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- www.tryonchurchofchrist.com
- All sermons are posted
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plus other resources.



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

The conclusion of
the second missionary tour

is recorded in this chapter

(**Acts 18:23**)

and the beginning of

the third

(**Acts 18:23**)

- From Athens, Paul made his way to Corinth, one of the greatest cities of that day.

- It was famous for several things:
 - its bronze and pottery works;
 - its great sporting events that were comparable to the Olympics;
- and its immorality and wickedness.

- Paul took the Gospel to the wicked city of Corinth,
 - and by the grace of God established the Lord's church there!

- Paul tells us, in **1Corinthians 2:1-4**, that he entered Corinth **with fear and trembling**
- And made no effort to attract by **human wisdom** or **eloquence**.
-
- From the first he preached **“Christ and Him crucified.”**

- 1Corinthians 2:1

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

2:3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

•
Acts 18:9

Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, **Be not afraid**, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

18:10 **For I am with thee**, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

18:11 And he continued *there* **a year and six months**, teaching the word of God among them.

Its very position made Corinth
a key city of Greece.

Corinth was
"the market place of Greece."

Corinth was more than
a great commercial center..

She was the home of
the Isthmian Games
which were second only to
the Olympic Games.

Corinth was also
a wicked city.

The Greeks had a verb,
"to play the Corinthian,"
which meant to live
a life of lustful debauchery.

The word "Corinthian"
came into the English language
to describe a reckless, silly individual.

In Greece if ever a Corinthian
was shown on the stage
he was shown drunk.

- Corinth was well known
for its corruption.

- **Charles Pfeiffer,**
in Baker's Bible Atlas, writes,
"**Greeks, Romans, Jews** and **adventurers**
from the entire Mediterranean world
came to Corinth
for **trade** and **vice** in all its forms.

- **'To live like a Corinthian,'**
became synonymous with
a life of **luxury** and **licentiousness.**"

- The immoral nature of the city was added to by the temple of **Aphrodite,**
goddess of love,
which was located in Corinth.
- **A thousand priestesses**
of the goddess
served as prostitutes.

- How hopeless the outlook
upon this great city
- But Paul looked upon that scene
with other eyes.
 - The fields which
might appear to us
burnt up and wasted
were to him
white unto harvest.
(**John 4:35**)

- Paul had to deal with:
- The slaves of pleasure,
 - The love of money,
- The drug of ambition.
 - But he knew that deep down that every one of them hungered for something different.

- When the Thrill of pleasure
- The love of money,
- The drug of ambition.
- And life is shipwreck.
- Does not everyone cry out for something which the world cannot give or take away?
 - It was Paul's opportunity!

This was the city
in which Paul
lived and worked
and had some of his
greatest triumphs.

1Corinthians 15:57

**But thanks *be* to God,
which giveth us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Later when he was writing to the Corinthians
he made a list of all kinds of wickedness.

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God."

And then comes the triumphant phrase,
"and such were some of you"
(1Corinthians 6:9-11).

· The very iniquity of Corinth
was the opportunity of Christ.

Matthew 9:12

They that be whole
need not a physician,
but they that are sick.

9:13 For I am not come
to call the righteous,
but sinners to repentance.

- Paul is described as **a tent-maker**
 - He was a rabbi and according to Jewish practice **every rabbi must have a trade.**
(**Acts 18:3**)

- **A Jewish proverb:**

**“He that teaches not
his son a trade
is as if
he taught him
to be a thief.”**

- Though he was entitled to a maintenance from the churches

he had planted, and from the people to whom he preached,

- 1 Timothy 5:18

**For the scripture saith,
Thou shalt not muzzle the ox
that treadeth out the corn.**

**And, The labourer *is*
worthy of his reward.**

- Yet he worked at his calling
to get bread,

which is more to his praise.

- He had learned condescension of his Master,
who came not to be ministered to, but to minister.²⁰

It was through his trade
that he met a Christian couple
with whom he lived and ministered
while establishing
the Lord's church in Corinth.

How it must have rejoiced Paul's heart
to fellowship with these saints!

Paul had no home of his own,
and his travels made it difficult
to fellowship
for long in any one place.

Priscilla and **Aquila**
later went with him to Ephesus
where they instructed Apollos
(**Acts 18:18**, **Acts 18:24-28**).

The church gathered
in their house
to worship.
(**1Corinthians 16:19**),

They are good examples
to us of Christians
who open their hearts and homes
to serve the Lord.

In those early days there were
no church buildings.

Not until the
third century
do we read about a church building at all.

The Lord's people
met in private houses.

Wherever Aquila and Priscilla went,
their home became
a meeting place for the church.

It is of interest that in

Romans 16:3

that Priscilla is mentioned
before her husband, Aquila.

Romans 16:3

Greet Priscilla and Aquila
my helpers in Christ Jesus:

She is mentioned first,
even ahead of her husband,
and first of all those
whom Paul was
about to name.

Implying that Paul
had no contempt for women
as some have made the charge.

- Paul calls them
My fellow workers in Christ Jesus ...
(Romans 16:3)

- This couple were citizens of Rome,
where they were engaged in tent-making;

- In 49 A.D., the emperor Claudius
expelled all Jews from Rome;

- And thus it came about that
Priscilla and Aquila
opened up a tent-making business
in Corinth,

It was in
Ephesus

where, in the providence of God,
they became acquainted with Paul
and were converted to Christ.

