

Acts, Part 18

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 9/09/20

Introduction Summary

In this lesson we see Paul's dedication to spread of the gospel as he travelled hundreds of miles on foot to establish and confirm churches. Many times he faced severe persecution. However, he pressed on to fulfill God's plan. Also, we will see some of the ones who helped him in this endeavor to preach the gospel to the world.

- I. **Acts 18:1:** *Grace* (Gk. *charis*) in this scripture means *anointing* (1 Cor. 1:1-4).
 - A. This church operated in the gifts of the Spirit (1:6-7).
 - B. Corinth was the Las Vegas (USA) of today.
 - C. Notice "grace."
 1. As you continue reading, you will find the meaning (1 Cor. 3:10).
 2. Paul was the specially enlightened architect, spiritually speaking.
- II. How does Satan attack the Church? The answer is found in the parable of the sower (Mat.13, Mark 4 and Luke 8).
 - A. Satan attacks the church through division.
 1. Do not become divided (1 Cor. 1:10).
 2. He incites the church to prefer one personality over another.
 3. Paul takes them to task (1 Cor. 1:13-14).
 4. Carnality is a sign of immaturity (1 Cor. 3:1-3).
 - B. Satan attacks the church with *the lust of other things* – ambition (Mark 4:19).
 1. Ministers try to draw large groups of people to themselves – ambition.
 2. Paul warns them because they are his spiritual children (1 Cor. 4:14-19).
 3. I can neither choose my *natural* father nor my *spiritual* father.
- III. **Acts 18:1-2:** Aquila and Priscilla are a husband and wife helps ministry team.
 - A. They have a church in their home (1 Cor. 16:19).
 - B. These people were in helps ministry (Rom. 16:3, 1 Cor. 12:28).
 - C. Helps ministry is in the same list as the five-fold ministry gift.
 - D. **Acts 18:3:** Paul worked with Aquila, as a tentmaker.
- IV. **Acts 18:4-6:** Paul was called to the Gentiles, but he sought out the Jews.
 - A. **Acts 18:5:** Paul is pressed; he has an unction of the Holy Ghost to speak.
 - B. Paul was done with trying to convince the Jews.
- V. **Acts 18:7-8:** Crispus, the chief ruler, and his family believed.
 - A. Crispus helped Paul baptize the believers (1 Cor. 1:14).

- B. Among the Jews, we only hear about Crispus.
 - C. Among the Gentiles, there were many who were saved.
 - D. Great results occur when you are doing what you are called to do where you are called to do it.
- VI. **Acts 18:9-11:** Paul is considering his next move, and the Lord answered him.
- A. The apostle's office is usually connected with teaching (Acts 20:20).
 - B. An apostle starts a work where there is none.
 - C. *Laying the foundation* refers to *teaching the people*.
 - D. The apostle can, at times, stand in all five ministry gift offices.
 - E. Paul remains there for a year and a half, developing the churches.
- VII. **Acts 18:12-14:** This is the same thing they said about Jesus.
- A. Sosthenes became the chief ruler because his successor was kicked out when he converted to Christianity.
 - B. Sosthenes eventually becomes saved and follows Paul. But here, he brought false accusation against Paul (1 Cor. 1:1).
 - C. The Greeks didn't like it and they beat him up. That's the way they settled disputes – mob rule. We're supposed to be more sophisticated than that.
- VIII. **Acts 18:18:** Paul shaved his head (Acts 21:19-24) to show the Jews in that place that he kept the law.
- A. They gave Paul wisdom to maintain the trust of the Jews in that place. The balance to this is that you do not draw back from Scripture to win someone.
 - B. Musicians, for example, shouldn't remove Scripture from their music; instead they should put more scripture in it, because it's not the beat that wins people, it's the Gospel that wins people.
- IX. **Acts 18:19-23:** Ephesus is modern day Turkey. It doesn't become Islamic until around 580 years later.
- A. At that time (as it is today) a person could be killed for being a Christian.
 - B. Paul is going to the churches he established to strengthen them.
 - C. He is making sure they are keeping the doctrine he taught.
 - D. One of the pastors I placed in a church changed his doctrine; he stopped believing in speaking in tongues. Therefore, I had to change pastors.
- X. **Acts 18:24:** Paul laid the foundation. Apollos, a teacher of the Word, taught and held to the doctrine Paul preached (1 Cor. 3:6).

Closing Summary

Paul was extremely dedicated, in spite of Satan's attacks. So it is that way today. But when we have the same tenacity that Paul had to spread the gospel despite opposition, we will see many won to Jesus. Satan's attacks may come, but Jesus made us overcomers! Understanding that people will go to hell without receiving Jesus as their Lord, decide to get the gospel out so that we can reach as many as possible while we are here on this earth.