation by the Gospel
Not wisdom**

**Boast in God
Not ourselves**

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

1 Corinthians 2:3-5

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