What a glorious blessing
the cruel edict of the emperor
proved to be for them;

For if Claudius had not
expelled the Jews,
they might not ever have known
the truth of the gospel

- Was there ever a man:
 - More **brave**,
 - More mighty in **scripture**,
 - Or more **self-dependent** than Paul.
- **Yet he needs companions.**
 - He had worked with **Barnabas, Silas, Timothy.**
- And now **Aquila** & **Priscilla**

Christ knowing
our social needs
sent out His disciples and apostles
two by two.
(**Mark 6:7**)

One supplements the
deficiencies of the other.

"No man is an island"

(**Romans 14:7**)
{Paraphrased}

- At Antioch and now in Corinth
Paul turns to the Gentiles.

- Acts 13:47 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.
(Acts 13:46; 18:6)

Acts 18:6

And when they opposed themselves
and blasphemed,

he shook out his raiment
and said unto them,

Your blood be upon your own hands;
I am clean; from henceforth
I will go unto the Gentiles.

They opposed themselves ...

All opposition against the word of God
is in reality a disaster to the oppressor,
not to the gospel.

**"The Pharisees and lawyers rejected
the counsel of God against themselves,
being not baptized of him (John)"
(Luke 7:30)**

Blasphemed ...

This means that they blasphemed both
Paul and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Shook out his raiment ...

This gesture was the equivalent of
shaking off the dust of his feet against them
as in Acts 13:5.

**Your blood be upon
your own heads**

Ezekiel 33:4

**Whosoever hears the
sound of the trumpet,
and takes not warning,
if the sword come,
and take him away,
his blood shall be upon his own head.**

The Jews used this very phrase
**in assuming responsibility
for the blood of Jesus.**

(Matthew 27:25)

I am clean

Pure from your blood.

Repeats the claim made in previous sentence.

Paul had done his duty.

From henceforth

The turning point reached in Corinth.

He will devote himself to the Gentiles,
though Jews will be converted there also.

Elsewhere as in Ephesus

(**Acts 19:1-10**)

and in Rome

(**Acts 28:23-28**)

Paul will preach also to Jews.

Acts 18:8

Tells us that Crispus,
the chief ruler
of the synagogue,
believed,

as did many of the Corinthians!

Note the sequence:

hearing, believing, baptized.

**This is the New Testament pattern
today.**

Note that there is
a new ruler of the synagogue,
Sosthenes
(Acts 18:17).

It seems that
Chrispus's salvation
made it necessary
for the Jews
to elect a new ruler

If the **Sosthenes** of
Acts 18:17
is the same one named in
1Corinthians 1:1,
then he was also converted!

Note that those
who were baptized

were believers

(**Acts 18:8**);

this list excludes infants.

In verse 18
we find Paul
taking a vow.

Was this a
return to Judaism?

- **Acts 18:21**

**But bade them farewell, saying,
I must by all means keep this feast
that is approaching in Jerusalem:**

Most likely the Passover,
at which he wished to attend
for the purpose of seeing
many of his **friends,**
and having the
most favorable opportunity
to preach the Gospel to thousands
who would attend at Jerusalem
on that occasion.

Paul is simply
illustrating
his own principle
and that being:

"To the Jews
I became as a Jew,
in order that I
might gain the Jews."
(1 Corinthians 9:20)

For the Jews,
Paul became as a Jew
not in compromise,
but in courtesy.
(1Corinthians 9:19-23),

Certainly Paul knew that there were
no merits in such vows,
nor is he necessarily
setting an example
for believers today.

- As a Jew, Paul could observe ceremonial law
- But never imposed it upon the Gentiles.

Galatians 4:9

But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto you desire again to be in bondage?

4:10 You observe days, and months, and times, and years.

4:11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.

- To determine **Paul's relation to the law**

we need to look at **Titus** and **Timothy**.

- **Titus** being a Greek was not circumcised (**Galatians 2:3**) and **Timothy**, of Jewish blood, was circumcised. (**Acts 16:3**)
- From the Galatian letter we learn:
For in Jesus Christ
neither
circumcision avails any thing,
nor uncircumcision;
but faith which works by love.
(**Galatians 5:6**)

In Acts 18:24-28

we find Priscilla and Aquila explaining the Gospel of grace to the visiting speaker,
Apollos.

He knew only the baptism of John.

Instead of embarrassing him in public,
Priscilla and Aquila
"taught him the more perfectly".

Apollos proves to us that
it is possible to have
eloquence, zeal, and sincerity,
and still be wrong!

- Acts 18:24

And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, *and* mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

18:25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

- Many things about Jesus may be known, and still the saving truth may be unknown.

Apollos combined
the eloquence of the Greek
with the
religious knowledge of the Jew.

A student from the
great university at Alexandria,

Deeply conversant with the Old Testament,
gifted with marvelous eloquence,
he was a strong ally
in defense of the Lord's church.

But Apollos needed to know of the
death, resurrection,
and the ascended Christ.

Into all these he was
led by Aquila and Priscilla.

How wonderful is it that
so simple and humble believers,
may become teachers of men
who are intellectually
their superiors!

After visiting Jerusalem

Paul visited many churches,

(1) Confirming them in the faith,

(2) Fortifying their minds
against temptations,

(3) Encouraging them
to be faithful under persecution

- **Think**
On These Things
(Philippians 4:8)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



