

PAUL AT CORINTH
ACTS 18

When Paul left Athens for Corinth, he moved from the capital of culture to the capital of commerce of the Greek world. He left a city that did not know God and came to a city that had no morals. Corinth was famous for its wealth, its luxury, and its immorality. Paul entered upon a mission that was to be echoed around the world by means of the peoples coming to and going out of the city of Corinth. Text is Acts 18.

- I. Association with Aquila and Priscilla (18:1-4).
 - A. Aquila and Priscilla had fled from Rome.
 - 1. He stayed with them, seeing they were tent-makers like Paul.
 - 2. Paul was a tent-maker by trade.
 - a. Every Jewish boy was taught a trade.
 - b. “He that teacheth not his son a trade teacheth him to be a thief.”
 - 3. Aquila and Priscilla were to become his companions and fellow workers.
 - 4. We do not know when they became Christians.
 - B. Paul reasoned in the synagogue (18:4).
 - 1. Synagogue gave him a base for preaching the gospel.
 - 2. Reason means to discuss the taught word, with the possibility of confrontation from individuals.
 - 3. Persuaded–pleaded with them to accept his teachings.
 - 4. Perhaps we don’t do enough persuading today (II Cor. 5:11).
- II. Silas and Timothy arrive (18:5-8)
 - A. Timothy had been in Thessalonica and brought encouraging news.
 - 1. Their joining Paul was a great source of encouragement to him.
 - 2. Evidently relieved him of some anxiety
 - 3. He took on new life and renewed courage.
 - B. Pressed in the spirit (constrained by the word).
 - 1. He became more fully engrossed with the word.
 - 2. The idea seems to be that he devoted himself exclusively to preaching.
 - 3. Perhaps Silas and timothy brought financial support for Paul.
 - C. They opposed themselves (v.6)
 - 1. They opposed or resisted him—or his message.
 - 2. Resisted is a military term implying an organized and systematic resistance.
 - 3. Seems to mean that the Jews set themselves in array against the missionaries and their gospel.
 - 4. They were blaspheming, or reviling, or become abusive toward Paul.
 - 5. They were beyond the point of listening to reason and sound argument and it was futile to attempt such any further.
 - 6. Paul shook his raiment.
 - a. Acts 13:51
 - b. Very likely that he literally took off his outer garment and began shaking his dust off.
 - c. Your blood be upon your own heads. I am no longer responsible.
 - d. Ezek: 33:8,9
 - 7. Go unto the Gentiles.
 - D. House of Justus.
 - 1. Paul went next door to continue preaching the gospel.
 - 2. Crispus, ruler of the synagogue became a Christian..
 - 3. Paul baptized him (I Cor. 1:14)
 - 4. Many of the Corinthians heard...believed...baptized.
 - 5. What a tribute to the power of the gospel.

III. Vision of Paul (18:9-11)

A. Be Not Afraid.

1. Stop being afraid.
2. I Cor. 2:3

B. Speak and hold not thy peace.

1. Say what needs to be said.
2. Isaiah 58:1 *“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”*

C. I am with thee.

1. Foundation for Paul’s confidence.
2. Does not mean that harm would not be attempted, but that efforts to that end would be unsuccessful.
3. Many will obey the gospel if given the opportunity.
4. Paul stayed there 1 ½ years.

IV. Accusation Before Gallio.

A. Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul.

1. They accused him of persuading men to worship contrary to the law of Moses.
2. Gallio would have none of it.
3. If it were civil or criminal, yes. Otherwise, NO!
4. He ran them out of his court.

B. Sosthenes beaten (v.17).

1. It is possible that Sosthenes was there to represent the Jews before the court.
2. Perhaps being slow to leave the court caused the lictors to use force on him to get him to leave.
3. Could have been the mob of Jews beating him for whatever reason.
4. Gallio would not get involved in these matters.

V. Paul continues his journey.

A. Paul was able to remain as long as he chose.

1. Left and journeyed to Syria
2. He was returning home to give a report.
3. What about the vow?
 - a. Most writers think it was a Nazarite vow.
 - b. When a temporary vow was completed, the hair was to be shaved off.
 - c. Not sure the motive.

4. Paul at Ephesus (18:19-21)

- a. KJV states, “he had to be in Jerusalem.”
- b. Others say he wanted to report to the church in Antioch.
- c. Paul was able to return again and stay 3 years. (Acts 20:31).

B. Third Missionary Journey (18:23-21:16)

1. Apollos

- a. Who he was
- b. What he lacked
- c. What he did

Concl: Paul and his work in Corinth, and his completion of the 2nd. missionary journey. He preached the gospel wherever he went and souls were added to the church. We need to be like those in Acts 18:8 . . . hearing..believed...were baptized. We should never be like those in Acts 18:6 who were beyond the point of listening to reason and sound argument.