

THE PLANTING OF THE CHURCH IN CORINTH

(Acts 18:1-17)

- I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 1-2)
- II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (chapters 3-7)
- III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (chapters 8-12)
- IV. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD (chapters 13-28)

A. Paul Plants A Church in the Commercial City of Corinth (18:1-11)

1. The city of Corinth was an unlikely place to plant a local Christian church, but it did have both positive and negative qualities...
 - a. Corinth was only fifty miles southwest of Athens, and it was regarded as the _____ and most _____ city in all of Greece with at least 200,000 citizens.
 - b. The city was notorious for its _____; so brazen was the unbridled _____ that a new Greek verb was eventually coined: to "*Corinthianize*" meant to practice fornication. (v. 1)
2. Upon his arrival, Paul made the acquaintance of a _____ couple by the name of Aquila and Priscilla who had been _____ from _____ by an edict made by Emperor Claudius in AD 49 or 50. (v. 2)
3. They came to the thriving commerce capital of Corinth to make a _____ with their trade of _____, of which there was commonality with the Apostle Paul who _____ with them. (v. 3)
4. According to his custom, Paul began his work of evangelism in the synagogue in Corinth as he did elsewhere; "*he _____ in the synagogue every Sabbath, and _____ both Jews and Greeks.*" (v. 4, cf. 9:20; 13:5, 14; 14:1; 17:2, 10, 17; 18:19; 19:8)
5. With his close friends now by his side "*Paul was _____ by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ*" but the Jews vehemently _____ him. (vv. 5-6)

6. In befriending a man by the name of Justus who lived _____ to the synagogue, Paul was able to _____ the synagogue leader Crispus and many others to _____. (vv. 7-8, cf. 1 Cor. 1:14)

7. Evidently the conversions of Crispus and other Corinthians together with the formation of a growing “house church” right next door to the synagogue, must have provoked great opposition, which prompted a vision from the Lord to ENCOURAGE His servant Paul.
 - a. “Do _____ be afraid, but _____, and do not keep silent...” (v. 9)

 - b. “for _____ with you, and _____ will attack you to hurt you...” (v. 10)

 - c. Following the Lord’s mandate, Paul remained in Corinth for a year and a half _____ the _____ to this newly formed, local church. (v. 11)

B. Paul is Brought before the Governor of Achaia (18:12-17)

1. At some point the unsaved Jews collectively brought Paul and all their accusations before the Proconsul Gallio; any _____ pronounced by him would establish legal _____. (vv. 12-13)

2. Gallio was willing to listen to the charges “*of wrongdoing or wicked crimes,*” but he was _____ willing to listen to matters regarding Jewish customs and laws- he _____ the entire matter “*and he _____ them from the judgment seat.*” (vv. 14-17)

3. The hand of God was evident! The Jews tried to _____ the Roman proconsul to declare the Christian faith illegal, but Gallio ended up doing just the _____; by refusing to try the case, Gallio made it clear that Rome would _____ get _____ in cases involving Jewish religious disputes.

* How can you personally apply this truth today?