BACKGROUND

In Corinth Paul faced a colossal challenge. Having established a ministry in Corinth and having left to continue his missionary work, Paul learned that a significant part of the congregation were following an Alexandrian Christian leader, Apollos. Apollos was a Christian orator of the old Greco-Roman school. Unlike Paul, Apollos was a cultured, polished and articulate Christian who could decimate Jewish opponents in public debate, to the delight of his followers. In the church the Corinthians began to emulate Apollos, focusing on the more demonstrative gifts at the cost of more significant things. Material success and spiritual ostentatiousness became more important than real faith. Paul countered this with the challenge of Christ crucified and the true power of the Spirit. Apollos, at least, seems to have listened, understood and withdrawn for other work. The Corinthians continued to struggle with which role model they wanted.

QUESTIONS

1. What type of role models do you look for?

2. What role models have let you down?

3. Who have been the best role models in your life?

4. Why did Paul depict the crucified Christ as the greatest role model?

WRAP UP

While the Scriptures give us many role models there is none better than Jesus Himself. The more we know of Him, His life and the personal struggles He had, the more confidence we can have in not only making it through life, but living it abundantly (John 10:10).