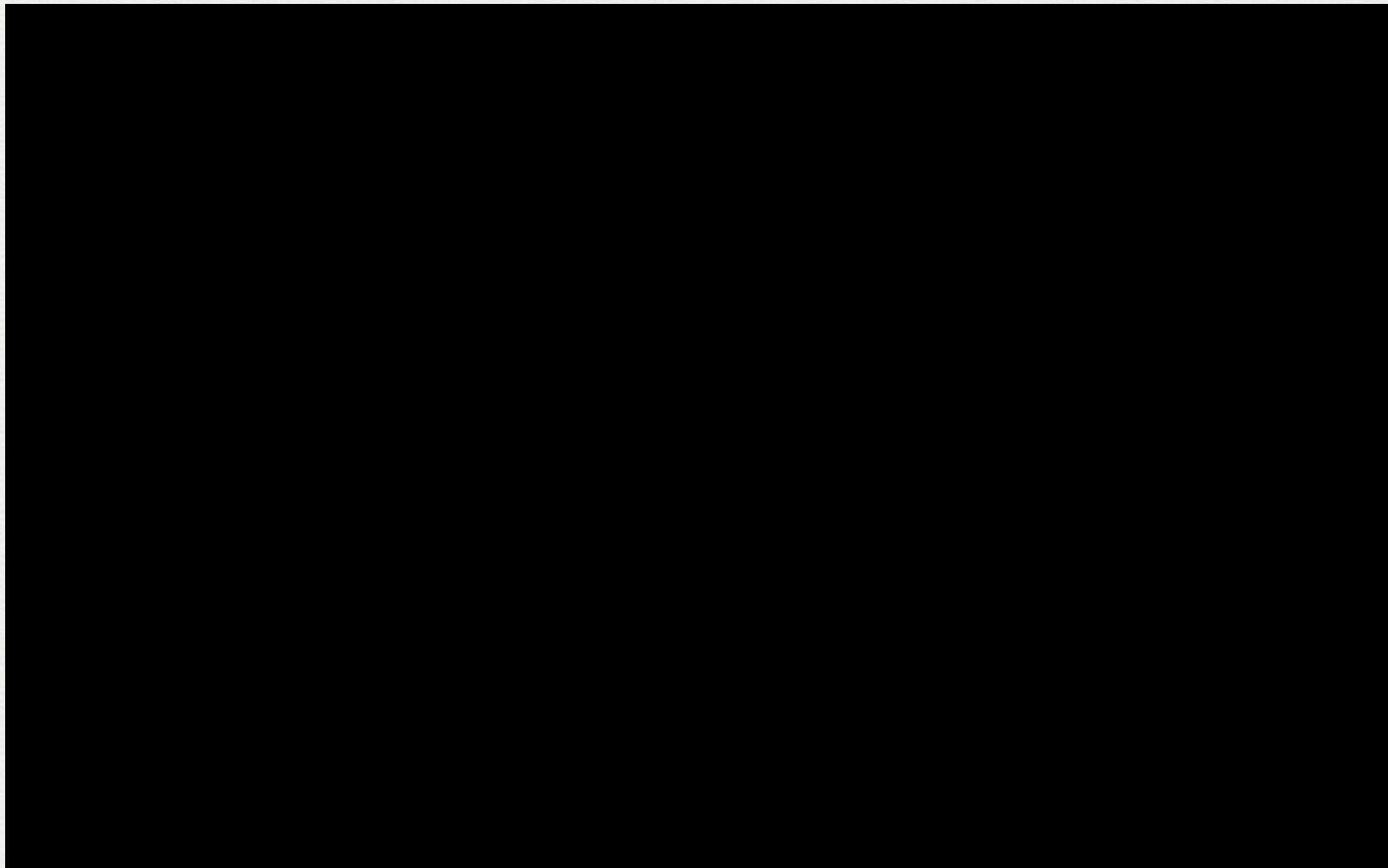


**REVIVE US
ENCORE EVENT**



CHRIST CRUCIFIED

1 CORINTHIANS 2

CORINTH



CORINTH



ANCIENT CORINTH



ANCIENT CORINTH

Strabo claimed the city had 1,000 temple prostitutes at the temple of Aphrodite on the Acrocorinth.

