

Acts 18:1-17 **From Athens to Corinth** – (second missionary journey continued)

On to Corinth

18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.

Tent making with Aquila and Priscilla from Pontus of Italy

2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. 3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

Reasoning in the Synagogue every Sabbath

4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. 5 When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

Because of Jewish opposition, Paul turned to the Gentiles

6 But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." 7 And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.

Crispus and his household believed and were baptized

8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

Command to speak freely – God has many people in this place

9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Gallio refuses to be involved in Jewish religious quarrels

12 When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, 13 saying, "This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." 14 And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. 15 But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters." 16 And he drove them from the judgment seat. 17 Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

On to Corinth

✚ After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. [Acts 18:1]

✧ After his sermon at the Areopagus on Mars' Hill in the Greek city of Athens, Paul went on to Corinth.

- ✧ **Corinth** was a most magnificent Greek city of commerce, located at the isthmus connecting central Greece with Peloponnesus with ports to both the Ionian Sea through the gulf of Corinth to the West and the Aegean Sea to the East.
- ✧ Corinth was home to the largest concentration of Jews in all of Greece.

Tent making with Aquila and Priscilla from Pontus of Italy

- ✧ And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. [Acts 18:2-3]
- ✧ In Corinth, Paul came in contact with Aquila and Priscilla who had come from Italy to Greece, because Claudius the Roman emperor had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome.
- ✧ Paul had been educated as a Pharisee. [Acts 23:6, 26:5, Philippians 3:5]
- ✧ Being an expert in the customs of the Pharisees and by trade he made the prayer shawl known as the prayer **tent** to the Jews. Aquila and Priscilla were of the same trade and they worked together in that enterprise to support themselves.
- ✧ It is the **fringes** on the border of prayer **tent** (shawl) that Jesus had referred to when He said of the Scribes and Pharisees, "But **all their works they do to be seen by men**. They make their phylacteries broad and **enlarge the borders of their garments**." [Matthew 23:5]
- ✧ People generally lived in houses, not in tents.

Reasoning in the Synagogue every Sabbath

- ✧ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. [Acts 18:4-5]
- ✧ Paul always took the Gospel message to the Jews first and presented his reasoning in the Synagogues on the Sabbath which became his custom. [Acts 9:20, 13:1-5, 14-42, 14:1, 17:1-2, 10, 16-17, 18:4]
- ✧ Paul reasoned from Jewish Scriptures that the Messiah needed to suffer, die and raise from the dead. [Acts 17:2, 17, 18:4]
- ✧ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was moved by the Holy Spirit to **clearly declare that Jesus is the Messiah** (Christ). [Acts 18:5]

Because of Jewish opposition, Paul turned to the Gentiles

- ✧ But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. [Acts 18:6-7]
- ✧ When men reject and oppose the Gospel message, they certainly do blaspheme (speak evil of it)
- ✧ Paul adhered to the instructions of Jesus when He sent the disciples out to preach the message of the Kingdom of God, instructing them to shake the dust off their feet when they were not received as a witness against those who refused to hear the message. [Matthew 10:14, Mark 6:11, Luke 9:5, 10:11]
- ✧ The response included the words, "Your blood be upon your own heads, I am clean," thus indicating that they would be accountable for their own judgment before God for their choice.
- ✧ The Gentiles were more receptive to the message, so Paul turned to the Gentiles, going next door to the house of Justus, who was a faithful worshipper of God among the Gentiles.

Crispus and his household believed and were baptized

- ✚ Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. [\[Acts 18:8\]](#)
- ✧ It is interesting to note that even though there was so much opposition by the Jews in the Synagogue to Paul's message of Salvation through Messiah Jesus that Paul shook out his garments and turned to the Gentiles, yet the ruler of the Synagogue and his entire household believed and were baptized along with many of the Corinthians. [\[Acts 18:5-8\]](#)
- ✧ The evidence of Scripture is compelling for anyone who will examine the evidence with an honest and sincere mind.
- ✧ Those caught up in an emotional response based on prejudice and clinging to the old man made Jewish ritual traditions of which Jesus condemned, are the ones who fail to realize the truth of the Gospel message.

Command to speak freely – God has many people in this place

- ✚ Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." ¹¹ And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. [\[Acts 18:9-11\]](#)
- ✧ God however knows the hearts of those who will hear the Gospel from Paul, and therefore spoke to Paul in the night by a vision to encourage and instruct him.
- ✧ God promised to be with Paul and protect him, because God knew that many of the city of Corinth would respond favorably to the Gospel message.
- ✧ Paul remained in Corinth for one and a half years, teaching the Word of God.

Gallio refuses to be involved in Jewish religious quarrels

- ✚ When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, "This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters." And he drove them from the judgment seat. Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things. [\[Acts 18:12-17\]](#)
- ✧ Junius Annaeus Gallio was Roman Proconsul of Achaia around A.D. 53 at the time Claudius was emperor of Rome, his birth name was Marcus Annaeus Novatus. [\[Fausset's Bible Dictionary\]](#)
- ✧ The Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat.
 - ✧ From the previous verses (4-8) it would seem that only the unbelieving Jews took part in this attack against Paul.
- ✧ Their charge against Paul was, "This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."
 - ✧ The Law in question was the Jewish Pharisaical law and not the Roman law.
- ✧ Gallio saw through their motive and refused to become embroiled in their religious dispute, and he drove them out from the judgment seat.
- ✧ Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.