

PRAYER **FOCUS:** *The Promise to Paul!*

Don't fear! Don't faint! God is with us!

HIDE IT IN OUR HEARTS: *Linger in the Text and Let it Dwell Richly*

"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."

—Acts 18:9,10



You are Safe in Sovereign Hands

God's Word to a Weary Witness

"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."

—Acts 18:9,10

HEAR IT: Listen to the Text and Discover the Truth

Introduction:

God's **sovereign care** for His people and His **sovereign control** over history are both highlighted in Luke's account of Paul's ministry in Corinth recorded in Acts 18. As we reviewed the text and the message, may we be encouraged as Paul was by both God's **providence** and God's **promise**.

READ OR REVIEW THE PASSAGE: ACTS 18:1-17.

Use this morning's notes to assist in answering the discussion questions.

HASH IT OUT: Look into the Text and Develop the Truth

1. How was city of Corinth was different from the city of Athens? Do you remember the specific contrasts and comparisons that were identified this morning?
2. As you think about the immorality of the Corinth, do you remember what Epistle Paul wrote from here, and in particular, what passage Pastor mentioned this morning that was reflected so clearly in this capital city of Achaia?

3. According to Paul's own description in 1 Corinthians 2:3, how was Paul personally feeling as he began his ministry in the city of Corinth? What contributed to this? And how does knowing that Paul struggled, at times, with fear, help or impact us?

4. Paul was alone when he came into Athens and also at the beginning of his ministry in Corinth. Do you think this contributed to the fear and weariness that Paul experienced? And if so, what does this teach us about the importance of fellowship and partnership in ministry?

In the outline this morning, Pastor unfolded the four movements of *the Passage* and then focused on three encouragements from *the Promise*. The following questions relate to these movements and encouragements. You may want to quickly review and identify the four movements (See sermon notes), but it isn't necessary.

5. Pastor painted an extensive picture of the life and ministry of the couple that we are introduced to in this chapter, *Aquila and Priscilla*, from the six references that we have in Scripture. How much of that description can you recall? And do you remember the six references? (Hint: there are three here in Acts 18).

6. Two political figures are mentioned in our passage, Claudia in Rome and Gallio here in Corinth. How are they referenced in our passage—what is their role?
 - a. And secondly, what does this teach us about God's sovereign governance of the affairs of men?
 - b. And how should this shape our perspective on political events in our day?

7. The apostle Paul at times used his skills as a tentmaker to support himself, and at other times he was freed from doing so. In Corinth, what event made it possible for Paul to set aside his tent making so that he could focus on his teaching?

8. Paul follows the pattern that we observed earlier in his missionary journeys, preaching the gospel to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles. The overall response of the Jews, similar as it was in Macedonia, is described, "*they resisted and blasphemed*" (v. 6). What does Paul *do* and *say* in response and what is its significance?

9. Later Paul would be taken by the Jews before the Proconsul at the "*judgment seat*" (*the Bema*, v. 11-17). How will Paul use this experience instructively concerning the Christian life when he would later write to the church in Corinth? (*see 2 Corinthians 5:10*) Do you know the other New Testament reference by Paul to the *judgment seat*? Hint: he wrote the letter from Corinth.

10. God's Promise to Paul was not only encouraging but instructive. What was *the imperative* that the Lord gave to Paul and what were the *three encouragements* from *the Promise* that Pastor presented from this passage? Discuss their impact on Paul and us?

11. We were reminded this morning from God's message to Paul that "God's Electing grace is always an incentive to evangelism, never a disincentive." As we close this evening, discuss this statement and its implications for our approach to evangelism.