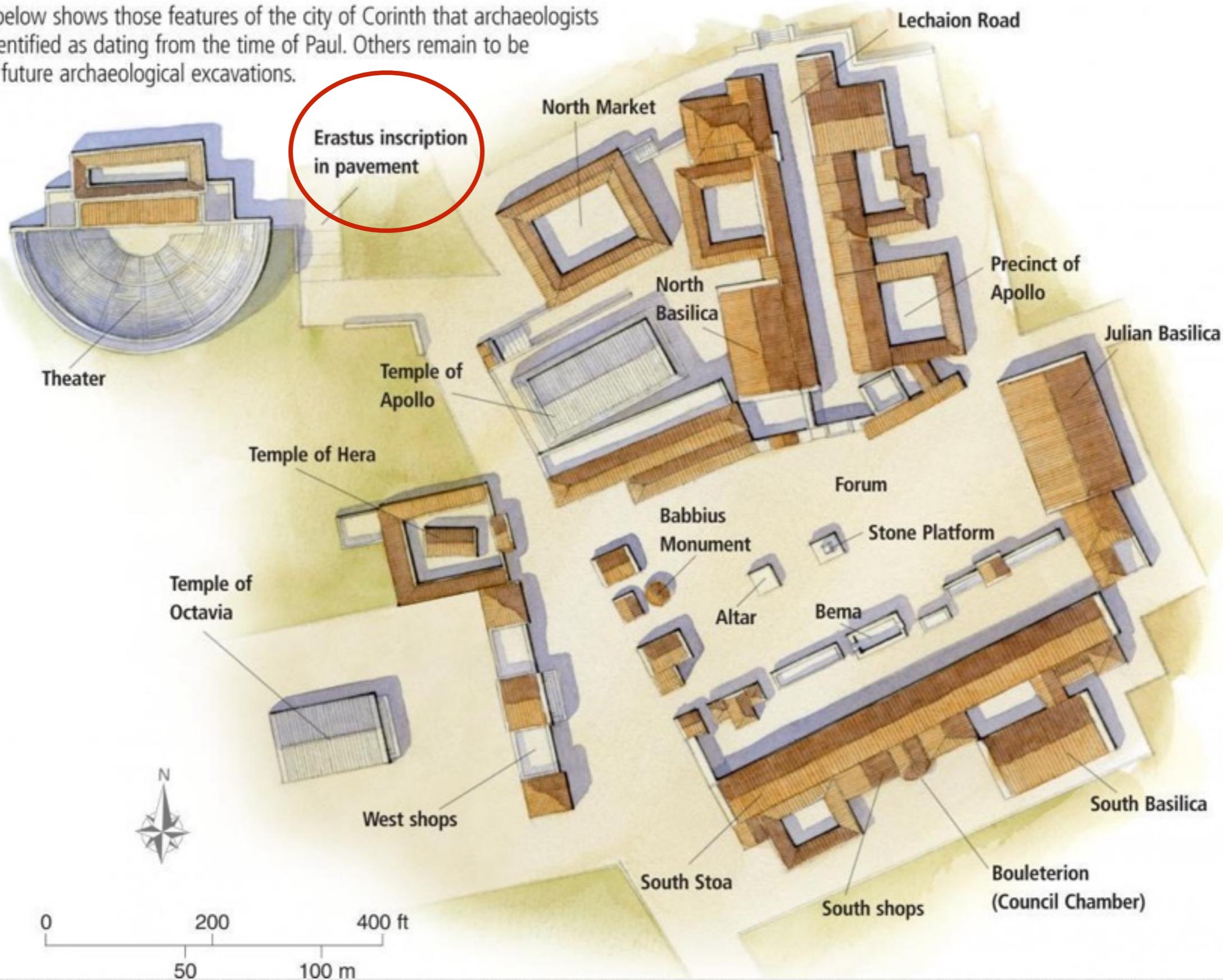


ANCIENT CORINTH



CORINTH IN THE TIME OF PAUL (C. A.D. 60)

The city plan below shows those features of the city of Corinth that archaeologists have so far identified as dating from the time of Paul. Others remain to be discovered by future archaeological excavations.



