

BNTB 511
Beginnings of the NT Church

Corinthian Visits and Correspondence
(A Possible Sequence of events)

1. Corinth is evangelized on Paul's second journey, sometime within 50-53 A.D.
2. Paul writes Corinth a letter, probably from Ephesus on his third journey (1 Cor. 5:9ff. with 16:8).
3. Paul writes 1 Corinthians from Ephesus, following visits of three men from Corinth and receiving reports of problems at Corinth. Paul plans to go to Macedonia and then to Corinth (especially 1 Cor. 16).
4. Paul makes a "sorrowful" visit to Corinth. However, he goes directly to Corinth instead of to Macedonia first. But he does not return by way of Corinth, as he planned subsequent to writing 1 Corinthians 16 (2 Cor. 1: 15 - 17). That is, after writing 1 Corinthians, Paul intended to go to Corinth first (2 Cor. 1: 15, following Barrett, Martin, and others, according to Martin).
5. Paul writes a "tearful" letter to Corinth instead of seeing them again. From where? Macedonia? Ephesus? (2 Cor. 2:4). This is Paul's third letter.
6. Paul travels from Ephesus to Macedonia and writes the Corinthians from Macedonia. This is after he has received the good news from Titus of the Corinthians' repentance (2 Cor. 7:5-10). This is the fourth letter, and the one we call "Second Corinthians." Note that Paul is now planning on his *third* visit to Corinth (2 Cor. 12:14; 13: 1).