



Lesson 23 - Corinth

Based on Acts 18:1-8

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

Acts 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to _____;

Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke were out on Paul's second missionary journey about two-thirds through, we pick up the journey here on Paul's way to Corinth. Paul had limited success in Athens and headed southwest to Corinth.

During the first century of the Christian Era, Corinth was one of the leading cities, not only of Greece, but of the world. Greeks, Jews, and Romans, with travelers from every land, thronged its streets, eagerly intent on business and pleasure. A great commercial center, situated within easy access of all parts of the Roman Empire, it was an important place in which to establish memorials for God and His truth.

2) Whom did Paul meet in Corinth?

Acts 18:2-3 And found a certain Jew named _____, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were _____.

Among the Jews who had taken up their residence in Corinth were Aquila and Priscilla, who afterward became distinguished as earnest workers for Christ.

3) How did Paul speak in Corinth?

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him _____.

1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of _____, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

In preaching the gospel in Corinth, the apostle followed a course different from that which had marked his labors at Athens. While in the latter place, he had sought to adapt his style to the character of his audience; he had met logic with logic, science with science, philosophy with philosophy. As he thought of the time thus spent and realized that his teaching in Athens had been productive of but little fruit, he decided to follow another plan of labor in Corinth in his efforts to arrest the attention of the careless and the indifferent.

4) Where did Paul begin his preaching in Corinth?

Acts 18:4 And he reasoned in the _____ every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

5) How well was his preaching received?

1 Corinthians 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks _____;

To the minds of multitudes living at the present time, the cross of Calvary is surrounded by sacred memories. Hallowed associations are connected with the scenes of the crucifixion. But in Paul's day the cross was regarded with feelings of repulsion and horror. To uphold as the Saviour of mankind one who had met death on the cross, would naturally call forth ridicule and opposition.



6) What did Paul preach in the Synagogues?

Acts 18:5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was _____.

From the Old Testament Scriptures, he showed that according to the prophecies and the universal expectation of the Jews, the Messiah would be of the lineage of Abraham and of David; then he traced the descent of Jesus from the patriarch Abraham through the royal psalmist. He read the testimony of the prophets regarding the character and work of the promised Messiah, and His reception and treatment on the earth; then he showed that all these predictions had been fulfilled in the life, ministry, and death of Jesus of Nazareth.

In the power of the Spirit, Paul related the story of his own miraculous conversion and of his confidence in the Old Testament Scriptures, which had been so completely fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. His words were spoken with solemn earnestness, and his hearers could not but discern that he loved with all his heart the crucified and risen Saviour. They saw that his mind was centered in Christ, that his whole life was bound up with his Lord. So impressive were his words, that only those who were filled with the bitterest hatred against the Christian religion could stand unmoved by them.

7) Did they all convert?

Acts 18:6 And when they opposed themselves, and _____, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the _____.

the Jews of Corinth closed their eyes to the evidence so clearly presented by the apostle and refused to listen to his appeals. The same spirit that had led them to reject Christ, filled them with wrath and fury against His servant; and had not God especially protected him, that he might continue to bear the gospel message to the Gentiles, they would have put an end to his life.

8) What has Jesus promised to His Disciples (and us)?

John 12:32 And I, if I be _____ from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Silas and Timothy had "**come from Macedonia**" to help Paul, and together they labored for the Gentiles. To the heathen, as well as to the Jews, Paul and his companions preached Christ as the Saviour of the fallen race.

9) Were their efforts fruitless?

Acts 18:7-8 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. And _____, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were _____.

The gospel workers in Corinth realized the terrible dangers threatening the souls of those for whom they were laboring; and it was with a sense of the responsibility resting on them that they presented the truth as it is in Jesus. Clear, plain, and decided was their message, a savor of life unto life, or of death unto death. And not only in their words, but in the daily life, was the gospel revealed. Angels co-operated with them, and the grace and power of God was shown in the conversion of many.



The hatred with which the Jews had always regarded the apostles was now intensified. The conversion and baptism of Crispus had the effect of exasperating instead of convincing these stubborn opposers. They could not bring arguments to disprove Paul's preaching, and for lack of such evidence they resorted to deception and malignant attack.

10) What did Jesus do for Paul?

Acts 18:9-10 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a _____, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to _____ thee: for I have much people in this city.

He was planning to leave the city for a more promising field, and seeking earnestly to understand his duty, the Lord appeared to him in a vision. Paul understood this to be a command to remain in Corinth and a guarantee that the Lord would give increase to the seed sown. Strengthened and encouraged, he continued to labor there with zeal and perseverance.

11) How did Paul describe his ministry there?

1 Corinthians 2:3 And I was with you in _____, and in fear, and in much trembling.

He spent much time in house-to-house labor, thus availing himself of the familiar intercourse of the home circle. He visited the sick and the sorrowing, comforted the afflicted, and lifted up the oppressed. And in all that he said and did he magnified the name of Jesus. He trembled lest his teaching should reveal the impress of the human rather than the divine.

12) What did he tell the Corinthians?

1 Corinthians 2:6-7 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this _____, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of _____ in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1 Corinthians 2:8-9 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have _____ the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not _____, nor ear _____, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit _____ all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God _____ no man, but the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 Now we have received, not the spirit of the _____, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the _____ teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Paul realized that his sufficiency was not in himself, but in the presence of the Holy Spirit, whose gracious influence filled his heart, bringing every thought into subjection to Christ.

13) What must be at the center of our thoughts?

2 Corinthians 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made _____ in our body.



14) What did he tell the Galatians?

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I _____; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the _____ of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Self was hidden; Christ was revealed and exalted.

Paul's efforts in Corinth were not without fruit. Many turned from the worship of idols to serve the living God, and a large church was enrolled under the banner of Christ. Some were rescued from among the most dissipated of the Gentiles and became monuments of the mercy of God and the efficacy of the blood of Christ to cleanse from sin.

15) How did his time in Corinth end?

Acts 18:12-13 And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made _____ with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God _____ to the law.

The Jewish religion was under the protection of the Roman power, and the accusers of Paul thought that if they could fasten upon him the charge of violating the laws of their religion, he would probably be delivered to them for trial and sentence. They hoped thus to compass his death.

16) What happened at court?

Acts 18:14-16 And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of _____ or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you: But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters. And he _____ them from the judgment seat.

Gallio was a man of integrity, and he refused to become the dupe of the jealous, intriguing Jews. Disgusted with their bigotry and self-righteousness, he would take no notice of the charge. As Paul prepared to speak in self-defense, Gallio told him that it was not necessary.

17) How did the mob react?

Acts 18:17 Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and _____ him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.

The proconsul's decided course opened the eyes of the clamorous crowd who had been abetting the Jews. For the first time during Paul's labors in Europe, the mob turned to his side; under the very eye of the proconsul, and without interference from him, they violently beset the most prominent accusers of the apostle.

18) Did Paul leave right away?

Acts 18:18 And Paul after this _____ there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

If the apostle had at this time been compelled to leave Corinth, the converts to the faith of Jesus would have been placed in a perilous position. The Jews would have endeavored to follow up the advantage gained, even to the extermination of Christianity in that region.

Can you see that God protects his messengers?

Do you want to be able to stand when things are tough?

When is the time to let go of the chains that hold us?