

A Visit to Ancient Corinth.



The Acrocorinth stands guard over the ruins of the ancient city of Corinth.
The Temple of Apollo, 7th century BCE, in foreground.



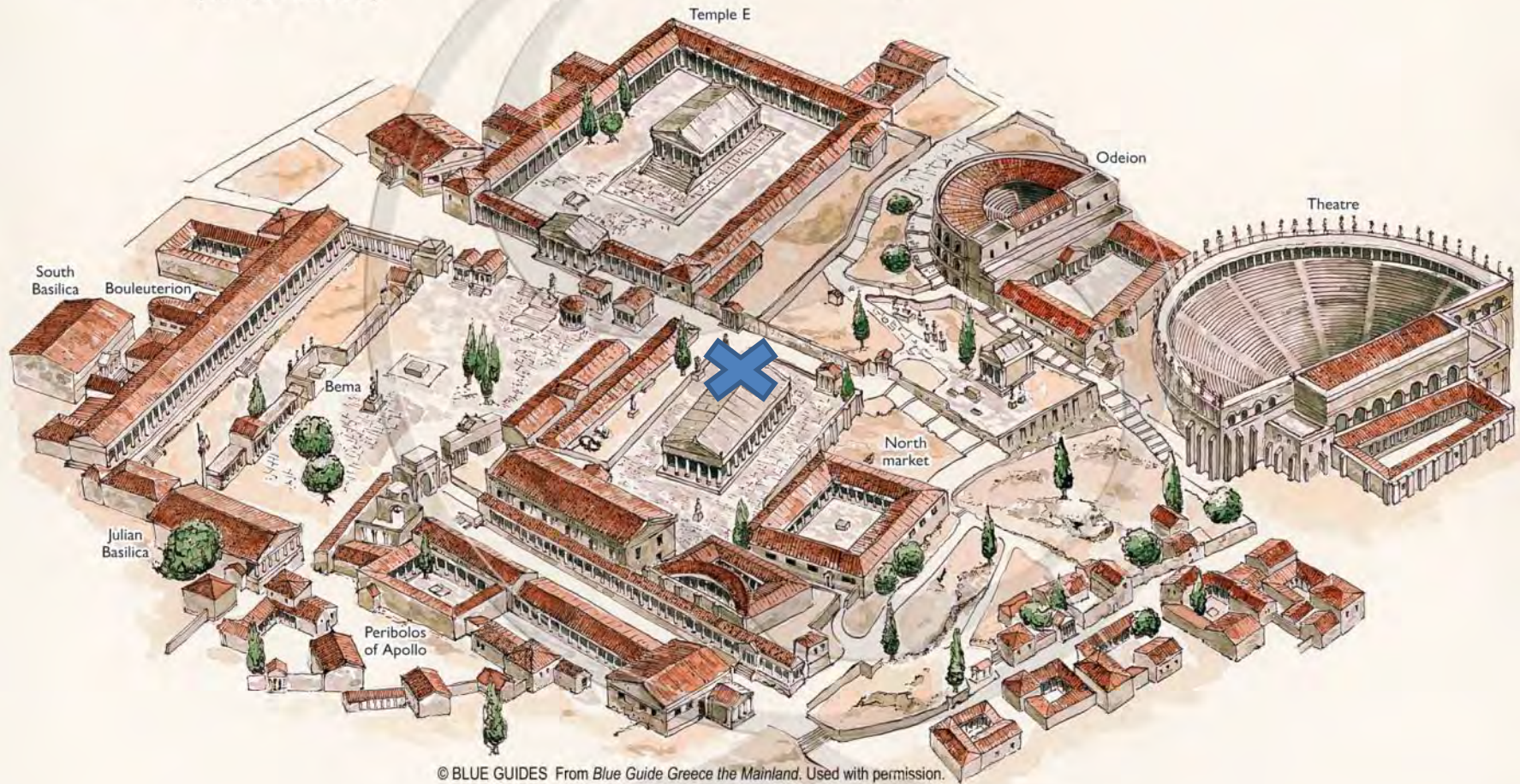
Chloe sends two people to Paul in Ephesus to report on the factions growing in the churches of Corinth (1:11-12; 16:16-18)

Main street of ancient Corinth, lined with shops



This Roman road led north to the town of Lechaion.

RECONSTRUCTION OF CORINTH
(ROMAN PERIOD)



© BLUE GUIDES From Blue Guide Greece the Mainland. Used with permission.

Reconstruction of Roman Corinth, begun in 46 BCE. From the *Blue Guide: Greece the Mainland*. Note “X” on Temple of Apollo.

A photograph of the Temple of Apollo at the Forum in Paestum, Italy. The temple's ruins, including several tall, fluted columns and a section of the entablature, are visible in the background under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, there are vibrant pink flowers with green leaves, slightly out of focus. The ground is dry and rocky.

Temple of Apollo at Forum 7th century BCE

The columns of Apollo's temple were each carved out of one block of marble, rather than the typical columns of stacked cylinders.

Close-up of shops along the Lechaion Road

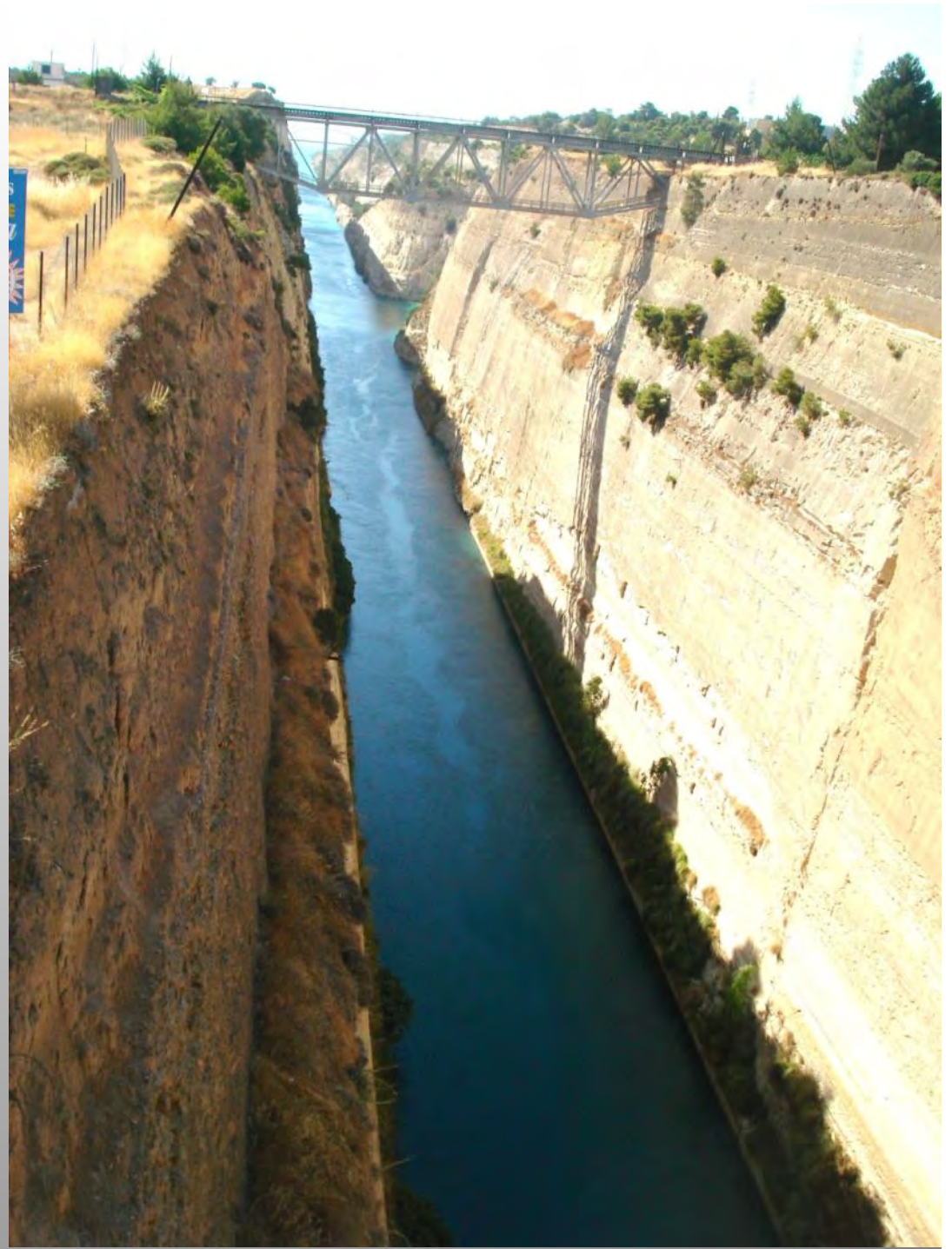


Corinthian canal

Various attempts were made in the ancient world to cut a canal through the Isthmus of Corinth, but none were successful.

