

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THE ONGOING WORK OF JESUS BY THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The Book of Acts - Part 34

YOU ARE SAFE IN SOVEREIGN HANDS

God's Word to a Weary Witness

(Acts 18:1-17)

INTRODUCTION:

*"...when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. **I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling...**"*

—1 Corinthians 2:1-3

PAUL'S PREVIOUS MINISTRY IN ATHENS:

- In Athens, and particularly on Mars Hill, Paul laid out a model for Worldview Evangelism, even as he preached **Jesus and the resurrection** (v. 18). He did so with a **provoked** heart to a **pagan** world (v. 17), declaring that the "**Day of Ignorance**" is over (v. 22-30a), the "**Day of Repentance**" is here (v. 30b), and "**the Day of Judgment**" is coming (v. 31); and it is Jesus' **resurrection** that qualifies Him as both _____ and _____.

PAUL'S PRESENT MINISTRY IN CORINTH:

- As Thessalonica was the capital of _____, so Corinth was the capital of _____. Located 60 miles from Athens on the Isthmus connecting northern Greece and the Peloponnese peninsula, Corinth was _____ times larger than Athens.
- If Athens was the _____ centre then Corinth was the _____ centre. And if Athens was known for its _____, Corinth was known for its _____.

THE PASSAGE:

1A. THE UNFORESEEN _____ THAT _____ HIM: (v. 1-4)

"And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome." (v. 2)

2A. THE UNCHANGING _____ THAT _____ HIM: (v. 5-8)

"But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, **Paul began devoting himself completely to the word**, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. But when **they resisted and blasphemed**, he shook out his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. **From now on I will go to the Gentiles.**'"

3A. THE UNFAILING _____ THAT _____ HIM: (v. 9-11)

"And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, '**Do not be afraid**, but go on speaking and do not be silent, **for I am with you**, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.' And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."

4A. THE UNEXPECTED _____ THAT _____ HIM: (v. 12-17)

"But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and **brought him before the judgment seat**, saying, 'This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.' But **when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said** to the Jews, 'If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; **I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.**' And he drove them away from the judgment seat. And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things."

THE PROMISE:

'Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, **for I am with you**, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.'

• Don't _____ ! Don't _____ !

1. You will not be _____.

2. You will not be _____.

3. You will not be _____.