

ACTS 18:1-17

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 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 Messiah.⁶ But when they 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 innocent of it. 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 leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul 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 in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

¹² While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment.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 them, “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 drove them off.¹⁷ Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

| When has someone been a helper or encourager to you and the work you were
| doing? Can you think of a recent example to share?

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| How does God encourage Paul by bringing the people mentioned in verses 1-5
| around him?

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| How does Paul balance tentmaking with preaching in verses 3-5? Why do you
| think he worked in this way (1 Thessalonians 2:9)? How might working in the
| marketplace and in vocational ministry help or limit his leadership in the local
| church of Corinth?

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| Given the difficult experiences that Paul had endured in other cities, how was
| the Lord's message a great encouragement to Paul (verses 9-10)? How does God
| protect Paul when he is charged by the Jews before the proconsul, Gallio?

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| How would you describe the focus on Paul's mission and ministry efforts during
| his year and a half in Corinth? In verse 6, how do the Jews respond to Paul's
| message, and what does Paul do as a result?

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| How have others encouraged and helped you when ministry gets frustrating?

DAILY READINGS

1. LUKE 12:1-12
2. JOHN 15:18-27
3. 1 PETER 5:6-11
4. 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9
5. 2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-11
6. 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10
7. ACTS 18:1-17