The emperor Nero used hundreds of Jewish slaves captured in the Jewish-Roman war of 66-70 CE. They made a dent, but no more.

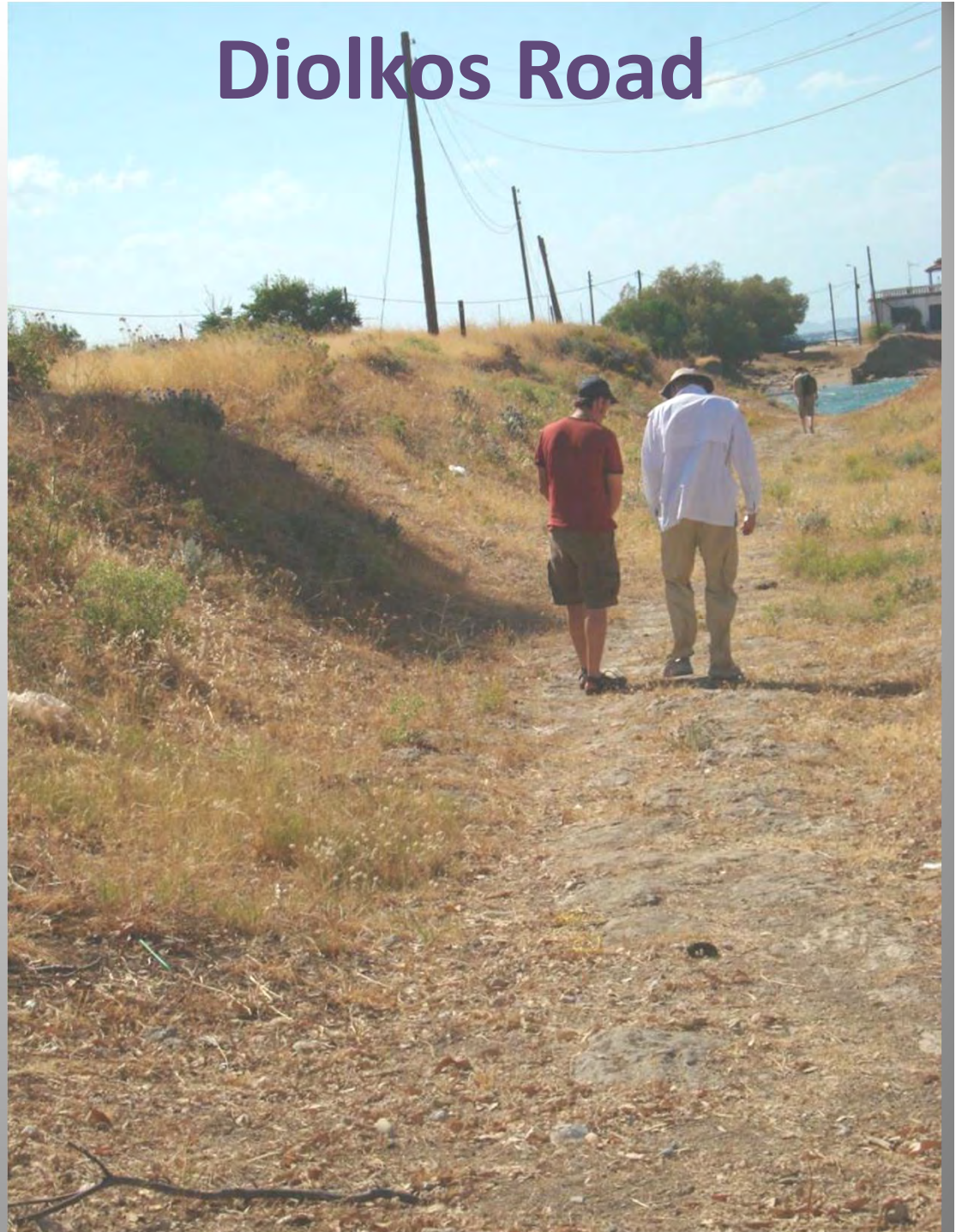
The canal was not completed until 1887.



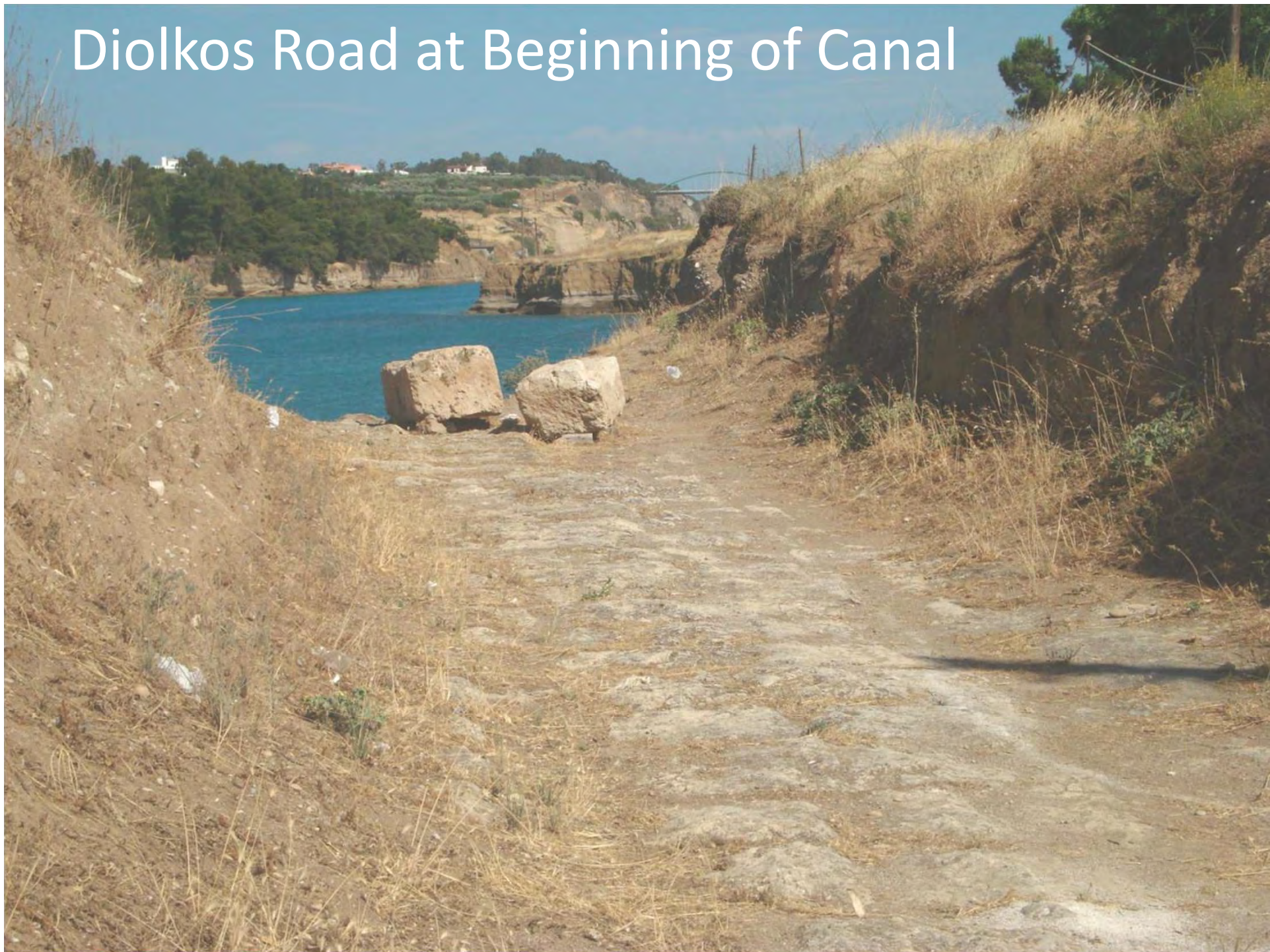
Instead of a canal, a paved road ran across the Isthmus. It was used to drag cargo from one bay to the other, and sometimes even small ships.

