

How about you? Are you living for self and the things of this world? Again, we learn so much from the apostle Paul who would say to us, "Fix your eyes upon Jesus; fight the good fight; run the right race; finish the course; and *it's always too soon to quit.*"

# THE CHURCH THAT WORKS

Acts 18

**Introduction:** As we follow Paul on these missionary journeys and his different encounters with culture, we can learn some important life lessons today as we strive to be God's ambassadors to the lost around us.

## 1. DEVOTED HELPERS

**Acts 18:1-5** *After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. <sup>4</sup> And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. <sup>5</sup> When Silas & Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. (ESV)*

**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

**Romans 16**

**Galatians 6:2** *Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. (ESV)*

## 2. DELIBERATE HINDERERS

**Acts 18:6-8** *And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." <sup>7</sup> And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. <sup>8</sup> Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. (ESV)*

**1 Corinthians 16:9** *for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries. (ESV)*

**2 Timothy 3:12** *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (ESV)*

### 3. A DEFINITIVE HOPE

**Acts 18:8-11** <sup>8</sup>*Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. <sup>9</sup>And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, <sup>10</sup>for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." <sup>11</sup>And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. (ESV)*

**Genesis 15:1** *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." (ESV)*

#### Isaac

**Genesis 26:24** *And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham's sake." (ESV)*

#### Jacob

**Genesis 46:3** *Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation." (ESV)*

#### Daniel

**Daniel 10:12** *Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words."*

#### Mary

**Luke 1:30** *And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."*

#### Peter

**Luke 5:10** *and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." (ESV)*

**Hebrews 13:5** *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (ESV)*

**Isaiah 41:10** *"fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (ESV)*

**Isaiah 43:1-7**

**Matthew 28**

Illustration

**Acts 18:10**

**Acts 20:32** *And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (ESV)*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (ESV)*

No one is too far down; no one is too far gone; there is always hope in what Jesus Christ can do in anyone's life.

"If God willed" that Paul return, he would. **Acts 18:21**