

## Dealing with Discouragement?

Acts 18:1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. 4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. 5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. 6 But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” 7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. 8 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized. 9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. 10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” 11 So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. 12 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court. 13 “This man,” they charged, “is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.” 14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. 15 But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law – settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.” 16 So he had them ejected from the court. 17 Then they all turned on Sosthenes the synagogue ruler and beat him in front of the court. But Gallio showed no concern whatever. 18 Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, . . .

### The Background

#### Paul’s Struggles –

1Cor. 2:3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

#### The City of Corinth

A great city but a “\_\_\_ city.” -- Population of 200,000. Founded by Julius Caesar in 46 AD. (What happens in Corinth, stays in Corinth!)

This was a “\_\_\_-\_\_\_” for the elite of the Roman Empire and the \_\_\_ of the Isthmian games; held the summer of 51 AD.

“A Corinthian” was a sexually \_\_\_ person and their goddess was \_\_\_.

(What a contrast for Paul: Athens to Corinth!)

### To Help Paul through His Discouragement . . .

1. God provided \_\_\_\_\_ – Aquila and Priscilla

Acts 18: 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,

2. God provided \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 18: 3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

3. God provided a \_\_\_\_\_ .

Acts 18:4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, . . .

4. God provided \_\_\_\_\_ .

Acts 18:5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.(Phil.4:15)

5. God provided \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ ministry.

Acts 18:8 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

6. God provided a \_\_\_\_\_ to strengthen Paul.

Acts 18:9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. 10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.”

-- A confirmation in \_\_\_\_\_

-- A promise of \_\_\_\_\_

-- A promise of \_\_\_\_\_

-- A promise of “\_\_\_\_\_”

God had \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ plans for Paul in Corinth and wanted him to \_\_\_\_\_ it through. (Several of Paul’s letters were written here.)

7. God provided the \_\_\_\_\_ leaders for the city so that Paul could speak \_\_\_\_\_ (and He provide a little “vengeance”)

### Lessons I Learn

1. Everyone gets \_\_\_\_\_ and weary at times but God \_\_\_\_\_ about you and He \_\_\_\_\_ what you need.

1Cor. 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

2. All people \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and we should not assume that we couldn’t reach them because we are not \_\_\_\_\_ them. Paul’s greatest ministry on this adventure was to people much \_\_\_\_\_ himself.

3. Many times the best way to handle discouragement is to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.