

Paul's world Life in Corinth – HOPE A house not made with hands

Understanding the historical context of Paul's letters in the Bible

Look around you

When did you last go to a shopping centre?

The buildings, the signs and even the arcades you walk down are all designed to attract you. Sometimes there are open spaces with benches where you can sit down.



Imagine

You are walking down the main road and into the Forum (the main square) in Corinth at the time of Paul. You would see things that were made to catch your eye. There were entrances to at least eight temples of different sizes, some with arches and columns and a shady path to walk on.

There was a massive statue of Caesar Augustus six metres high (that's more than twice as high as the ceiling in an ordinary room) and made of bronze. It had a seat around the base so that people could meet there and chat.

There was also a refreshing fountain dedicated to Poseidon, the god of the sea. The markets were also close to the Forum, so you would be able to hear market traders calling out.



Paul's second letter to the Corinthians

A nugget to explore Chapter 4, verse 18b to Chapter 5 verse 1

Did you know?

The Romans rebuilt Corinth in 44 BC after they destroyed the earlier Greek city in a war in 146 BC. They designed the Forum (the main square) and the Cardo Maximus (the 15-metre-wide main road) that connected with it and made a straight route to the port on the sea coast. The other streets were set out in a grid pattern.

For what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.