

ACTS CH 18 – PAUL IN CORINTH

During this period Paul writes 1 & 2 Thesalonians

Corinth

- Long history as a Greek city-state until Roman forces destroyed it in 146 BCE.
- Julius Caesar ordered its reestablishment in 44 BCE. Organized as a Roman colony, modeled after Rome
- It was the capital of the Roman province of Achaia (which consisted roughly of the southern half of ancient Greece. Major cities in Achaia included Sparta, Athens, and Corinth)
- Population of 150K-300K Romans and 460K slaves. Settled largely by freed slaves - 1 Cor 1:26
- Corinth was a byword for licentiousness and moral corruption, so much so that “to Corinthianize” was a common phrase meaning “to carry on immorally.”
- Had Isthmian games every two years (Olympic style) - Involved celebration of god Poseidon
- Was a growing city of the new rich. The elites and semi-elites there were not all “old money,” but rather entrepreneurs, social climbers, and people of local political prominence. This made it a highly competitive environment.
- Culture of boasting – thirst for honor, boasting, and recognition. Paul decided to not play to the cultural expectations of sophists and orators. Denounced loyalty to one particular sophist over another (1 Cor 1:11). Refused money from the church so he wouldn’t enhance the honor of any of the elites in the congregation. – DeSilva, ITNT, p564 – 1 Cor 9:12

18:1-4

- Jews expelled from Rome in 49 CE
- “Tentmaker” was also applied to leatherworking in general
- Priscilla and Aquila played the important role of hosting a church in their home, and Paul considered them to be “fellow workers in Christ.” Rom 16:3, 1 Corinthians 16:19

Don’t let your job get in the way of your calling.

- Though they were tentmakers, their their respective callings were evangelism, church planting, and disciple making.
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/make-people-wonder-why-youre-weird>
- Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Corinthians 10:31

Practical Steps to Be the Light of Christ at Work. It doesn’t happen by accident, and it doesn’t happen with silence. Remember what Jesus said to Paul, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent”

- Don’t Gossip
- Don’t be malicious or belittling
- Don’t be passive aggressive
- Treat your co-workers, employees, bosses with respect and honor
- Be filled with the joy of the Lord (pray before work)
- Be an encourager
- Have integrity
- Work hard (Colossians 3:22-24)
- Affirmation and appreciation
- Bolder approaches, as you are able:
- Start a weekly Bible study before work or during lunch
- Talk about what you did at church, in small group, in a ministry you serve in (be excited about it, and if you’re not – start serving in a ministry so you can be excited about it!)
- Pray for people
- Share wisdom from the Bible

18:12-15

- “Gallio began his two-year term of office July 1 of AD 51; it was cut short by sickness, so we may reasonably date this appearance in AD 51-52, probably before the end of 51.”

18:24-28

- John Piper, “[Male] leadership means a bent toward initiative under which women thrive.”
- 1 Tim. 2:11–15; 1 Peter 3:7; Romans 16:1; Qualifications for Deacons – 1 Tim 3:8-13; 1 Corinthians 11:4-5