

The account of the growth of the Church

ACTS 18:1-22

- 1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.
- ² There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³ and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. 5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. 6 But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them,

"Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." 7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. 8 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

- One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent."
- 10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."
- 11 So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

12 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court. 13 "This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law." 14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you.

15 But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law — settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things." ¹⁶ So he had them ejected from the court. ¹⁷ Then they all turned on Sosthenes the synagogue ruler and beat him in front of the court. But Gallio showed no concern whatever.

18 Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because of a vow he had taken. 19 They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

20 When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. ²¹ But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will." Then he set sail from Ephesus. ²² When he landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

ACTS 18:1-22







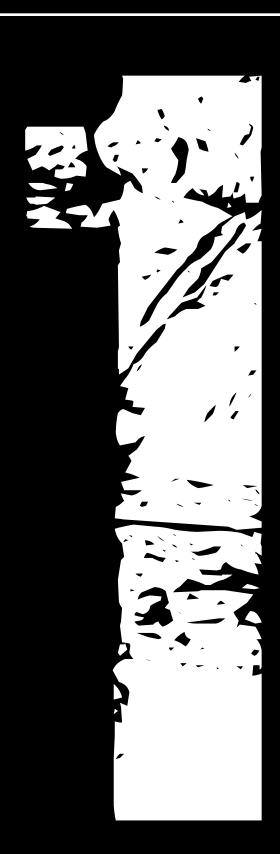
The Acropolis of Ancient
Corinth
(Acrocorinth)



1 When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God... 3 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1,3

GOD ENCOURAGES PAUL WITH HIS PEOPLE



- ² He (Paul) met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,
- ³ and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

ACTS 16:7-8

The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:19

When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

ACTS 18:5

When I was with you and needed something, I was not a burden to anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied what I needed.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:9

GOD ENCOURAGES PAUL WITH HIS PRESENCE



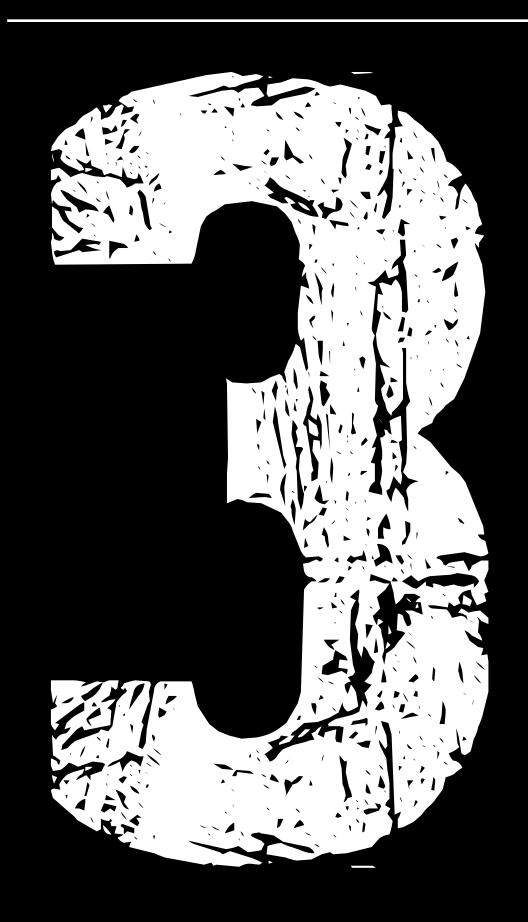
One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision:
"Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.
For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

Acts 18:9-10

If God is for us, who can ever be against us?

ROMANS 8:31

GOD ENCOURAGES PAUL WITH HIS PROTECTION



14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. 15 But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law — settle the matter yourselves.

I will not be a judge of such things."

16 So he had them ejected from the court.

Acts 18:14-16

TRUSTTHE FRUIT OF GOD'S PLAN



"We are not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be."



- 1 From Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Sosthenes, our brother,
 2 to the obureb of God that is in Corinth
- ² to the church of God that is in Corinth.

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 (NET)