

Corinth: Preaching to the Dark Side

Acts 18:1-11

Introduction:

v.1 “Corinth” a difficult, imposing place for evangelism.

Thus 1 Cor. 2:1-5 “fear and trembling...”
Thus Paul trusted in God and “determined” to preach only
“Christ crucified.”

v.2 But God gives Paul a divine appointment to encourage him.

Priscilla and Aquila, lifelong friends,
from Corinth to Romans (Rom. 16:3) to Ephesus (2 Tim. 4:19)
They had done missions... been persecuted... and are now loyal
to Paul.

Point: God knows when you need some extra encouragement.

v.3 Every Jewish boy was to be taught:

- Law
- Trade
- And to swim

All 3 of these helped Paul.

This is called “Providence”

v.4 Into the breach once again.

v.5 And someone else shows up to be an encouragement.
Timothy and support from Philippi.

v.6 The Jew again rejects Paul’s gospel.
Paul’s response: “You are not the covenant people”
And pronouncement: “Judgment will come”

Point: Paul is faithful to his message.

v.7 Paul goes to the Gentiles
Next door to the synagogue
There is a choice to make.

v.8 The top Jewish guy gets saved beginning a surge.
Point: for the third time God encourages Paul

v.9 Paul is fearful. So far he has been...

- Stoned
- Run out of town numbers of times
- Beaten with rods
- Put in jail
- And stocks

But God appears in a scary time.

v.10 “You are part of my sovereign plan!” **Election!**
“I’ve put before you an open door that no one can.”

v.11 Sure enough!

Who would have thought? The longest time period yet!! And the
most *pleasant* and quiet!

Why? These are the neediest people
M. Henry (Mara→Elim)

Conclusion:

1. God calls us to dark places – scary
2. Stay with your game
3. He is with you
 - People
 - Support
 - Unexpected blessing
 - Personal intimacy