Dr. David Pettegrew (in red shirt) teaches Roman history at Messiah College. He recently wrote a paper on the use of the Diolkos Road. During summers he works as an archeologist at Corinth and on the island of Cyprus.

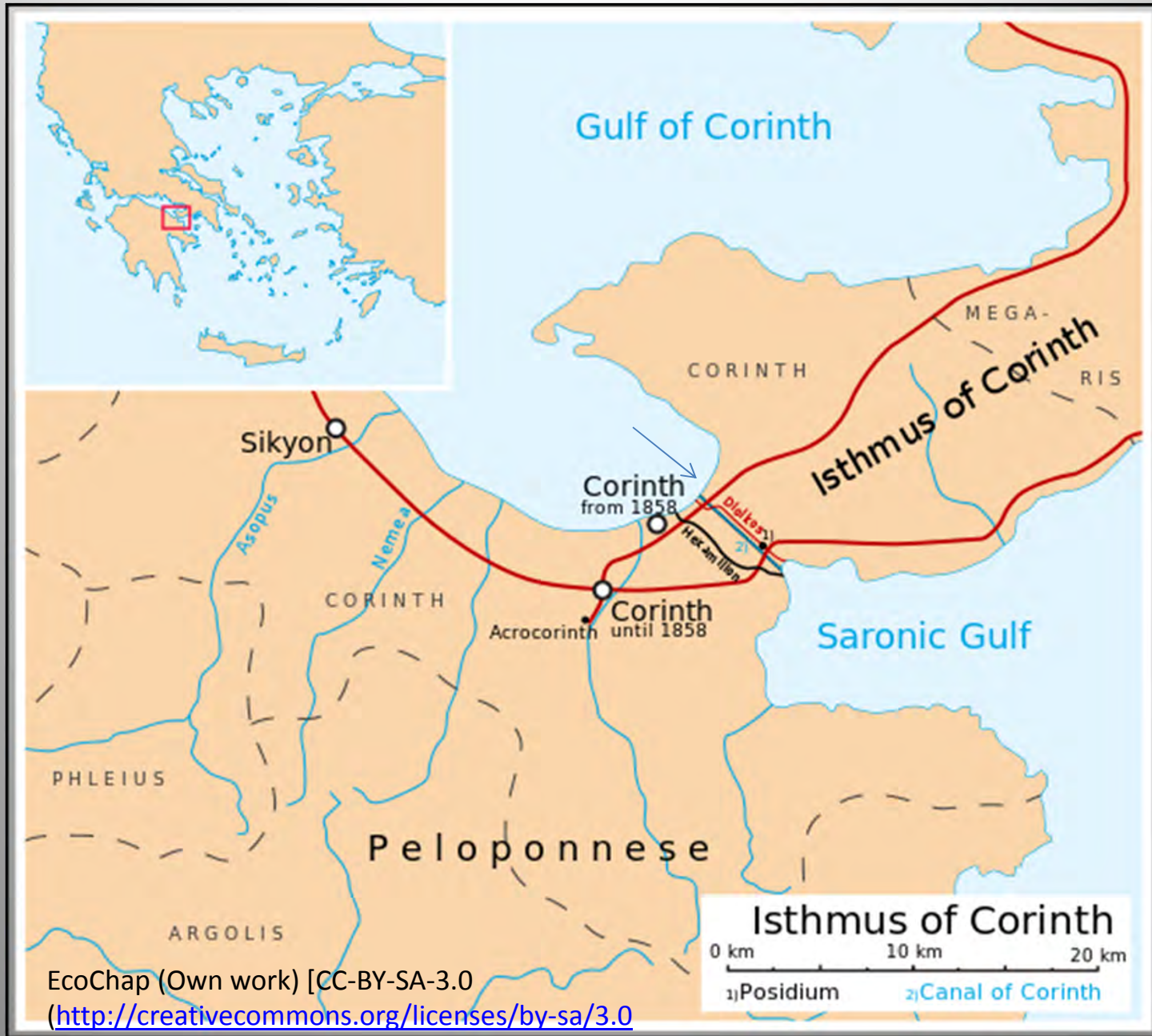
Diolkos Road



Diolkos Road at Beginning of Canal



Map showing Diolkos Road and Canal.



Modern Corinth

looking north from the Acrocorinth



Military walls and fortress on Acrocorinth



A photograph of a stone pavement inscription. The stone is rectangular and has the name 'ERASTUS' carved into it in large, capital letters. The stone is weathered and has some discoloration. It is set in a concrete base. The surrounding area is dirt and some sparse vegetation.

Pavement signed and paid for by Erastus,
the city treasurer. See Romans 16:23

But recent scholarship provides evidence that this Erastus
was a higher official and lived in the 2nd century CE.

Remains of unreconstructed theater at Corinth



Originally founded
by Greeks in the 5th
century BCE

RECONSTRUCTION OF CORINTH
(ROMAN PERIOD)



© BLUE GUIDES From Blue Guide Greece the Mainland. Used with permission.

Theater at Epidaurus in Achaia



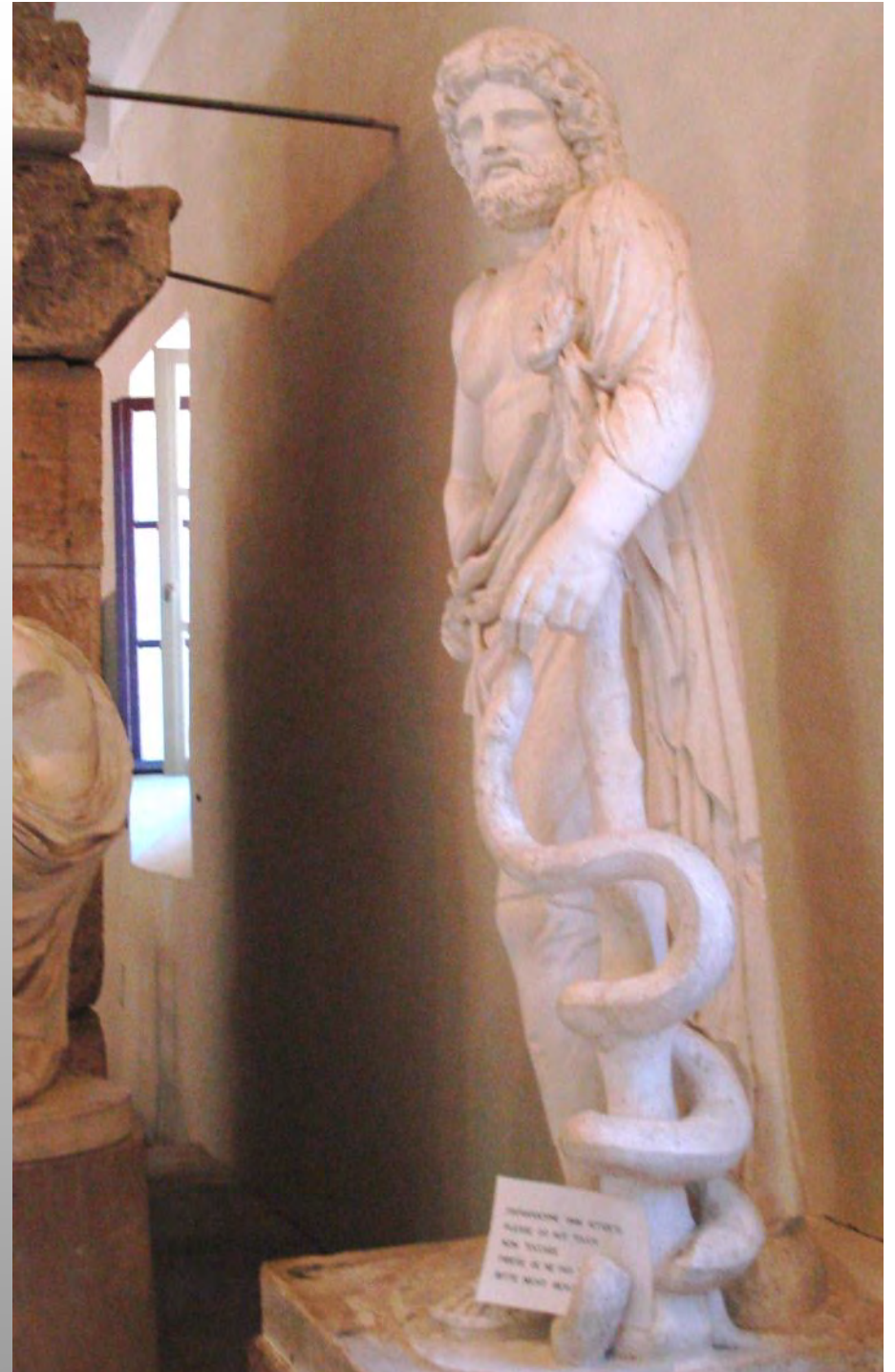
One of the best preserved Classical structures in Greece.
Hosts contemporary performances.

