

“I Have My People Everywhere”

Acts 18:1-17, ESV

Introduction: As we wade into chapter 18, Paul finds himself in Corinth. Here, he becomes fast friends with a married couple by the names of Aquila and Priscilla. Why was Paul in Corinth? Who partnered with Paul in his gospel work among the Corinthians? What was the Lord's instructions to Paul regarding his work in Corinth?

Some Thoughts about Corinth: Corinth was a strategic city politically and commercially, even surpassing Athens. Corinth was a wicked and immoral city. Largely, citizens of Corinth engaged in the temple worship of Aphrodite, a goddess of love and war. People worshiped this goddess by giving money to the temple and taking part in sexual acts with male and female prostitutes. Corinth needed to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul Befriended in Corinth (v. 1-4).

- Paul found himself in Corinth after having left Athens (v. 1).
- Why? Claudius commanded all the Jews to **leave Rome** (v. 2).
- Paul, himself a tentmaker, becomes fast friends with **Aquila & Priscilla**, two of God's people.
- Paul stayed with them and worked, for they were **tentmakers** by trade (v. 3).
- Paul labored in the synagogue every Sabbath, seeking to persuade **Jews** and **Greeks** regarding Jesus (v. 4).

Paul Opposed by the Jews in Corinth; Paul Received by the Gentiles in Corinth (v. 5-11).

- Paul preached the Word **to the Jews** in Corinth-not a great response “*opposed and reviled*” him (v. 6).
- “Your blood be on your own heads...I am innocent” (v. 6). YOU are responsible for **rejecting** the message. Paul shook out his garments!
- Paul leaves there and goes straight to the house of **Titius Justus** (v. 7). What is said of him?
- **Crispus**, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household (v. 8).
- **MANY CORINTHIANS** believed and were baptized (v. 8).
- The Lord **assures** Paul in **verses 9-10**. This is truly remarkable! What does the Lord say?
- Paul stayed 18 months in Corinth, teaching the word of God to the believers (v. 11).

God has His people everywhere (Corinth): Phoebe, Tertius, Erastus, Quartus, Chloe, Gaius, Stephanas, Fortunatus, Priscilla & Aquila, and Achaicus.

Paul Opposed by an Organized Mob of Jews (v. 12-17).

- The Jews in Corinth claimed that Paul's teaching was outside of **Judaism** and therefore should be banned (v. 12).
- Gallio's statement is found in **verses 13-15**. Wow! Potentially, **Christianity** could have been outlawed throughout the Roman Empire. In summary, he ruled that no crime had been committed, and that dispute was over semantics, and he dismissed the case (v. 16)!
- Sosthenes takes a beating from the Gentiles. He was likely responsible for presenting the case to Gallio against Paul. Later, praise God, he converts to Christ (1 Cor. 1:1).