

**"The Second Missionary Journey"**

**Part 18**

**Acts 15:41-18:22**

**Introduction:** In our study last week, we followed with Paul as he entered into the synagogue at Corinth and we watched as the Jews made the choice to reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Notice Acts 18:5-6**

They refused to believe Paul's message that Jesus was the Messiah and they blasphemed because they denied the deity of Jesus Christ. Paul then shook his garment and announced they were responsible for the judgment they would face. These people were committing spiritual suicide by rejecting the Gospel. Here are the words of Lenski one more time.

*"Since they rejected Jesus as the Christ, damnation must follow. Whose is the fault? It is that of these Jews alone. To speak of blood coming upon one's head is to say that the guilt for shedding someone's blood rests upon the murderer and cries to God for punishment. Here the blood of these Jews who are destroying themselves rests upon their own heads."*

Paul would now move on to focus upon the Gentiles living in the city.

➤ **The Ministry in Corinth**

➤ **Part 2**

**Notice Acts 18:7**

Paul now goes to the house of a Gentile whose name was Justus. This man lived right by the synagogue and he was a worshipper of God so he was a proselyte. He was a Gentile who embraced the Jewish faith. It is believed he was a disciple of Jesus Christ. It is also believed this man is referred to in Romans 16:23 and in 1 Corinthians 1:14 as Gaius. When Paul departed from the synagogue he did not go far. Right next door he meets a man who welcomes him. How convenient this was! The people who made their way to the synagogue had to walk right past Paul who would then be given an opportunity to share the Truth with them. The house of Justus was in a strategic location just like the church in the city of Corinth.

**Application:**

When I read this, I am reminded of how God often moves us from one place to another and there is always a purpose in our move. We saw this earlier when we considered how

Aquilla and Pricilla were expelled from Italy and came to Corinth where they met Paul. Onesimus fled his master and ended up in jail with Paul where he was saved. Here in our text God allowed Paul to be removed from the synagogue to the house next door where he would still be able to reach the people going to the synagogue. God moves us and places us where He wants us to be. We are His lights to bring the Light of the World to the lost so He has every right to place us where he desires us to be. He placed John on the isle of Patmos where he would inspire him to write the book of Revelation. He placed Phillip in the desert where he could meet the eunuch. He had Jesse send David to his brothers with food so David could defeat Goliath. He had the woman of Samaria go to the well so that she could meet Jesus. So, He moves us and He moves others to meet us. Our responsibility is to be alert and be ready to give an answer of the hope that is within us.

**Notice Acts 18:8**

Here we see the fruit of Paul's ministry. Paul's connection with the synagogue gave him the opportunity to reach Crispus the chief ruler of the synagogue with the Gospel and he was saved. This would have truly intensified the hatred the Jews had for Paul. Many of the Jews rejected the Gospel but not Crispus.

**Application:**

Let me point out something that is very obvious here. These saved people were added to the body of Christ and they were saved because the Word of God was preached. This is not shocking to us but in many churches it would be. There are mega churches today where there are hundreds and, in some churches, thousands of people that attend every Sunday but they do not hear the True Word of God. They are given messages that make them feel good and leave them with the feeling that everything is going to be okay. They believe in God but so does the Devil. They have never been told they need to repent and to place their faith in Jesus Christ. Sin, wrath, judgment, and death are never mentioned because it would make them uncomfortable and possibly cause them to leave. So, the messages are spiritually "soft" so as not to offend the masses. Therefore, there are thousands upon thousands who call themselves Christians but they have no idea what the title means and they are far from Christians.

**Notice Acts 18:8 again.**

Many of the other Corinthians heard the Gospel and were saved and then baptized. Who was it that baptized them?

**1 Corinthians 1:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> *Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?*

<sup>14</sup> *I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;*

<sup>15</sup> *Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.*

<sup>16</sup> *And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.*

<sup>17</sup> *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*

Paul baptized several of the people at Corinth. But that was not what he was called to do. He was called to preach the Gospel. There are two points to see from 1 Corinthians 1:17

Paul was not saying that baptism was not important. He knew that it was the first step of obedience after salvation. But there were others who could do the baptisms. Church leaders could do the baptisms but Paul was an evangelist and a church planter and he was called to preach the Gospel.

The second point to be made here is that we can see that baptism is not a requirement for salvation otherwise Paul would have been called to baptize as well.

**Application:**

When I understand that Paul was sent not to baptize but he was sent to preach the Gospel I am reminded that one man cannot do everything. In my own ministry I have had people ask me about counseling with certain people and I have declined. That is not what I am called to do. I am called to pastor the church and my gift is teaching. There are people who are trained in counseling but for me I must keep a clear mind in order to study the Scriptures. To you I would say that it is okay to say, "No" at times. You cannot do it all. The more we try to do the more stretched out we become and then we are like water on a plate. We cover a large area but there is no depth.

**Notice Acts 18:8-10**

Something happened between verses 8 and 9 that Luke does not record. Maybe it was the hostility of the Jews because of the salvation of Justus and Crispus. Paul had encountered

persecution in Philippi and he clearly remembered the pain. Maybe Paul was just frustrated and weary from dealing with the carnal Corinthians.

**1 Corinthians 1:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

*<sup>11</sup> For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.*

*<sup>12</sup> Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.*

**2 Corinthians 2:1-3**

*And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.*

*<sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

*<sup>3</sup> And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.*

Getting back to the point, something happened that had Paul discouraged and fearful. Notice the words of Warren Wiersbe.

*"The conversion of Crispus, an important Jewish leader, opened up more opportunities for evangelism and brought more opposition from the enemy! The Jewish community in Corinth was no doubt furious at Paul's success and did everything possible to silence him and get rid of him. Dr. Luke does not give us the details, but I get the impression that between Acts 18:8 and Acts 18:9, the situation became especially difficult and dangerous. Paul may have been thinking about leaving the city when the Lord came to him and gave him the assurance that he needed."*

**Application:**

God understands that we are human and that we do get frustrated and discouraged at times. We need to be thankful that when we enter into these seasons that our God is faithful to give us the encouragement that we need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

<sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

<sup>15</sup> For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

There is an important point to notice in our text. When God comforted and encouraged Paul He did it by using the Word of God. Let us notice some others who because of difficulties were tempted to walk away.

Jeremiah 20:7-9, 11

<sup>7</sup> O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived; thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

<sup>8</sup> For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.

<sup>9</sup> Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. **But**  
**his word was in mine heart** as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

<sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

It was the Word of God in the heart of Jeremiah that encouraged him to press on.

1 Kings 19:1-5, 9, 11-12

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

<sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

<sup>3</sup> And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

<sup>5</sup> And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

<sup>9</sup> And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, **the word of the LORD came to him**, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

<sup>11</sup> And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

<sup>12</sup> And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the **fire a still small voice**.

It was the Word of God that encouraged Elijah to continue on.

#### **Conclusion:**

I will leave you with the Words of Jeremiah concerning the encouragement that comes from the Word of God.

#### **Jeremiah 15:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.

<sup>16</sup> **Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart:** for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.