Statue of Asclepius with symbol of snake as healer.

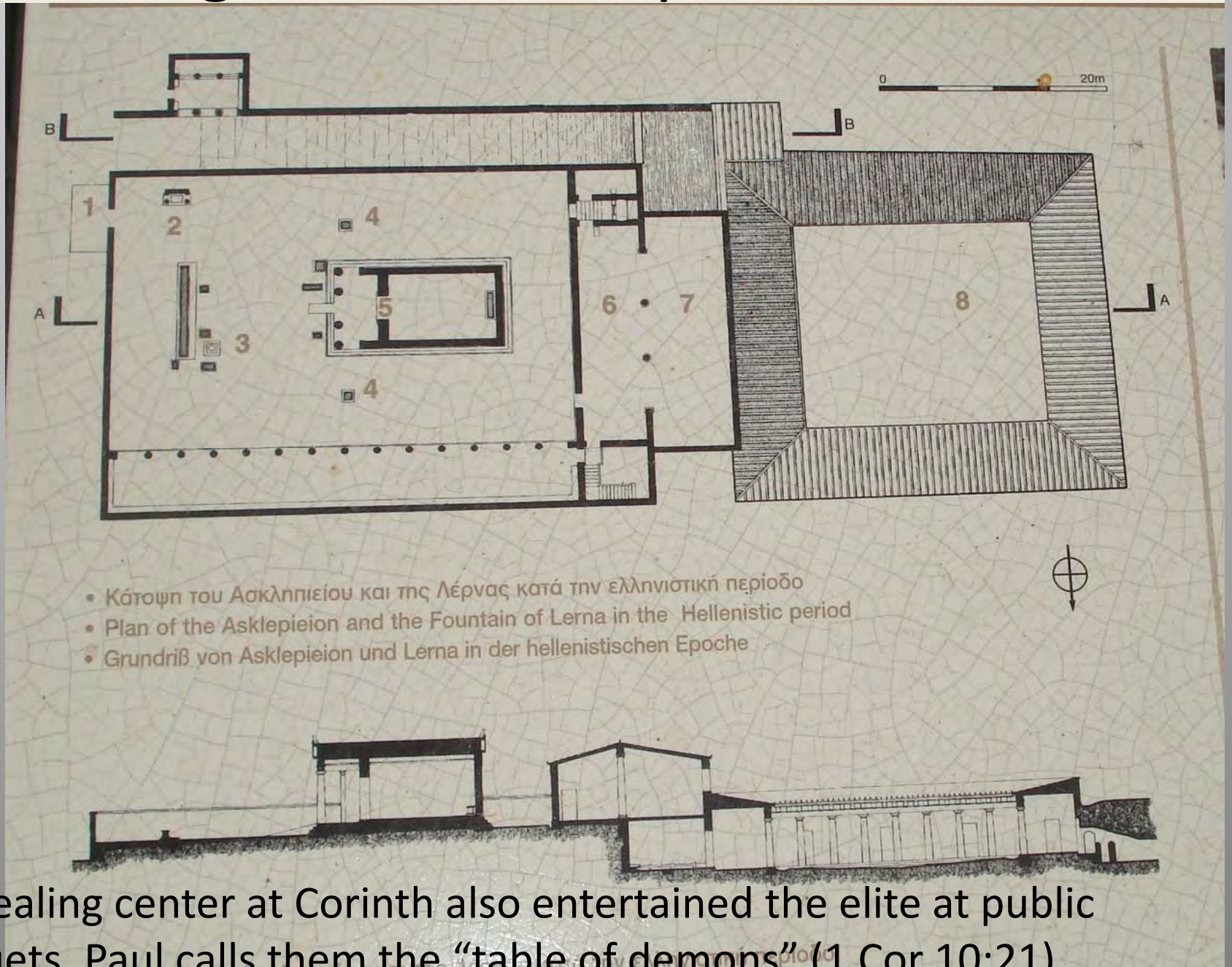
Asclepius was the son of
Apollo, who was also
a god of healing.

For several centuries,
Asclepius rivaled Jesus as a
healer. A number of Greco-
Roman cities had
Asclepions.

From the museum at Epidaurus.



Diagrams of Asclepion at Corinth



The healing center at Corinth also entertained the elite at public banquets. Paul calls them the “table of demons” (1 Cor 10:21).

Asclepius Heals!

Terra cotta body parts given to the priests at the Corinthian **Asclepion** in gratefulness to the god for healing this part of a person's anatomy.





More healings!

Asclepion at Epidaurus under reconstruction




Christian Grave

After Christianity became a state religion, Christian graves were carved out of the remains of the Corinthian Asclepion. The dead were buried in a fetal position to save space.

Here George emerges out of the grave as a reminder of the resurrection of the dead discussed in 1 Corinthians 15.



A photograph of an archaeological site. In the foreground, a man with white hair and a beard, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and khaki pants, is leaning over a low, rectangular stone structure. He appears to be examining something on the ground. In the background, another person's legs and feet are visible, standing on a higher level of the site. The ground is sandy and the walls are made of rough-hewn stone. The scene is outdoors with some greenery visible in the distance.

Olympic Games,
Nemean Games,
Isthmian Games—
The highest honor in
Corinth was to be
President of the
Isthmian Games

Athletes Wash Up in Locker Room before the Games
At remains of ancient Nemea, SW of Corinth

