

1 **A TESTIMONY OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO PAUL & ALL**

ACTS 18:1-17

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- *After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. 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. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.*

3 **ACTS 18:1-17**

- *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. 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.*

4 **ACTS 18:1-17**

- *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. 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. 12 When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat,*

5 **ACTS 18:1-17**

- *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.*

6 **GOD IS FAITHFUL**

- *"If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself." —2 Timothy 2:13 (ESV)*
- *"Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds." —Psalm 36:5 (ESV)*
- *"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." —Lamentations 3:22–23 (ESV)*
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7 **GOD IS FAITHFUL**

- *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." —Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)*
- *"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" —Numbers 23:19*

8 **GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH TRIALS – A REVIEW**

- God's servants all go through difficult times
- Flashback: He was in Asia Minor – God closed doors
- Vision of the man from Macedonia
- Problems at Philippi
- On to Thessalonica . . . On to Berea . . . On to Athens
- On to Corinth
- Paul's Conclusion: 1 Corinthians 1:9
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9 **GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO RAISE UP GODLY CO-WORKERS**

- Paul was alone in Athens and Corinth
- Silas and Timothy remained in Berea
- Paul needed help – Matthew 9:28:
- V. 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*

10 **GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE WORK**

- Paul never advertised his needs for personal support.
- He gladly made known the needs of others - 2 Cor. 8 & 9.
- When he ran out of funds, he would just start making tents until the Lord provided the needed support.
- God was faithful in leading him to a Jewish tentmaker in Corinth named Aquila and his wife, Priscilla
- This was the first time in his missionary journeys that he had to work at his trade to support himself.
- God's faithfulness was once again demonstrated when Silas and Timothy arrived.

11 **GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO BRING CONVERTS, EVEN IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION**

- vv. 7-8: *"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. 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."*
- God graciously brought several to salvation, including the man living next door to the synagogue, and the leader of the synagogue and his family.
- Paul's gospel message evidently reached down to the dregs of society - 1 Cor. 6:9-11

12 **GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO GIVE PAUL A VISION OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

- 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."*

13 **THE LORD PROMISED HIS PRESENCE**

- When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He promised, *"I will be with you always, even to the end of the age."*
- Isaiah 43:1-3: *"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. 2 When*

you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. 3 For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

14 **THE LORD PROMISED HIS PROTECTION**

- ". . . no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."
- The application for us is not that God's servants are guaranteed physical safety. Many of His servants are killed because of their witness. But we can know that no one can touch us unless it is the Father's purpose, and that as long as He has a mission for us to accomplish, He will keep His protective hand upon us.

15 **THE LORD PROVIDED HIS PURPOSE,**

- ". . . speak and do not keep silent."
- 1 Corinthians 1:18: *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."*
- Romans 1:16: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*
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