ERASTUS

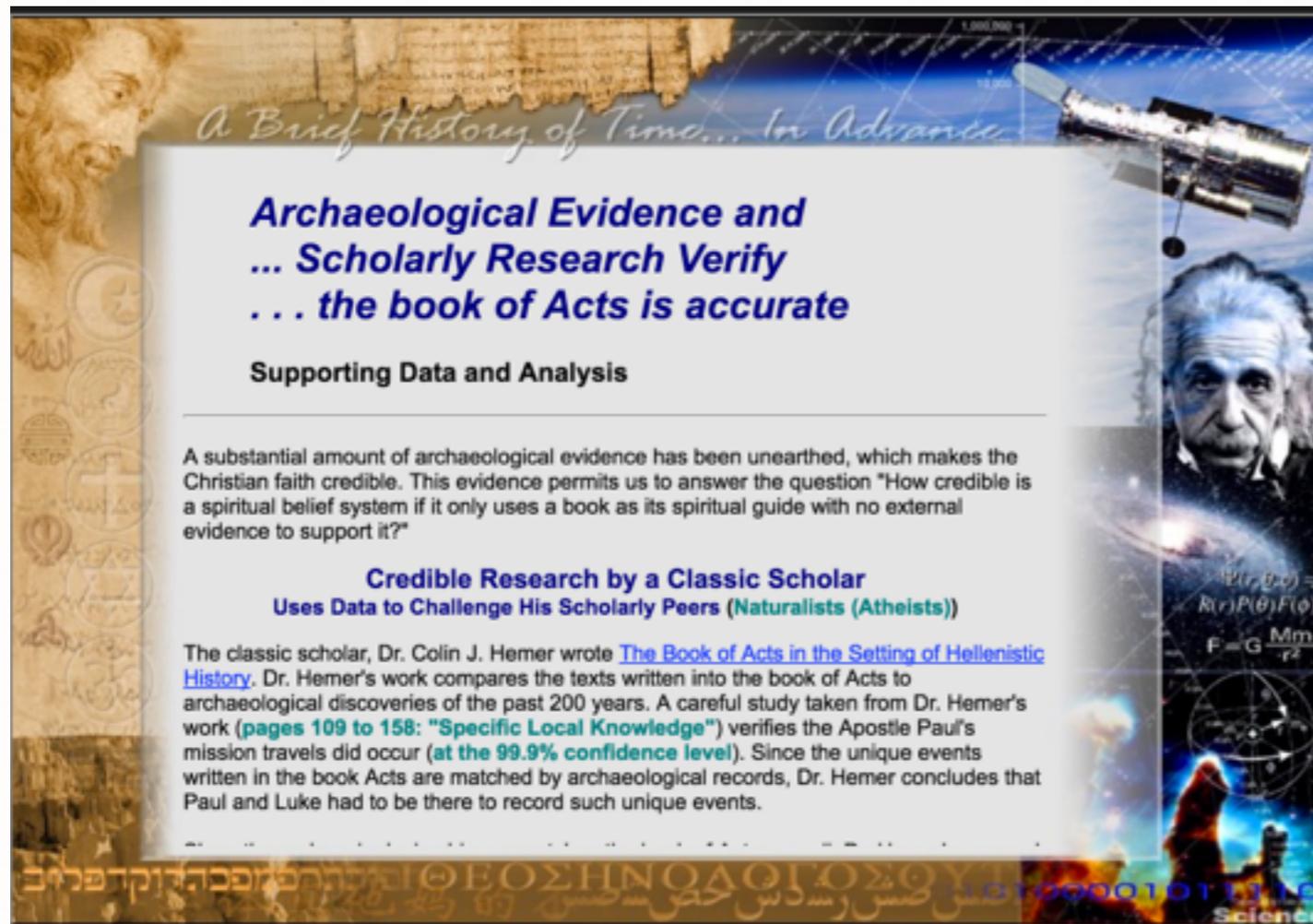
- In the book of Acts, Paul calls attention to a person named Erastus who was a “city treasurer.”
- He would have been one of the few Christians who were among the social elite at Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:26). But there was no historical evidence of someone named Erastus in Corinth.
- Acts 19:22 - “And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.”