Putting on Olive Oil, Preparing to Run

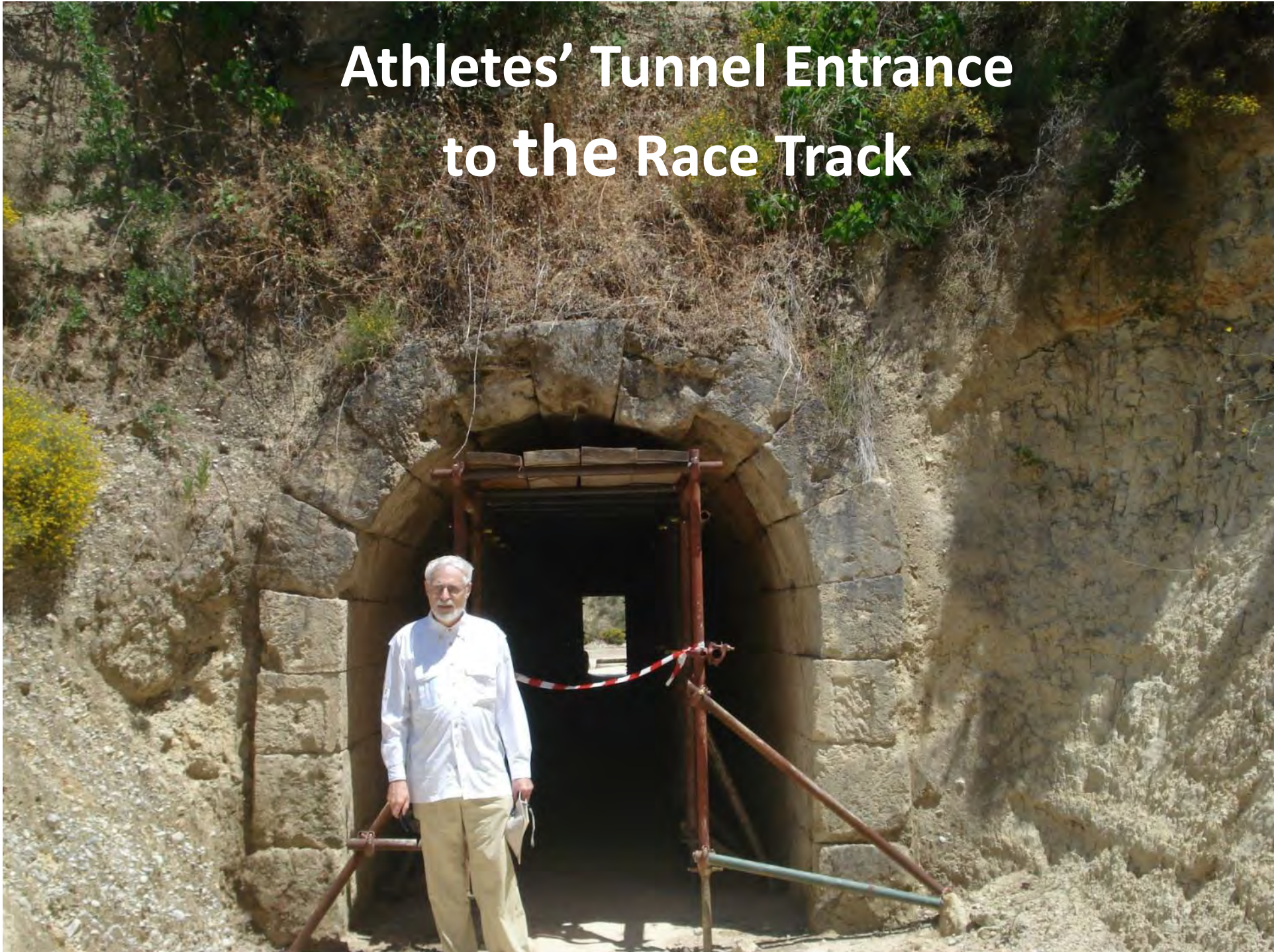


**(Partly) stripping down
before the race! (1 Cor 7:18)**



Male athletes competed nude, disrobing at this site. Jews sometimes had surgery to hide their circumcision (1 Cor 7:18).

Athletes' Tunnel Entrance to the Race Track



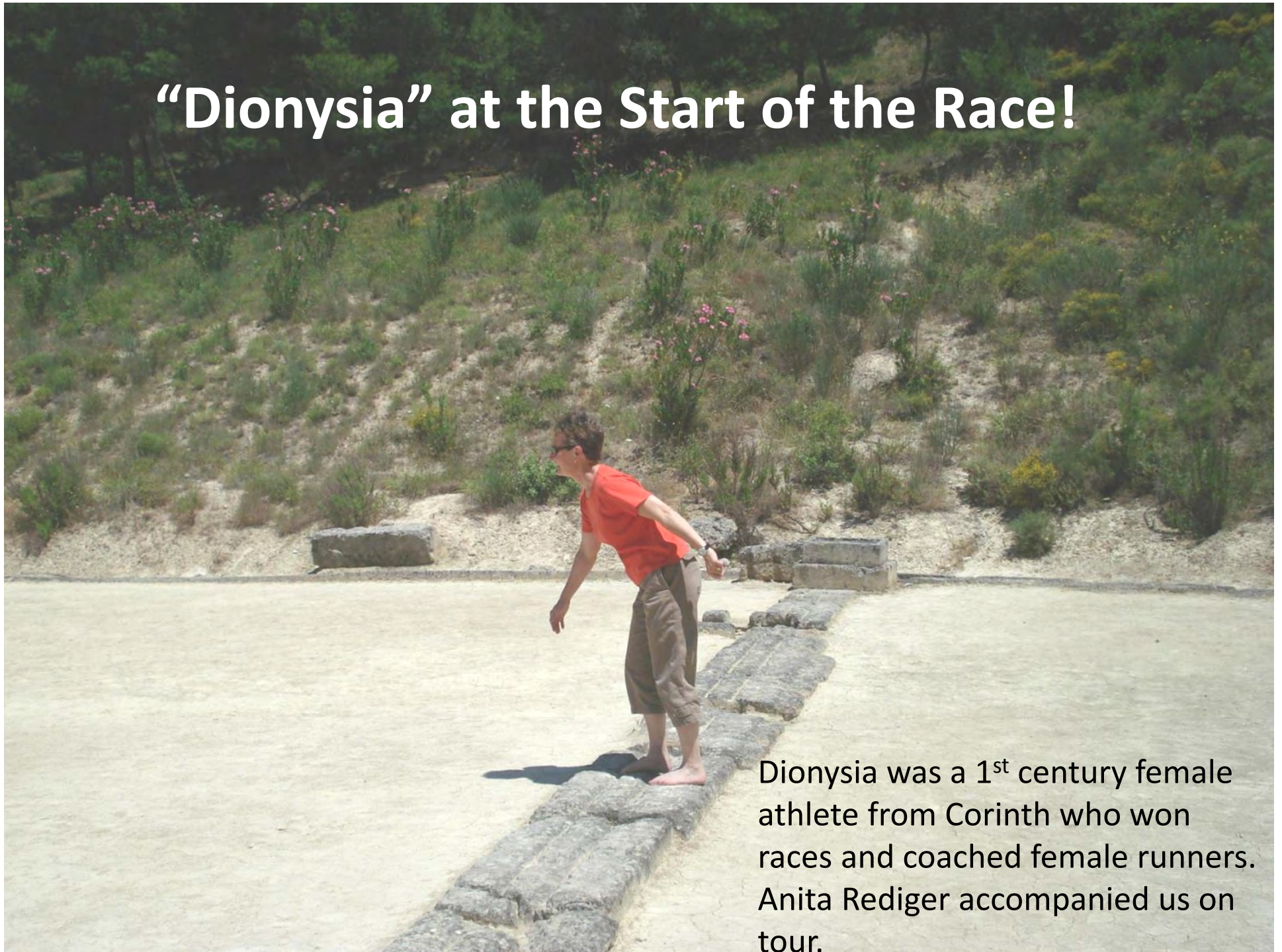


At the Starting Block

“Athletes exercise control in all things...to receive a perishable wreath...” 1 Cor 9:24-27

An elaborate system of strings allowed all athletes to start at the same instant.

“Dionysia” at the Start of the Race!



Dionysia was a 1st century female athlete from Corinth who won races and coached female runners. Anita Rediger accompanied us on tour.



