



What Happens in Corinth ...
Acts 18:1-28

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Learning Today

- ❖ God is sovereign in salvation
- ❖ The word of the Lord is trustworthy
- ❖ We need to live in submission to God's will
- ❖ We should offer correction gently
- ❖ The role of women in ministry

Acts 17

- ❖ The Gospel message will always yield a combination of acceptance and rejection.
- ❖ We should not let challenges of the past deter us from the opportunities of the present.
- ❖ It is okay to tailor the Gospel message for different audiences.
- ❖ But we must focus on Jesus and the resurrection.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The background is softly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the text. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font with a black outline.

Acts 16 about God

- ❖ God intervenes to keep us in his will.
- ❖ God communicates to his people through dreams and visions.
- ❖ God is sovereign over salvation.



Acts 16 about us:

- ❖ Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.
- ❖ We oppose things destructive to the well-being of others.
- ❖ We remain faithful despite setbacks.
- ❖ We embrace diversity.
- ❖ We practice hospitality.
- ❖ Our rights < gospel mission.

Acts 15:1-16:5

- ❖ Salvation comes through faith in Jesus.
- ❖ Wise decisions come from the Holy Spirit, Scripture, experience and counsel.
- ❖ There is no “us vs. them” in the Kingdom of God.
- ❖ God can use conflict to produce growth.
- ❖ Individual rights of disciples < Gospel mission.

Acts 14

- ❖ The gospel message faces opposition.
- ❖ God has the power to heal.
- ❖ Paul adapted his message for different audiences.
- ❖ God reveals himself through nature.
- ❖ In this world you will have trouble.
- ❖ The early churches were led by elders.



Acts 13:13-52

- ❖ Rejecting the Messiah leads to judgment.
- ❖ Salvation = election and belief.
- ❖ Opposition is not a sign of failure.
- ❖ Obstacles can become opportunities.

Acts 13:1-12

- ❖ The family of God > ethnicity/social class.
- ❖ The work of the church is often done in teams.
- ❖ Beware of the occult.
- ❖ The people of God seek him through fasting, prayer and worship.

Acts 18:1-2

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,



Acts 18:3-4

and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.



Acts 18:5-6

When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."



Paul's Pattern

- ❖ Go first to the Jews
- ❖ Get rejected by them
- ❖ Go to the Gentiles

Acts 18:7-8

Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

Acts 18:9-11

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision:
“Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

God's Sovereignty in Salvation

- ❖ Acts 2:23
- ❖ Acts 2:39
- ❖ Acts 2:47
- ❖ Acts 3:18
- ❖ Acts 4:27-28
- ❖ Acts 5:31
- ❖ Acts 11:18
- ❖ Acts 13:48
- ❖ Acts 15:8-9
- ❖ Acts 16:14
- ❖ Acts 18:10

Acts 18:12-13

While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment. "This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."

Acts 18:14

Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you.

Acts 18:15-17

But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law — settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.” So he drove them off. Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.

Who is beating up whom?

- ❖ Greco-Romans beating Jews?
- ❖ Jews beating Christians?
- ❖ Jews beating Jews?

Acts 18:18

Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken.



Acts 18:19

They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.



Acts 18:20-21

When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. But as he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.” Then he set sail from Ephesus.



A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the upper right quadrant of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The Bible is open, showing two pages of text, and is positioned in the lower half of the frame. The background is softly blurred, suggesting a quiet, indoor setting. The overall tone is peaceful and contemplative.

1 Corinthians 4:19a

[Paul]: But I will come to you very soon,
if the Lord is willing ...

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James 4:15

Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

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Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)

A man's heart plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The text is overlaid on the image.

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

Acts 18:22-23

When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch. After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Acts 18:24-25

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Apollos

- ❖ Intelligent
- ❖ Thorough knowledge of Scripture
- ❖ Received instruction about Christ
- ❖ Taught accurately about Jesus
- ❖ Somehow deficient in his understanding



Acts 18:26

He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.



F.F. Bruce

“How much better it is to give such private help to a preacher whose ministry is defective than to correct or denounce him publicly!”

1 Timothy 2:11-13

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

Women teaching in NT

- ❖ Other women (Titus 2:4)
- ❖ Children (2 Timothy 1:5)
- ❖ Men? (Acts 18:26)



Acts 18:27

When Apollos wanted to go to Achaía, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.



Acts 18:28

For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

Learned Today

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- ❖ The word of the Lord is trustworthy
- ❖ We need to live in submission to God's will
- ❖ We should offer correction gently
- ❖ The role of women in ministry



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper