

CORINTH: A SECOND WIND

Acts 18:1-22

I. Paul in Corinth – same song, seventh verse?

A. The pattern of Paul's ministry –

1. Proclamation of Jesus in the synagogue
2. Response of faith by some Jews and God-fearers
3. Opposition by unbelieving Jews
4. Shift of ministry focus to Gentiles
5. Opposition forces evacuation

B. Distinctive features of the Corinth mission

1. The revelatory _____ of Jesus
2. The remarkable _____ of Gallio
3. A different ending to the story: _____ - _____ ministry

II. Looking Closer: God's Provisions for His Apostle

A. Ministry Premise: "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22)

1. Reasons

- a. Hardship is necessary for _____ to others (2 Corinthians 1)
- b. Hardship is necessary for _____ (2 Corinthians 4)
- c. Hardship is necessary for our spiritual _____ - _____ (2 Corinthians 12).

2. Reality – no good deed ever goes unpunished.

- a. Paul's ministry experience: rejection, opposition, threats to life, physical persecution, expulsion (see 2 Corinthians 11:23-29).
- b. Most recently, in Athens he was "_____ with polite contempt."
- c. When he came to Corinth, he was _____.
 - *Timothy* had been dispatched to Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:1-5)
 - *Silas* had apparently been sent to Philippi (2 Cor. 11:9; Philippians 4:14-15)
- d. He was almost sick with _____ over the state of the Thessalonian believers who were experiencing persecution for their faith (1 Thes. 2:17-3:5).
- e. He may have been out of _____ (see Acts 18:5).
- f. His own assessment: "I came to you in _____ and fear, and with much trembling" (1 Corinthians 2:3).

B. Ministry Promise: "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Specific Ways the Lord Encouraged Paul:

1. He provided new “soul mate” friends and _____: Priscilla and Aquila (18:2-4; see Romans 16:3-4; 1 Corinthians 16:19).
2. He gave Paul something _____ to do with his hands (18:3).
3. He brought encouraging news (via Timothy) regarding the spiritual _____ of the Thessalonians (1 Thes. 3:1-6)
4. He supplied _____ resources from Philippi, delivered by Silas (2 Cor. 11:9; Phil. 4:14-15)
5. He allowed Paul to experience _____ in ministry in the form of conversions.
6. He spoke directly to Paul by means of revelatory _____ (9-10).
 - a. Using the biblical language reminiscent of God’s message to his prophets . . . (see Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5; Isaiah 41:10; 43:5; Jeremiah 1:7-9)
 - b. He gave three commands . . .
 - 1) “Stop being afraid”
 - 2) “Keep on speaking”
 - 3) “Do not become silent”
 - c. Based on three promises:
 - 1) The _____ of Jesus: *“I am with you”*
 - 2) The _____ of Jesus: *“No one will attack you to harm you”*
 - 3) The _____ of Jesus: *“I have many in this city who are my people”*
7. He _____ his faithfulness to his promise (12-17).

III. Insights for Present-Day Disciples

- A. Negative emotions are never an excuse for _____.
- B. We can count on the same _____ promised by God to Paul.
 1. His presence (Hebrews 13:5-6; Matthew 28:20)
 2. His protection (Psalm 121): Like Paul, we are not exempt from pain; we are protected from _____
 3. His purposes (Romans 8:28-29; Galatians 6:7-10).
- C. When the hardships of life feel overwhelming, we should look for the _____ of God.
- D. When we are encouraged by the assurance of God’s promise, the appropriate response is: “_____ _____.”