Running Track with Bleachers on left



Stadium at Epidaurus with bleachers restored (left) and in process (right)

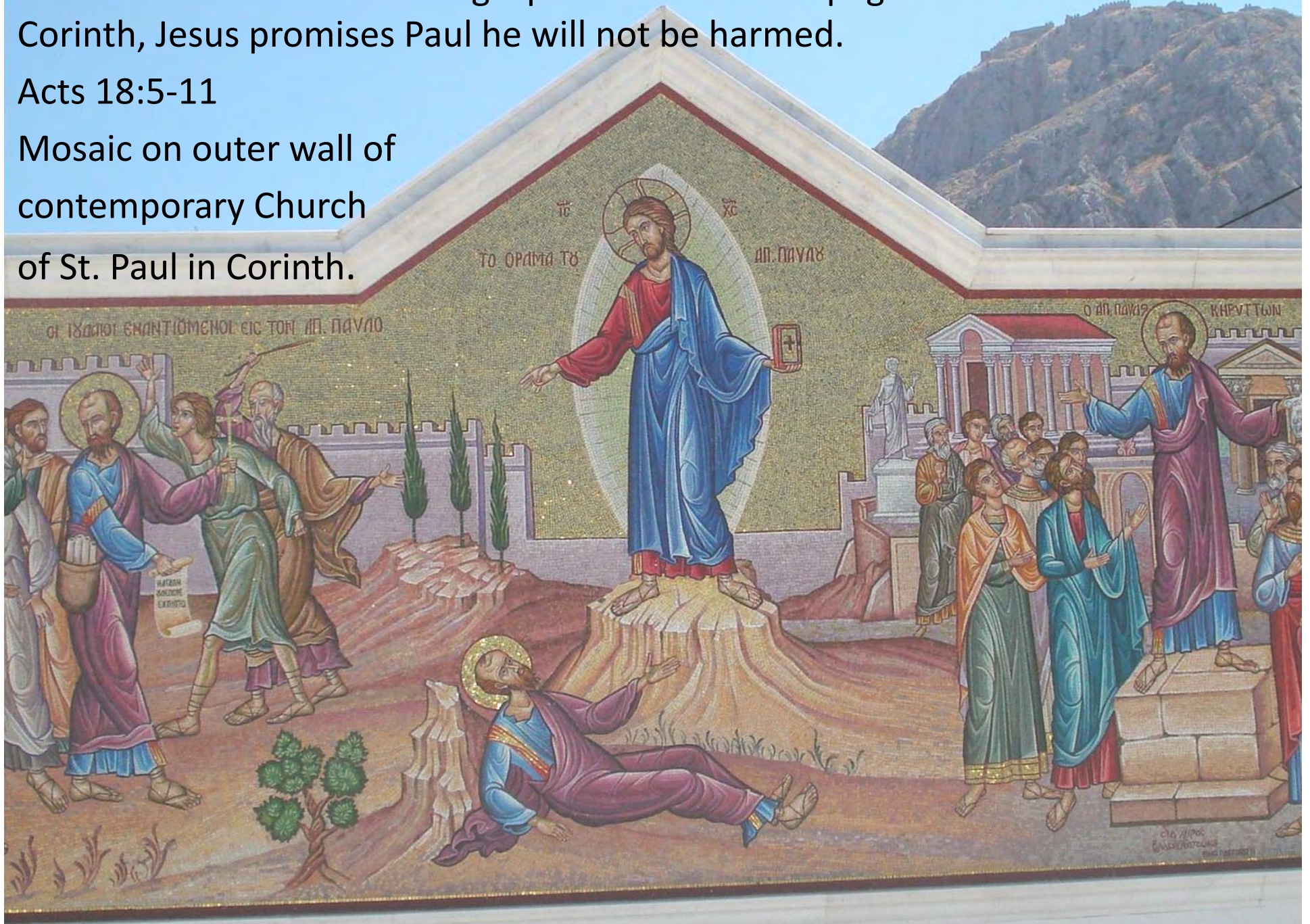


**The Athletes' Meal After the Race:
Was This Idol Meat? (1 Cor 8:1-13)**

Because of conflict over the gospel from Jews and pagans in Corinth, Jesus promises Paul he will not be harmed.

Acts 18:5-11

Mosaic on outer wall of contemporary Church of St. Paul in Corinth.

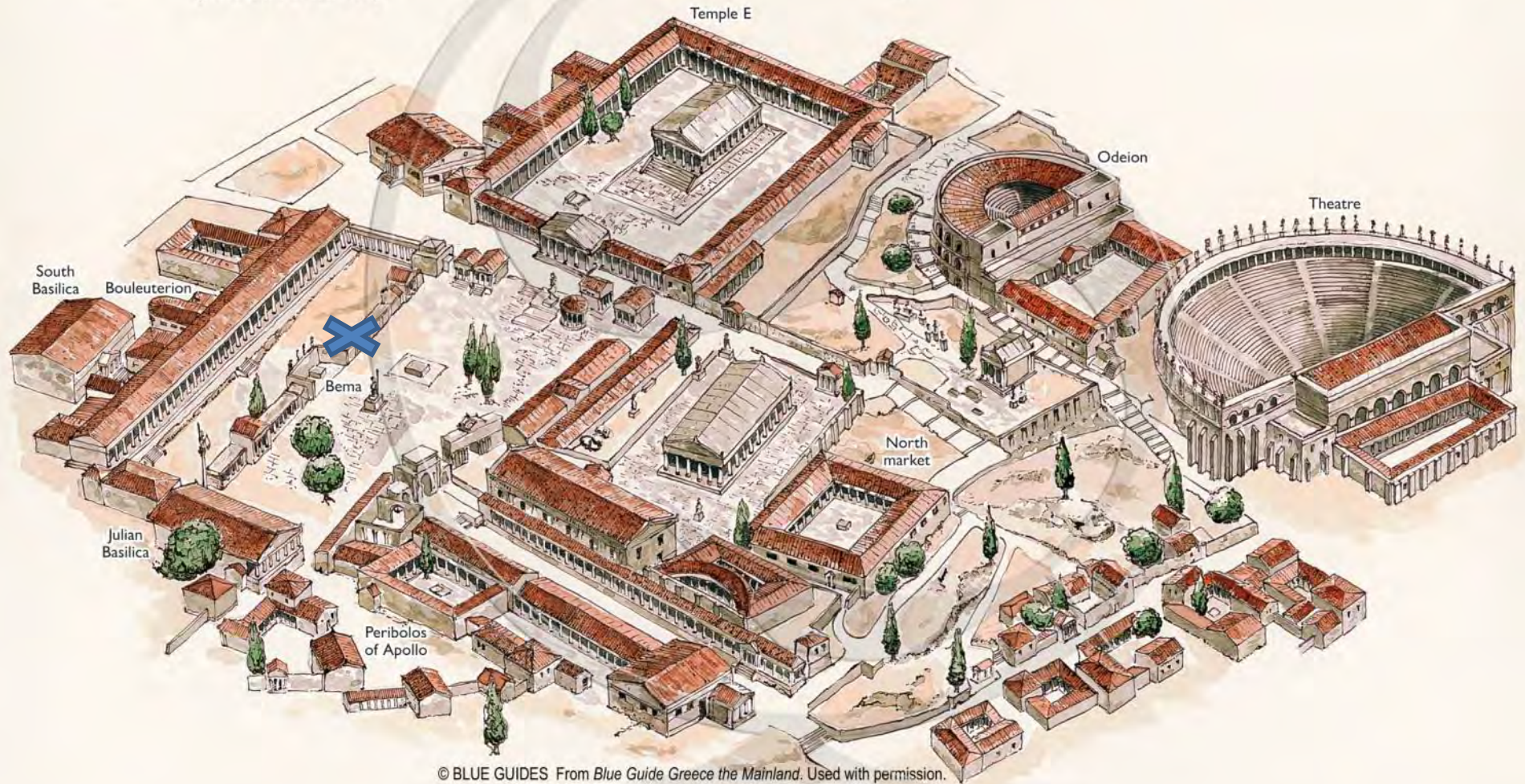


BEMA (tribunal, the place of judgment) in the Forum at Corinth

Paul was dragged here before Gallio, the governor of Achaia, by hostile Jews. Sosthenes was seized and beaten instead (Acts 18:12-17).



