

Occupied in the Word (Acts 18:1-17) (Intro to Corinthians)

Corinth- (excessive sexual activity, drunkenness) Ancient Las Vegas, New Orleans, or worst. (They had temple virgins/prostitutes in behalf of goddess worship.)

2000 years later, it sounds very familiar.

Would you have a church plant at a place like this? (Today, we can't be around the "sinners".) As if without Christ we aren't desperately wicked. (The sick need a dr.!)

Acts 18:1–5 (ESV)

18 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² 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, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

- Paul presents and lives with **Jesus as The Lord**. (When He is, the flesh is overcome.)
- We just finished looking at Philippi, where Paul was supported, and now we look at Corinth where **Aquila and Priscilla, Silas, Timothy, and many others** working together for the gospel.
- The advancement of the gospel is a church-wide effort.
- We see Paul living and working with Aquila and Priscilla. (Influence and co-laborers)
- When we did church plant, NAMB, church, real-estate, co-laborers to push through.

- 1.) Serving God will wake up opposition- (In Nehemiah- Sanballat and Tobiah, and we have had it here too.)

Acts 18:6–8 (ESV)

⁶ 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." ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.

- A.) The devil leaves inactivity alone but tries to suppress advancement.
- B.) One of the biggest mistakes we can make is to try and determine who is right to minister to and who isn't. (No one can know what God is doing in the heart of people!)
- C.) Many times, at churches, people are busy with their own agendas and not on the salvation of souls, and the growth of those.

- D.) Paul was not interested on having “**blood on his hands**”, nor should we! (Churches mission is the gospel, discipleship and multiplicity, with offices to help with the needful in the church.)
- E.) Church started in Titus Justus’ home, next door to the synagogue! (The synagogue manager was saved along with his family!
- They were saved, baptized, and added to this local church. **Local church model!** They were empowered to carry out the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** ¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

- While opposers fight against this advancement, we stand and work with faith.
- The work of a local church needs laborers like this.

Ephesians 3:8–13 (ESV)

⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. ¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Ephesians 4:11–16 (ESV) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- Faith to see youth, children, and the faith to stay for it. Faith for laborers! (**Faith to put forth the collective effort!**)
- Does this church have this kind of faith?

2.) A church is to reach people- (People were reached by God, adversity increased.) This is why so many choose the ease of inactivity.

Acts 18:9–17 (ESV)

⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “**Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent,** ¹⁰ **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.” ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹² But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, ¹³ saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. ¹⁵ But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.” ¹⁶ And he drove them from the tribunal. ¹⁷ And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

- A.) Paul was encouraged by God to not be afraid, silent, and not to quit!
- B.) Note: God had people to reach and would make a way! (Midland)
- C.) Do you want to see God work? **We must join God in faith!**

Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

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.

D.) Jesus died for all, not all surrender, God looks on the heart.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (ESV)

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

E.) Radical opposition and intimidation follow the faithful.

- Is Sosthenes the same as in 1 Corinthians 1:1? (Probably!)

1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

- Rome was not a Christian led government, yet Paul used the opportunity to advance the gospel, and so should we.

Conclusion

Acts 18:5 (ESV)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. (KJV- pressed in the Spirit)

- Exciting to see people come to salvation. (Because of occupied in the Word, pressed!)