ERASTUS

- During the 1929 archaeological excavation of the area near the theater, a plaza was located that contained a stone inscription bearing the name of Erastus and indicating that he was a public official.



LUKE & NEW TESTAMENT



A Brief History of Time... In Advance

**Archaeological Evidence and
... Scholarly Research Verify
... the book of Acts is accurate**

Supporting Data and Analysis

A substantial amount of archaeological evidence has been unearthed, which makes the Christian faith credible. This evidence permits us to answer the question "How credible is a spiritual belief system if it only uses a book as its spiritual guide with no external evidence to support it?"

**Credible Research by a Classic Scholar
Uses Data to Challenge His Scholarly Peers (Naturalists (Atheists))**

The classic scholar, Dr. Colin J. Hemer wrote [The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History](#). Dr. Hemer's work compares the texts written into the book of Acts to archaeological discoveries of the past 200 years. A careful study taken from Dr. Hemer's work (pages 109 to 158: "Specific Local Knowledge") verifies the Apostle Paul's mission travels did occur (at the 99.9% confidence level). Since the unique events written in the book Acts are matched by archaeological records, Dr. Hemer concludes that Paul and Luke had to be there to record such unique events.

Science

The Book of Acts
in the Setting of
Hellenistic
History

Hemer, Colin J.

LUKE & NEW TESTAMENT

- Classical scholar and historian Colin Hemer chronicles Luke's accuracy in the book of Acts.
- With painstaking detail, Hemer identifies 84 facts in the last 16 chapters of the Book of Acts that have been confirmed by historical and archaeological research.
- Includes nautical details, names of gods, designation of magistrates, and proper names and titles.

KNOWING GOD
COMES THROUGH
THE WORK
OF HIS SPIRIT

WISDOM & HOLY SPIRIT

- Paul discusses the nature of true wisdom.
- He knows that real wisdom, real knowledge, lasting knowledge, comes from God. It is not the human intellect that Paul engages, for he comes in modesty.
- Knowledge of God is given by the Holy Spirit, not attained by the accomplishment of man.
- Christ is the most important thing about Christians, not what they have gained or what they know.

**THE WISDOM OF MEN
IS WORTHLESS
COMPARED TO THE
POWER AND WISDOM
OF GOD**

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

WISDOM

- What creates a genuine change in someone's life?
- This is the question that Paul hopes the Corinthians wrestle with in the first five verses of chapter 2.
- He begins by admitting that he did not bring the Corinthians the kind of oral presentation they were accustomed to (speakers in Corinth and cities like it would have demonstrated extreme skill in their delivery and persuasive arguments).

WISDOM

- These orators presented the language with such eloquence that individuals would pay: they would give money to listen to speeches as a form of entertainment.
- Paul did not deliver this to the Corinthians. Instead, he preached the Gospel. Not with lofty speech (he was not an impressive speaker).
- Paul communicated “in weakness and in much fear and much trembling.”

WISDOM

- Some scholars hold that this phrase comments on Paul's speaking and demeanor, simply that he was genuinely weak, fearful and trembling as he delivered the Gospel.
- Others hold that Paul used those words to demonstrate his complete reliance on God the Father.
- Either way, the message is clear: Paul did not present an impressive speech.

