

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 39: Encouragement for the battle-weary worker

READ Acts 18:1-17 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

After time in Athens the Apostle Paul does not wait for the arrival of Silas and Timothy but moves west to the largest Greek city of Corinth. If Athens was a city full of idolatry, Corinth was a city full of sensuality. While Paul came to Corinth in “fear and much trembling” (1 Cor 2:1-3), through the encouragement of many visible providences, as well as a direct personal message from God, he continued to patiently persevere, “staying a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them” (18:11).

Big idea: Paul’s ministry in Corinth reminds us that since speaking for Christ in a Christless world is difficult, we must continually trust in God’s promises and persevere in our witness.

Questions:

1. What was Corinth like when Paul arrived, and what do you think might be some challenges one might face in bringing the gospel to it? A Study Bible will help.
2. A. How did Paul feel as he ministered in Corinth? See vv. 6-10; 1 Cor 2:1-3; 1 Thess 3:6-7 (note 1 & 2 Thess were written during Paul’s time in Corinth).

B. Why might Paul have felt like this and how did this endanger the gospel (v. 9)?
3. A. As well as God’s personal message what other encouragements did Paul receive from vv. 1-17? See also Rom 16:3-4; 2 Cor 11:9; Phil 4:14-15.

B. How crucial is Christian fellowship and support (financial, prayer etc) to those serving, either formally or informally, in the mission of Christ? Why?

4. Consider Aquila and Priscila. Should all Christians view themselves as God’s servants, or just those supported by the ministry? Why does it matter?
5. A. What were the four main things God told Paul in the vision and how might they have been an encouragement to him (vv. 9-10)?

B. While this was a specific revelation to Paul for a specific need, can we apply those same things to our lives today? If so, how (be specific)? See Matt 28:18-20; 1 John 4:18; Rom 1:14-15; John 4:35.
6. What should Christians do when they experience weakness and fear?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God for His providential and specific encouragement to battle-weary workers

Thank: the Lord for His continual grace, care, and provision to do His work

Pray: for ways you might support those in the frontlines of Christian ministry