



# FIRST CORINTHIANS

THE WAY OF LIFE

**PRIDE OR POWER**

Mark Burgess



# 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-21

<sup>1</sup> This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup> Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. <sup>3</sup> But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.



<sup>4</sup> For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup> Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.





<sup>6</sup> I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favour of one against another. <sup>7</sup> For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?



<sup>8</sup> Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings! And would that you did reign, so that we might share the rule with you! <sup>9</sup> For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.





<sup>10</sup> We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. <sup>11</sup> To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are poorly dressed and buffeted and homeless, <sup>12</sup> and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; <sup>13</sup> when slandered, we entreat.



We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world, the refuse of all things.<sup>14</sup> I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

<sup>15</sup> For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.





<sup>16</sup> I urge you, then, be imitators of me. <sup>17</sup> That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. <sup>18</sup> Some are puffed up, as though I were not coming to you.





<sup>19</sup> But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of these puffed up people but their power. <sup>20</sup> For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. <sup>21</sup> What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness?



## Daniel 4:28-33

<sup>28</sup> All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>29</sup> At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, <sup>30</sup> and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?"

<sup>31</sup> While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven,



## Daniel 4:28-33 continued...

"O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, <sup>32</sup> and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."





# WHERE IS CORINTH?

## The Greek City-States, 500 B.C.



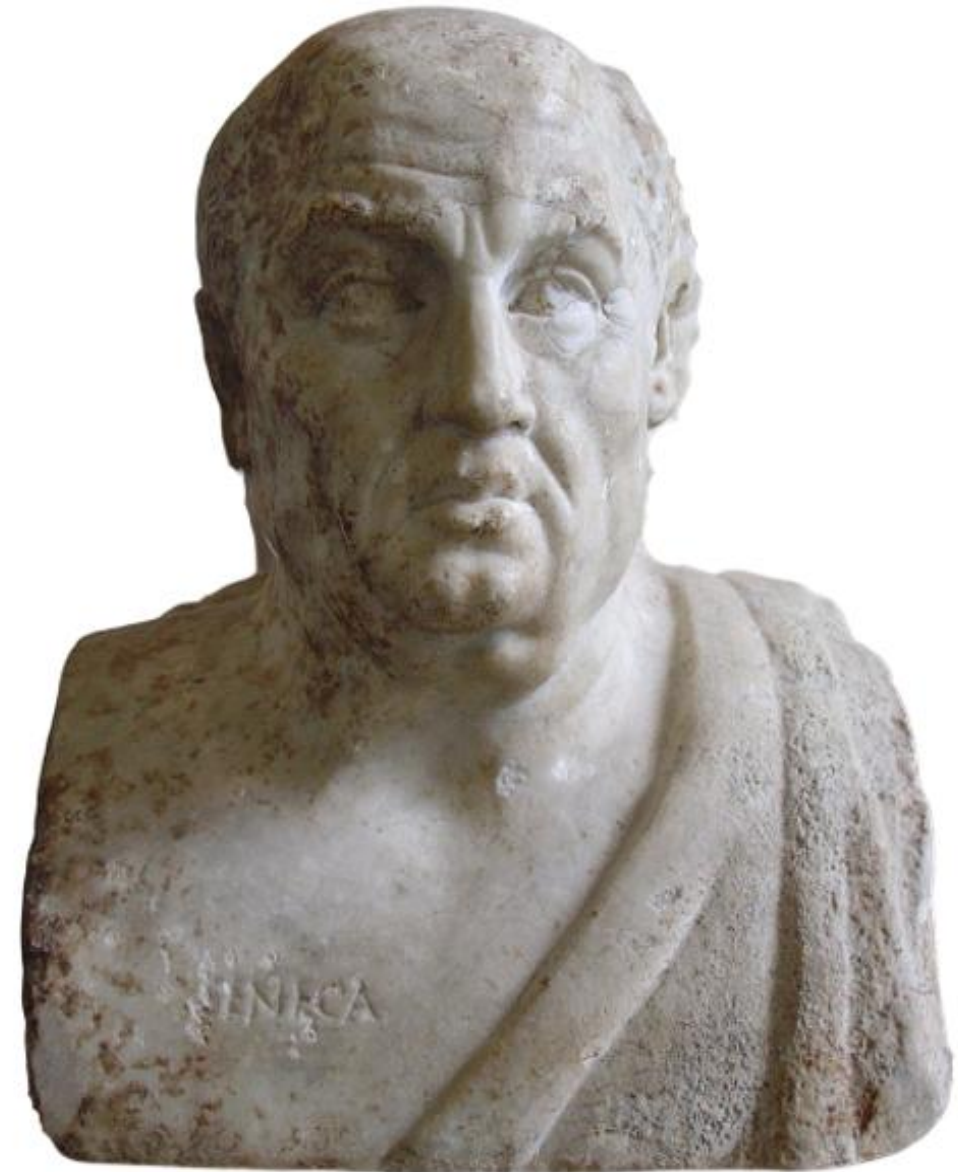
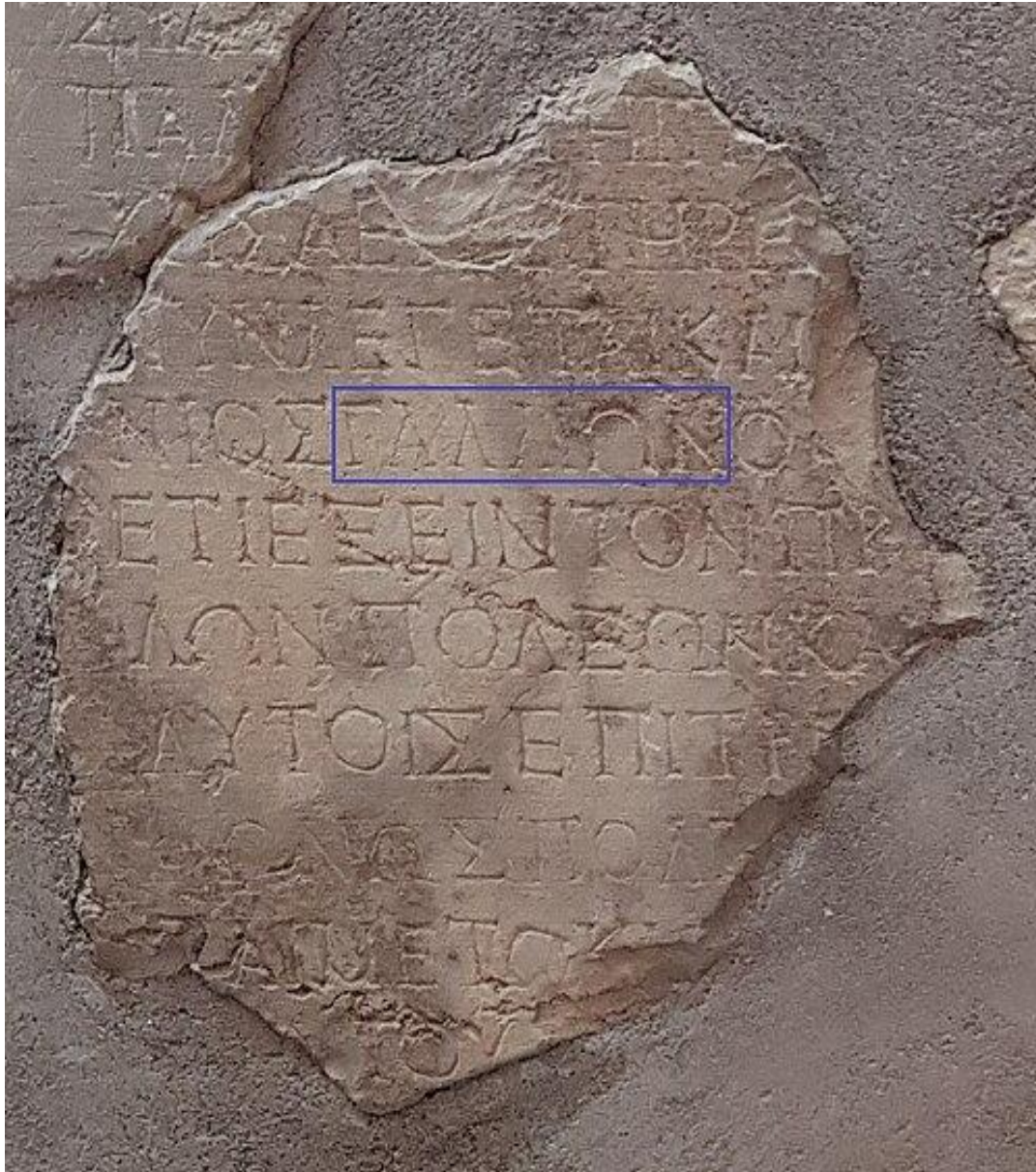


# THE ISTHMUS OF CORINTH





# GALLIO – THE ROMAN PROCONSUL OF CORINTH





# SO, HOW WERE THEY PUFFED UP?

1. Puffed up in their picking of sides
2. 'Puffed up' in their wealth and influence
3. 'Puffed up' in their experiences of the Spirit

# PAUL'S ANTIDOTE TO PRIDE AND HUBRIS

Verse 20 –

For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.





# APPLICATION FOR US AT COOBY IN 2025

1. Go for the spectacular and visible gifts of the Spirit, But do it with humility. Do it with love.
2. The gifts of God may be explosive and visible SOME of the time, but more than likely they take effect over time
3. The Power of the Holy Spirit needs cultivating