RECONSTRUCTION OF CORINTH
(ROMAN PERIOD)



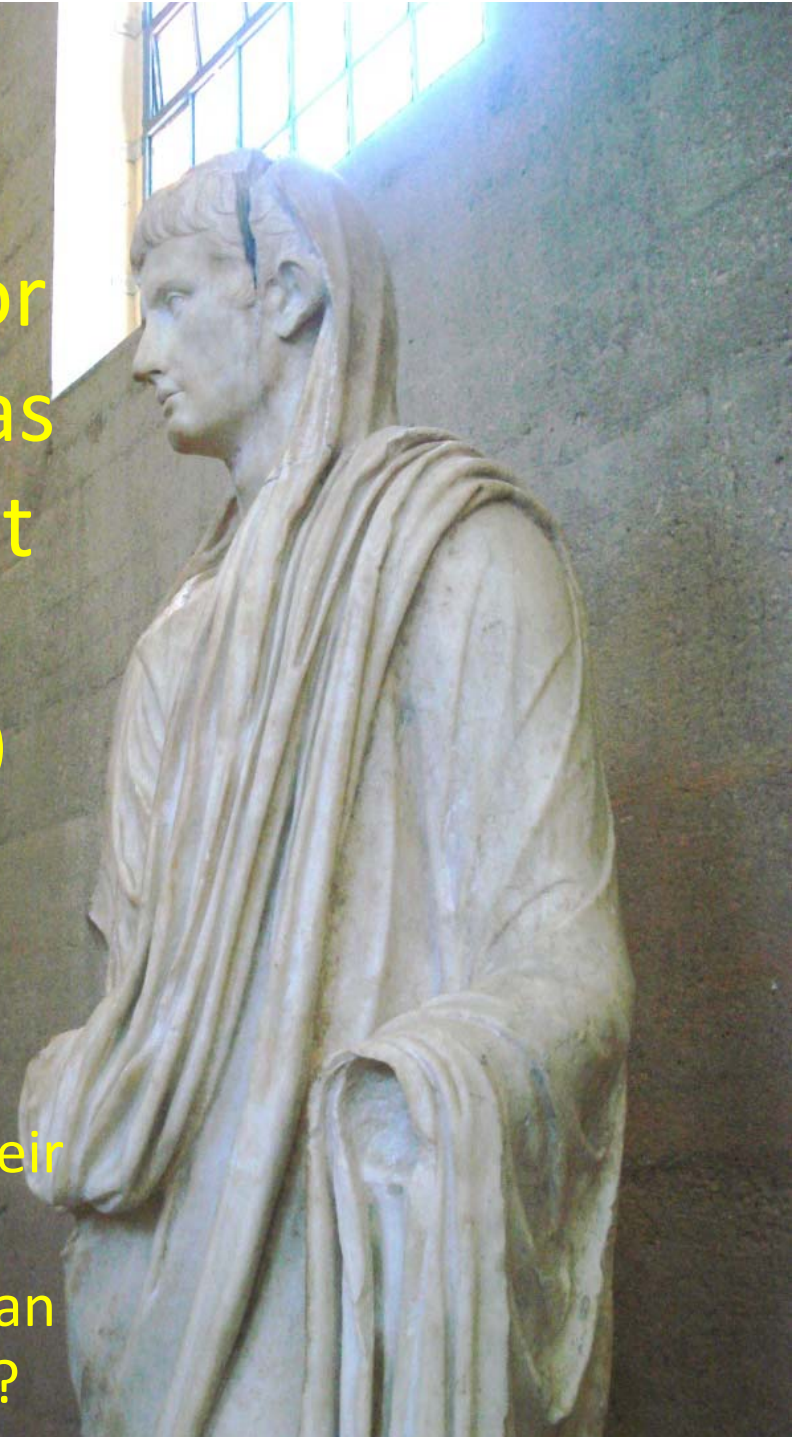
© BLUE GUIDES From *Blue Guide Greece the Mainland*. Used with permission.

Bema (Place of Judgment) in front of the South Porches.
Note X at Bema.



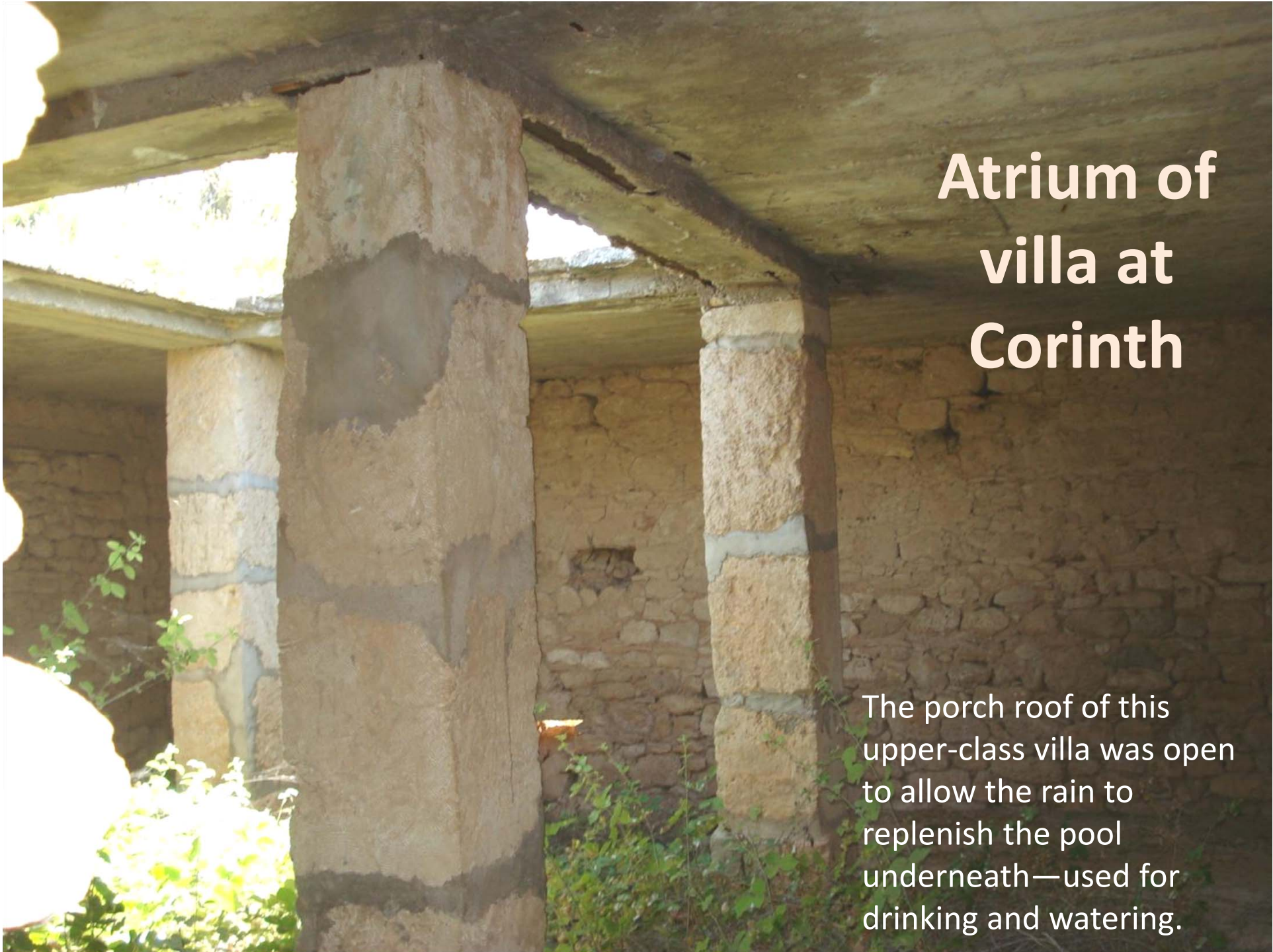
Emperor
Augustus as
High Priest
of Rome
(1 Cor 11:4)

To sacrifice
at a temple,
Roman men
always veiled their
heads.
Why not Christian
men at prayer?



