

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Always Too Soon To Quit"
Acts 18:1-18
Study-33

Acts 18:9 "The Great Apostle Paul Was Down, discouraged, and afraid!"
1 Corinthians 2:3

Paul would write **14** of the **27 NT books**. Paul wrote **1st and 2nd Thessalonians** during this mission trip and **Romans** on a later visit to Corinth.

Matthew 6:34 "So do not worry about tomorrow;

Thought Of Our Passage: "Believers Will Face Opposition In Proclaiming Jesus And God Will Lead Us Both Through His Word And People"

- 1. Verses 1-5 Friends**
- 2. Verses 6-8 Opposition**
- 3. Verses 9-18 Assurance**

1. Verses 1-5 Friends:

Acts 18:1 After these things he left Athens – Context: Luke is referring to Paul's difficult ministry in Athens recorded in **Acts 17:15-34**. Paul ministered alone in Athens, which was the intellectual center of the world. **Acts 17:15-16**

Map Athens to Corinth: he left Athens and went to Corinth. Now Paul travels (Walks) west 50 miles to Corinth.

Athens – Was an Intellectual Center; **Corinth** – Was a Commercial Center: Cosmopolitan Center.

Pictures of Corinth: Corinth, Grecian city that was wealthy and important.

Last Picture: Erastus, the city treasurer (Corinth), mentioned in **Romans 16:23** (Found a plaque with his name on it below the ruins.

Corinth Was A Cosmopolitan City - Corinth, one of the greatest cities of Paul's day, $\frac{3}{4}$ million people. 200,000 freedmen and 500,000 slaves.

A city of Culture – A depository of Art, The center of **Architecture** which has never surpassed the Corinthian's Column.

Strange philosophies and new religions came to Corinth and found a home there.

Corinth Was A Commercial City - A place where East and West met.

Corinth was famous for several things: **Bronze and pottery work**; its great **sporting events** that were comparable to the Olympics:

Corinth was a corrupt city – known as a city of vice.

Acts 18:2 Encouragement Through Friendship: And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus. Luke tells us that Paul met this man (Acts 18:2).

Aquila (Husband) Aquila - "*an eagle*" - We need some watchmen
Priscilla (Wife) Priscilla - "*ancient*" - A godly character never goes out of style.

having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, They had resided in Rome. AD 49, Claudius had issued an edict banishing the Jews out of Rome.

Acts 18:3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them - This couple came into contact with Paul. They opened their heart and home to Paul.

Their names are mentioned **6 times**. **Priscilla's** name is mentioned first **4 times!**

and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers. Our Vocation is Christ, Our Occupation is _____?

Acts 18:4 reasoning in the synagogue – Reasoning: "*to say thoroughly, discuss, preach (unto), reason.*"

every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks – Persuade: "*to convince (by argument), to assure, to believe*"

Acts 18:5 Encouragement Through Friendship: when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, brought good news
1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, Literally "*holding himself to the Word*"

Silas and Timothy brought Financial Aid: 2 Corinthians 11:9; 1 Corinthians 9:14

that Jesus was the Christ. Message: Jesus is the Messiah.

2. Verses 6-8 Opposition:

Acts 18:6 But when they resisted and blasphemed, "to slander, hence, to speak lightly or profanely of sacred things"

Whenever God is blessing a ministry, you can expect increased opposition as well as increased opportunities. 1 Corinthians 16:9

he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads! I am clean. "that you are to blame for your own judgment. You had the opportunity to be saved, but you turned it down."
Ezekiel 3:18

From now on I will go to the Gentiles." (Rabbi was going to the Gentiles) Paul had made this statement to the Jews. **Acts 13:46**

Acts 18:7 Titius Justus, Some Bible scholars think his full name was **"Gaius Titus Justus"** and that he was referred to in **Romans 16:23** **"Gaius my host"** Erastus, the city treasurer mentioned

Closed Door Means A New Open Door: whose house was next to the synagogue.

Acts 18:8 No wonder the Synagogue official got saved; he was next door to where God was working.

Crispus the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, Paul personally baptized him **1 Corinthians 1:14**

and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.

3. Verses 9-18 Assurance:

Acts 18:9 God Directs Paul: Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, You are left alone with your thoughts, fears, and mistakes.

God Exhorts Paul: #1 "Do not be afraid any longer, This means, of course, that Paul was afraid. **1 Corinthians 2:3**

God Exhorts Paul: #2 but go on speaking and do not be silent; You are to keep on speaking the Word, and not stop. **Romans 10:17**

During this time, Paul kept on writing: Paul wrote **1 Thessalonians** (AD 52) and **2 Thessalonians** (AD 53)

Acts 18:10 God Exhorts Paul: #3 for I am with you, What more would Paul need? **Hebrews 13:5, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"**

God Exhorts Paul #4 and no man will attack you in order to harm you, How this word put a smile on Paul's face. **Acts 18:12**

for I have many people in this city." God has always had His own in many places.

2 Timothy 2:19 God's church is made up of people who were **Ephesians 1:4; Acts 13:48;** God told Elijah - **1 Kings 19:18**

Acts 18:11 And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. Paul had been there for some time, about two years. **52-54 AD**

Acts 18:12 Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, a high-ranking official in ancient Rome who governed a province. He was the brother of the philosopher **Seneca.**

the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, The religious brought Paul before the authorities.

Acts 18:13 worship God contrary to the law." Paul was going against their interpretation of Scripture, not against the Law.

Acts 18:14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, sometimes if we would just wait a few seconds, God will fight for us.

Acts 18:15 Gallio immediately saw that it was not Roman law but Jewish religion.

Acts 18:16 Not criminal, but spiritual. It was out of their realm.

Acts 18:17 began beating him in front of the judgment seat.
(Antisemitic)

Sosthenes later became a Christian. **1 Corinthians 1:1**

Acts 18:18 Paul, having remained many days longer, Paul had Roman backing to keep preaching.

Application:

- 1.** Our Disappointments Become His Appointments:
- 2.** Our Vocation Is Christ:
- 3.** The Message Must Always Be "Jesus Is The Christ!"
- 4.** The Means To The End Is To Teach God's Word. God's Word Brings Salvation, Brings Growth, and Leads To Maturity: