

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for August 14, 2016**

**The Continuation of the Ministry in Corinth**  
**Acts 18:5-11**

Acts 15:36-18:23 records Paul's second missionary journey to Greece, and Acts 18 details his ministry in Corinth.

**1. Dedication to service (18:5)**

Silas and Timothy arrived in Corinth from Berea (Acts 17:14) with financial support from the Macedonians so that Paul could devote himself to the word (2 Corinthians 11:9; Philippians 4:15).

**2. Decision to separate (18:6)**

This dramatic response was not a universal rejection of the Jews but is localized to the Jews in Corinth (Acts 18:19; 19:8; 28:17-24). There are strategic times to move along in our ministry, notably in the face of blasphemy.

**3. Division in the synagogue (18:7-8)**

Many of the Corinthians believed and were baptized but two were noteworthy. Titius Justus was a worshipper of God—a Gentile who was following Judaism but not a full convert.

Having two names, it is likely that Titius Justus was a Roman citizen. Some believe that his house is mentioned because it was the meeting place of the church and identifies him as Gaius (Romans 16:23; 1 Corinthians 1:14), but this is uncertain. He was mentioned because of where he lived, which showed that Christianity remained so close to the Jews that conflict was inevitable.

Crispus is referenced in 1 Corinthians 1:14 as one of the few that Paul ever baptized. As usual, we see belief included as the prerequisite for baptism, meaning that the household of Crispus were all old enough to believe.

**4. Decree of salvation (18:9-11)**

Paul had a long history with the Jews attacking him (2 Corinthians 11:23-25). There are two commands in this text:

- a. Do not be afraid. With the same words, God exhorted the Israelites to not fear (Deuteronomy 31:6; Isaiah 41:10; 43:5; Jeremiah 1:8). One thing that Jesus rebuked his disciples for was their fear (Matthew 6:34; 8:26; 10:28). Fear is the opposite of faith.
- b. Speak. Speak is restated by its corollary, “do not be silent.” The remedy for fear is speaking. There is no salvation apart from words (Romans 10:13-17).

The Lord gave three reasons for obedience:

- a. His presence: Christ has promised enduring strength (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). Because Christ is with us, we will overcome the world (1 John 4:4).
- b. His protection: Christ has promised eternal security (Matthew 10:28; John 6:39). Because Christ has secured us, he will deliver us (Romans 8:29-30).
- c. His purpose: Christ has promised evangelistic success. Because Christ has many people, he will use us to serve His people.

All of these are rooted in our living for Christ instead of for ourselves (2 Corinthians 5:14-19).

Paul responded to the Lord and fearlessly remained in Corinth for eighteen months in spite of opposition (Acts 8:11, 12). This would likely be from the spring of 51 AD until the fall of 52 AD.

May our enthusiasm for reaching the lost correspond to Christ’s enablement for reaching the lost.