First century upper class villa in Corinth. Jesus-assemblies would meet in such houses for an agape supper followed by worship and teaching. 1 Cor 11-14

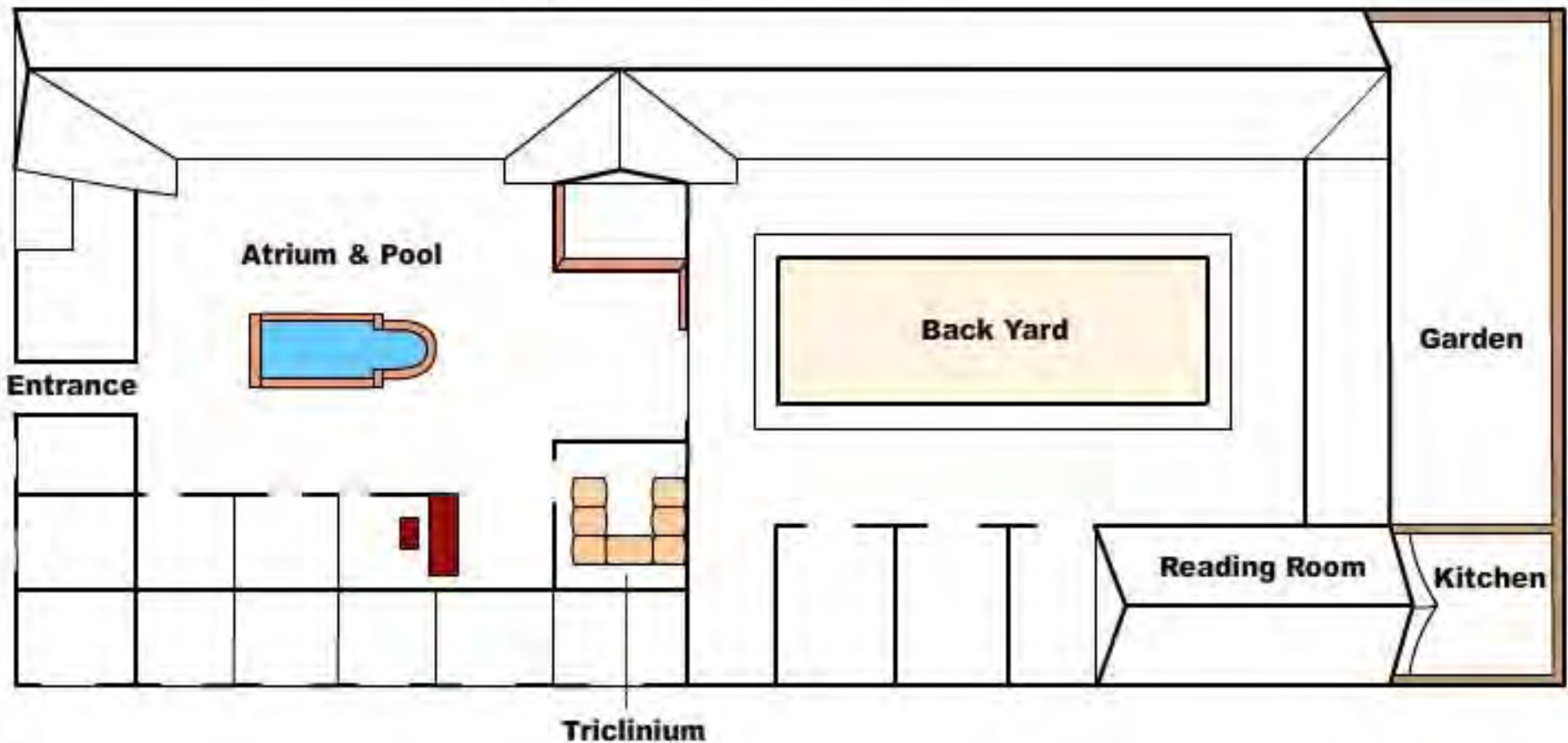




Atrium of villa at Corinth

The porch roof of this upper-class villa was open to allow the rain to replenish the pool underneath—used for drinking and watering.

Upper Class Roman Villa



This floor plan illustrates how even architecture in elite homes works against Paul's egalitarian theology of the agape meal with the Lord's Supper. The *Triclinium* was the dining room where the elite reclined on couches and were served by slaves. They ate dinner in the late afternoon before the working classes could arrive after sunset. Workers were left standing in the *Atrium* and hoping there would still be food left.

Corinth's port on the Aegean Sea. Here
Phoebe led a house church. From here
Paul's longest

Paul's co-worker
she sailed to take
letter to Rome.

Romans 16:1-2



Αρχαίο λιμάνι
Κεγχρῆων
Ancient harbor
of Cenchreae



Remains of harbor at Cenchreae
looking out toward Aegean Sea





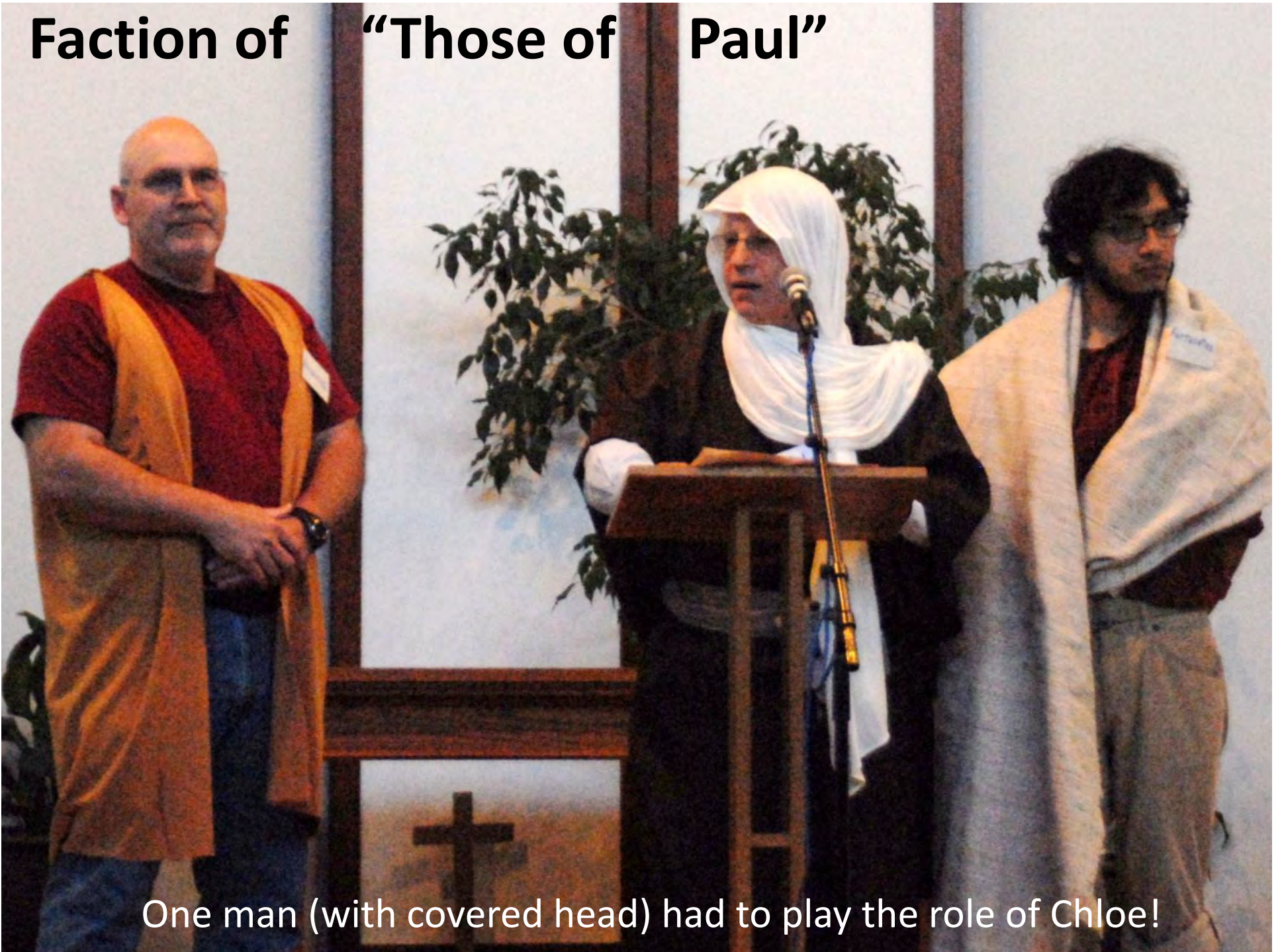
Simulating a philosophical discussion in the theater!

The End



Eastern Mennonite Seminary
Chapel
by Corinthian Letters Class
April, 2011

Faction of “Those of Paul”



One man (with covered head) had to play the role of Chloe!

Faction of

“Those of Apollos”



Faction of “Those of Cephas” (Peter)



Faction

Rivalry!



Charismatic Faction of “Those of Christ” Take Over!



Prophesying women of 1 Corinthians 11...





....take off their veils!

Roman meal with Lord's Supper



