

## Acts 18:1-17

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) When God opens doors, the enemy works to close them, many times through discouragement.
- 2) *18:2* God knew Paul needed someone to help him carry the load.
- 3) *18:3* Paul did not accept any financial support from the Corinthians in order to avoid any obstacle to the gospel.
- 4) *18:5* When Silas & Timothy arrived, they brought financial aid (2 Corinthians 11:9), which enabled Paul to preach the Word full-time.
- 5) *18:6* Paul's action symbolized his rejection of the Jews rejection.
- 6) *18:6* To have "blood on your head" meant a person was to blame for his/her own judgment. They had the opportunity to be saved, but they turned it down.
- 7) *18:8-9* Luke did not give details, but the clear impression is that the situation was especially difficult and dangerous.
- 8) *18:8-9* When God gives increase of opportunity, you can anticipate increased opposition (1 Corinthians 16:9).
- 9) *18:9-10* Four reasons for Paul not to give up:
  1. God commanded it specifically—"go on speaking"
  2. God reoriented him—"I am with you" (Matthew 28:20; Isaiah 41:10; Jeremiah 1:17-19)
  3. God promised—"no man will attack you/harm you" (Isaiah 54:17; Revelation 11:5)
  4. God had "many people in this city" (Acts 13:48)
- 10) *18:13* Judaism was officially allowed by Rome. At this early date, Christianity was viewed as a sect of Judaism.

11) *18:15* Had Gallio decided against Paul, it not only would have set precedent to end Paul's effectiveness, but also would have hindered the growth of the church.

12) To walk by faith means responding to opportunity, even in the midst of opposition.

13) There never is an easy place to serve God; if there is an easy place, it's possible that something is wrong (2 Timothy 3:12).

GREEK WORDS

Diamartyromai (dee-am-ar-too'-rom-ahee)—to attest or protest earnestly (by implication): charge, testify, witness  
 Antitassō—literally, to arrange in battle array

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