

CP - 11/19/23

Acts 18:1–11 - The Gospel in Corinth

1. Paul's arrival in Corinth (Acts 18:1–3)

- Paul condition and decision (1 Corinthians 2:1–5)
 - Why did Paul come in weakness, fear, and with much trembling?
 - Was he lonely? The trip so far? Lack of traction? Frustration?
 - The condition of the city? (Immorality, idolatry, pride)
 - Corinth - leading commercial city in Greece - two ports, sailors everywhere
 - Athens = Boston (intellectual), Corinth = NY (commercial)
 - Ephesus = LA (pop culture and occult center), Rome = DC (political)
 - Connected mainland Greece to the Peloponnesian Peninsula
 - Commanded trade from all directions
 - Seat of the Proconsul
 - Destroyed by Romans in 146 BC but rebuilt by Julius Caesar
 - Home of Acropolis — Aphrodite the goddess of love — 1000 prostitutes
 - Home of the Isthmian Games— second to the Olympics
 - To live immorally was known as to live “Corinthian”
 - Corinth was openly immoral— normal way to life (incest, 1 Corinthians 5)
 - Corinth was proud — wealthy and self-exalting
 - Romans 1:18-32
- **Paul decided to know nothing but Christ and Him crucified**
 - What is the solution to immorality, idolatry, and pride? JESUS
 - He may have been overwhelmed, but he knew Jesus was the only hope!
- Paul's meets new friends (2-3)
 - Aquila and Priscilla
 - Expelled from Rome because of “Christus”
 - Already believers because church existed in Rome already
 - Became lifelong friends and partners in the gospel (Romans 16:3-4, 1 Corinthians 16 - house church)
- Custom to sit in the synagogue according to your trade
- Leather workers— tentmakers
- Paul never wanted to burden a local body so he worked to supply his needs

2. Paul's witness in Corinth (Acts 18:4–8)

- Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and worked during the week
 - Silas and Timothy join him and bring him a gift from Macedonia (2 Cor. 11:9)
 - Paul was able to preach full time while in Corinth
- Paul is opposed and turns to the Gentiles (6)
 - Opposed = resisted = to arrange in battle array
 - Paul shook the dust off his garments = Jewish symbol of rejection
 - “Your blood be on your own heads” (Echoes Ezekiel 33:2–5)
 - **All people held responsible for what they do with Jesus and gospel!**
 - Regardless if we believe or not, we will stand before Jesus! (Acts 17:30–31)
 - Man's Responsibility
- Paul went across the street
 - The first converts in Corinth - Titiues Justus --- worshipper of God --- attached himself to God and the synagogue
 - Many heard, believed, and were baptized (notice the order)

3. The Lord's encouragement in Corinth (9-11)

- one of six vision Paul had of Christ
- Command — “Do not be afraid and do not be silent”
 - Helps us remember that Paul was human
 - Seems to indicate that he had planned to keep it quiet for a little while
- Promises
 - “I am with you” (Presence) - see 2 Timothy 4:16–18
 - “No one will harm you “ (Protection) - see Isaiah 54:7
 - “I have many people in this city” (Purpose) (I'm not done with you) - see Acts 13:48
 - There are those i've appointed that have yet to believe
 - Necessity for preaching the gospel
 - This text speaks of 2 inscrutable truths that it does not try to harmonize
 - Both are true
 - God elects/appoints men to salvation? YES
 - Man will be held responsible to his actions/decisions? YES
 - Anytime that God makes Himself known on our level we must leave room for paradox
 - Who wrote Acts?
 - How was Jesus fully God and fully man?
 - Who lives the Christian life out?
 - Am I already sanctified or am I being sanctified?
 - If you get saved it's because of God's election, if you die in your lost condition it's because you didn't believe.
 - It's not up to us to figure it out....
 - The Bible says “whosoever”

*** These promises encouraged Paul enough to continue on for another year and a half.**

Application:

***We see Paul get discouraged and deflated, which means we do as well.**

- Spurgeon — “ I am subject of depressions of spirit so fearful that ti hope none of you ever get to such extremes of wretchedness as I go to”
- “The road to sorrow has been well trodden, it is the regular sheep track to heaven, and all the flow of God have had to pass along it”

***How do we combat it?**

- Daily fill our minds with the promises of God
- He has promised you His presence, protection, and purpose
- Spurgeon — “An ointment for every wound, a cordial for every faintness, a remedy for every disease. Blessed is he who is skilled in heavenly pharmacy and knows how to lay hold of the healing futures of the promises of God”
- “To be cast down is often the best thing that could happen to us”
- leaning on the cane of God's grace
- mediate on the promises of God, draw near to Jesus, and trust in God's providence
- What this means is don't skip worship... sit under scripture... plug into community
- Press in to God's Word, be around God's people, and allow the Lord of promises to rejuvenate you