

Personal Encouragement in Christ

Acts 18:1-17

January 17, 2021

God offers **personal encouragement in Christ** to Paul as he spreads the good news and starts a church in Corinth.

1. New **friends** and co-workers in Christ (1-4)
Priscilla and Aquilla (Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 16:19)
2. Returning co-workers in Christ (5-6)
Silas and Timothy from **Berea** (Acts 17:14-15)
3. New believers in Christ (7-8)
Titius Justus (Roman name, Gentile)
Crispus (Jewish) and his **household** and others
4. **Personal encouragement** from Christ (9-10)
Unusual, but not unknown, in Acts
(Acts 16:6-10; 18:9-10; 23:11; 27:23-24)
5. Extended times of ministry (11)
Released to preach the word full-time (2 Cor. 11:9; Phil. 4:15)
Paul's **longest** ministry stay in one place so far
6. Support from an **unexpected** direction (12-16)
Paul was ready to speak (see also Luke 12:11-12)
7. The encouragement of **others** turning to Christ (17)
Sosthenes (Jewish) see also 1 Cor. 1:1

On Your Own (better with others)

1. What insight, observation or principle did you find eye-opening, helpful or troubling from today's sermon?
2. How important was it to Paul personally and to his ministry that he connected with Priscilla and Aquilla in Corinth? (Read the rest of Acts 18:18-28. See also Rom. 16:3-4 and 1 Cor. 16:19)
3. What do you think of Paul's dramatic response to Jewish opposition in Acts 18:6? Did he give up on reaching Jewish people forever, or just temporarily (see Rom. 1:16 and 10:1)?
4. READ Deut. 31:8 and Isa. 41:10 and Jer. 1:8. What assurance do we have God is still with us, and guiding us, even when we are not hearing from Him, or seeing visions like Acts 18:9-10?
5. How much time do you think it would take to properly disciple someone? Do you think you could make time in your schedule to do that (see Acts 18:11)?
6. Paul was ready to make his defense to his accusers. How surprised and encouraged do you think he was when he didn't have to say one word (see Acts 18:14-16)?

NOTE: for "the rest of the story" read 1 & 2 Corinthians