

ACTS: Church On Mission

Part 48- Continuing In Difficulty

Acts 18:1-17 “After this Paul left Athens & went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy w/ his wife Priscilla, because Claudius & commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, & because he was of the same trade he stayed w/ them & worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, & tried to persuade Jews & Greeks. When Silas & Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied w/ the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. And when they opposed & reviled him, he shook out his garments & said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." And he left there & went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed & were baptized. And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking & do not be silent, for I am w/ you, & no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." And he stayed a year & six months, teaching the word of God among them. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul & brought him before the tribunal, saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law." But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. But since it is a matter of questions about words & names & your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things." And he drove them from the tribunal. And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, & beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.”

- 1 Corinthians 11:17- When they met together it was worse...
- 1 Corinthians 11:20-22- “When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What!

Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God & humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.”

- 1 Corinthians 6:5-8- “I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, & that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all w/ one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong & defraud--even your own brothers!”
- 1 Corinthians 5:1-2- “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, & of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? Let him who has done this be removed from among you.” (VS. 6- boasting about this)

1. Friends Are Essential

- VS. 2-3- Aquila & Priscilla (later relationship moments...)
- It's interesting that it doesn't say “Paul met” but “found”
- VS. 2- “found”= like looking for a lost coin, Paul knew that God had relationships for Him in the city so He went to find them
- VS. 5- Silas & Timothy arrive (later moments)
- 1 Peter 5:8- “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

2. Handle Rejection Well

- VS. 5-8- Paul would now give his attention to the Gentiles
- You should know that Paul couldn't have done this easily
- Philippians 3:5-6- “circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless...”
- Matthew 10:14- “And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:5-9- “What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to

each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, & each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.”

3. Do Not Fear BECAUSE Jesus Is Here

- VS. 9-10a- “And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking & do not be silent, for I am w/ you, & no one will attack you to harm you...”
- Isaiah 44:8- “Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old & declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

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4. Focus On The Long Term/Big Picture

5. Stay Committed To The Gospel

- 1 Corinthians 2:2- “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ & him crucified.”

6. Know Jesus Has People In This City

- Psalms 127:1- “A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”

7. Remember That It’s Worth It

- Jesus often compares ministry to gardening...one squash! 😊
- VS. 8a- “Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together w/ his entire household” (family, slaves, etc...)
- VS. 8b- “many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed & were baptized.”