CHRIST CRUCIFIED

- Further, Paul strayed from what the Corinthians might have expected from a speaker in the content that he provided.
- Paul's arguments were not rich in humanly wisdom, lacking rhetoric and complex structure.
- His message was simple: "Jesus Christ and him crucified." Paul spoke the Gospel with simplicity.

POWER OF GOD

- This is where the author creates his argument: his speech was simple, void of human wisdom and, through the power of the Spirit, it completely changed the lives of those who heard and responded (recipients of the letter).
- Paul's simple sermons led those who had a taste for dramatic, complex and impressive arguments to a place of conversion.

POWER OF GOD

- Notice how free Paul is from the pressures of achievement and personal notoriety. He's free from the need to perform.
- He knows the Spirit has everything under control. Paul knows the goal is not to make himself look better so that people will follow him.
- His desire is for people to see past him to the beauty of Christ and to put their hope and faith in Christ, not in Paul.

POWER OF GOD

- (v. 5) He has come so that people will see God's power, not his own wisdom or intelligence.
- Paul longs for these Corinthians to trust in God, not in the ways of men.
- Through the Cross, Paul is able to use God's power as a means of valuing and caring for others, and this was different than popular ideas.

THE HOLY SPIRIT
BRINGS TRUE
KNOWLEDGE OF
WHO GOD IS

1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-16

WISDOM OF GOD

- Paul minimizes the significance of human wisdom but, in the remaining section of chapter 2, he recognizes that there is another kind of wisdom that can be gained.
- He moves on from this (citing Isaiah 64:4 in verse 9) to show that this special knowledge is unattainable by human senses.
- You can't see it. You can't hear it. You can't imagine it. It's not for the eyes, ears or heart alone.

WISDOM OF GOD

- This delivers a strong blow to the culture of Corinth.
- Paul is telling them that this knowledge, this wisdom of God, cannot be attained by a simple mental pursuit of man.
- It can't be thought of or expounded on. Paul shows that humanity is not the end of knowing.
- There's more. It is arrogance that assumes only what we can sense is all there is.

WISDOM OF GOD

- The wisdom of God (vv. 6–7). This wisdom is not of the age or the rulers of the age.
- This isn't a human invention. God is beyond time and history.
- The problem that this creates is that Paul shows that the human mind is limited by time.

WISDOM OF GOD

- Its nature is secret and hidden (v. 7).
- The wisdom comes from God and can only be given by God himself (Matthew 11:25).
- No amount of learning or mental aptitude can elevate someone to reach this sort of understanding on his own.

WISDOM OF GOD

- It has the message of salvation at its core (v. 9).
- “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived, the things God has prepared for those who love him.”
- It is imparted by the Holy Spirit (v. 10).
- The work of salvation is prepared by God, carried out by the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit.

WISDOM OF GOD

- Paul shows that we can't fully know anyone apart from ourselves, let alone God.
 - God is beyond our thoughts.
 - God is beyond our perception.
 - God is beyond our comprehension.
 - God is beyond our imagination.

SPIRITUAL & NATURAL

- Paul closes the chapter by introducing two different kinds of people: the spiritual and the natural.
- The natural person does not accept the things of God because he simply cannot; the natural man lacks the Holy Spirit necessary to discern spiritual things.
- This individual relies solely on his own mental faculties and certainly misses the mark in understanding.

SPIRITUAL & NATURAL

- The spiritual person lives a different kind of life.
- A person possessing the Spirit is able to evaluate and apply all things the Spirit reveals (v. 10).
- The spiritual man can be judged only by God (4:3–5), not by unregenerate people (2:15) or by worldly Christians (3:1–3).
- To have the mind of Christ is to be obedient to God's revelation (Phil. 2:5–8).

