

FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

THEME: ACTS – EXPOSING GOD’S CHURCH COMMUNITY IN ACTION!

UNIT ONE – “The Gains of their Actions”

UNIT TWO – “The Pains of their Actions”

UNIT THREE – “The Fame of their Actions”

“THE RESULTS OF REAL PREACHING CONTINUES IN CORINTH”



Sunday School Lesson No. XIII, November 29, 2015 Rev. Frank A. Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Acts 18:1-11

Required Reading: Acts 18:1-28

Memory Text: Acts 18:9-10, *“Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Libronix Electronic Library; Precepts for Living (UMI), Word Search 9 and 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible; Thirty Amazing People in the Bible by Dr. David Jeremiah; The Book of Acts by E. C. Gillentine; The Book of Acts in 24 Lessons by E. L. Bynum; George Brooks Preaching Commentary

INTRODUCTION

While Paul is led of the Lord to leave Athens (we are not sure why), he travels into the cosmopolitan city of Corinth. According to E. L. Bynum: “Corinth was known as the most wicked city in the Roman Empire. It was a great commercial trading city. It was a very important seaport, having three harbors. Sailors from all nations, along with traders, merchants, etc. met here and sin and immorality of every kind abounded on every hand. In other parts of the empire, those who lived in lust and deep sin, were said to be living as Corinthians.” Now beloved, is there anything too hard for the Lord? And what kind of love has the Father toward humanity? Surely as one considers the city and the chosen vessel sent there, we can affirm the scripture in II Peter 3:9, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

God sent a man (Paul) who had experienced the greatest level of His forgiveness to reach a people who were seemingly the farthest from His truth, and demonstrated His love and longsuffering through real preaching!

Anticipated Power Points...Real preaching in Corinth begins with:

- **A Common Bond. Acts 18:1-3**
- **A Call to Bear Witness. Acts 18:4-6**
- **A Christ-given Blessing. Acts 18:7-11**

LESSON OUTLINE

I. A Common Bond. Acts 18:1-3

This chapter opens with the words: “*After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth.*” It is here that we remember the European journey of Paul and his companions. In Chapters 16 and 17, we have seen what God did through Paul and the team in Europe. The results of real preaching left both converts and controversy along the seas and Egnatian Way of the Roman Empire. The people of Philippi, blessed from a merchant woman named Lydia, to the fortune-telling young lady who lost her ability through the casting out of a demon in her by Paul. Finally, the salvation of a jailor and his family by the love of the Gospel by Paul and Silas. Upon departing Philippi, the journey saw a city-wide crusade in Thessalonica that had both positive and negative results. A strong Christian conversion in the city of Berea, leaving a great testimony in the Word of God.

And the anemic answer of the Athenians, who loved philosophy and worldly wisdom more than God’s wisdom and Word. Yet, a few converts were even left there. Real preaching commits God’s Word to the ears and hearts of individuals who have to make their own personal decision concerning the Messiah, Jesus Christ!

Now we turn to Chapter 18, where Paul is led to lift up real preaching in Corinth. Let us note the following introductory results. Paul arrives in the cesspool of iniquity but according to verse 10, God declared, “*He had much people in this city.*” Paul meets a couple named Aquila and Priscilla, who were banished along with all people of Jewish heritage from Rome by Claudius the emperor. Upon arriving in Corinth, God brought Paul and this couple together because of their common bond. **They both...**

- A. Were new to the city. v. 1**
- B. Were of Jewish heritage. v. 2**
- C. Were previously in cities filled with idolatry. v. 2 (Paul-Athens, and Aquila and Priscilla-Rome.)**
- D. Had the same trade of tent-making. v. 3**
- E. Had a desire to serve Christ. v. 3**

II. A Call to Bear Witness. Acts 18:4-6

As was Paul’s way, he would attend the local synagogues when he entered a new city to bear witness of Jesus from the Hebrew Scriptures that He is Messiah! Note:

- A. Paul strongly testified of Jesus to persuade the Jew and Greek attendees. v. 4**
- B. Paul was seriously convicted to labor in the Word with the Jews to receive Jesus Christ after Timothy and Silas arrived from Macedonia.**

This seems to be a greater fervor than ever, but why? Probably they brought gifts so Paul could devote 100% of his time to the ministry and not have to supplement his income with tent-making. v. 5

- C. Paul labored until the point of exhaustion to reach the Jews his brothers, until they totally rebelled and refused to receive the Gospel.**

He then turned and shook the dust from his clothing, sharing that he would turn his major attention to preaching Christ to the Gentiles. He used the idiom of Ezekiel 33:1-6. (Read and understand Ezekiel’s words!)

III. A Christ-given Blessing. Acts 18:7-11

Note that in spite of man’s rejection, Christ’s message will not be utterly denied. Converts to Christ will be made.

- A. A close neighbor of the synagogue named Gaius Titius Justus, a Gentile who opened his house to Paul’s teaching. v. 7**
- B. Crispus, the ruler of the Jewish synagogue, and his whole household, received Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord! v. 8**
- C. Christ reassures Paul to keep preaching because he had many souls that would believe, in this city, and no harm would come to him. vv. 9-10**
- D. Continuing of the ministry by Paul for 18 months was the result. v. 11**

CLOSING

The results of real preaching at Corinth is still duplicated today by the faithful in Christ. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus gave the Great Commission and we are mandated to continue with it! Declare the message of Christ and leave the results to God!

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768

Phone: (504) 486-7876 Email: bible32@bellsouth.net Website: www.thestudyhour.com

Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City) and wablradio.com, Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

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Looking Ahead:

December 6, 2015

Exodus 20:8-11, 31:12-16

**HAVE A BLESSED AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEKEND
AND PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED!!!**

