

## Acts 18:1-14 Paul at Corinth

- A. Corinth was not like any other city Paul had encountered on his first and second missionary journeys.**

*Gordon Fee* "As much as any other document in the NT and more so than most of the various sociological, economic and religious factors that make up the environment of the city of Corinth have profound influences on one's understanding of Paul's letter to the church."

### Three things that can be said about Corinth:

1. Cosmopolitan City
2. Commercial City
3. Corrupt City

### Two major reason for this:

1. Estimated ten thousand temple prostitutes in Corinth

*Gordon Fee* calls it "*spiritualized eschatology*"

2. Corinth was the city of freedmen

Key to Ministry: Understanding the culture of your city and your sphere of INFLUENCE!

## **B. Scripture says Paul became discouraged**

1. We want to go back to doing the things from which God delivered us.

*Example:* Paul went back to making tents (18:3)

2. We get discouraged because no one is LISTENING.

*Example:* Every Sabbath he tried reasoning with the Jews in the synagogue and they opposed him (18:3-6).

Acts 18:5 says when Timothy and Silas arrived, "Paul exclusively devoted himself to preaching and testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah...BUT THEY OPPOSED HIM."

3. God has to remind Paul in a vision why he has been called (18:9).

- a. "Do not be afraid"
- b. "Keep on speaking"
- c. "For I am with you"

d. "For I have many people in this city"

**Martha Stortz (Sociologist): Understanding the three different dynamics of pastoral power.**

1. Most of us understand the concept that we have Power Over
2. Some of us understand we have Power Within
3. Power with Others

a. Aquila and Pricilla (tentmakers)

b. Silas and Timothy (spiritual sons of Paul) Acts 18:5

*Silas*: accompanied Paul on most of his second missionary journey and in Acts 16 was found in prison with him at Philippi

*Timothy*: His spiritual son and pastor of the church at Ephesus

c. Gallio the proconsul of Achaia (Roman leader with great wisdom)

d. Apollos (a gentile) Acts 18:18-27

- Apollos was a learned man
- He had a thorough knowledge of the scripture
- Instructed in the way of the Lord. (May have been Jesus or Yahweh)
- Taught about Jesus accurately
- Baptized in water according to John's baptism/believers baptism
- Spoke boldly in the synagogue
- He allowed Aquila and Pricilla to mentor him (Acts 18:26)