THE CHURCH
AND
SEXUAL IMMORALITY

WATERMARK CHURCH

- On October 9, 2015, a member of Watermark Church in Dallas received a letter responding to his homosexual lifestyle.
- The letter noted that the church had worked with the man over several years to help him repent of such relationships.

WATERMARK CHURCH

- However, the man's decision to continue in a homosexual relationship caused the church to remove him from its membership and to treat him "as we would anyone who is living out of fellowship with God."
- The congregation is praying "that repentance comes quickly and that you do not continue choosing a path of destruction and one that leads you away from the authority and care of the church."

WATERMARK CHURCH

- On the one-year anniversary of receiving the letter, the man described his anger on Facebook:
- “You are tarnishing the name of God to Christians and non-Christians alike; you should be ashamed of yourselves! Do not forget, Jesus was angry with people just like you who said certain groups of people were not worthy to be followers of Him.”

WATERMARK CHURCH

- *Dallas Morning News* columnist Jacquielynn Floyd was highly critical of the church in a column under the headline, “Watermark megachurch banned a gay man that it didn’t deserve to have as a member.”
- “A church that chooses a path leading it to harass and condemn its own blameless members isn't doing itself any favors. Running around trying to change turtles into ducks seems out of step with established science and enlightened interpretation of Scripture.”

WATERMARK CHURCH

- Watermark Pastor Todd Wagner responded with a column in the *Dallas Morning News*.
- Todd Wagner explained that the former member made clear to the church that “he no longer believed same-sex sexual activity was inappropriate for a follower of Jesus Christ and no longer desired to turn from it.”

WATERMARK CHURCH

- Todd Wagner added that such discipline is “an act of love, something any parent knows. The heart of true correction is always to bring about good in the life of an individual. Our goal with every instance of care and correction is to restore the relationship and save our hurting friend from the trouble that sin always creates.”

WATERMARK CHURCH

- “Following the example of Jesus, Watermark loves and welcomes people of all backgrounds, economic statuses, ethnicities and sexual struggles. Also following his example, we encourage people to turn away from sin and to follow Jesus. We have many members and several staff who struggle with same-sex attraction or for whom same-sex sexual activity is a part of their past.”

WATERMARK CHURCH

- “We count it a privilege to labor with them in their desire to resist temptation, and we rejoice with them as they experience forgiveness and new life in Christ. Their stories are powerful and serve as beautiful testimonies to the transforming power of Jesus Christ.”

BIBLE VERSES

- Church accountability (Matthew 18:15-17).
- We are not to have sexual immorality within the church (1 Corinthians 5:1-5).
- We should care for each other (Galatians 6:1–2).
- Spiritual leaders must give an account to God for those they shepherd (Hebrews 13:17).

FOUR PRINCIPLES

- #1 - Church discipline is biblical.
- Jesus taught his disciples how to address sin and conflict within the church (Matthew 18:15-17).
- Paul taught that sexual immorality in the church should not exist (1 Corinthians 5:1) and that the congregation should remove the man from its fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:5).
- Early Christians took discipline seriously.

FOUR PRINCIPLES

- #2 - Church discipline is unpopular.
- When the Watermark decision became public, people began to ask, “Who do they think they are?” and “What right do they have to judge others?”
- In many states, there have been “scarlet letter lawsuits” over the issue of cohabitation.
- Similar suits have also surfaced over homosexual behavior.

FOUR PRINCIPLES

- #3 - Church discipline applies to all unbiblical behavior not just homosexuality.
- Paul writes that we should avoid more than just sexual immorality (greed, idolatry, etc.) within the church (1 Corinthians 5:11).
- He provides another list later in his letter to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

FOUR PRINCIPLES

- #4 - Church discipline is intended to bring about repentance and restoration.
- After Paul instructed the Corinthians to discipline a man “who has his father’s wife,” he repented.
- Paul encourages them “to forgive and comfort him” and to “reaffirm your love for him” (2 Corinthians 2:7-8).

