

I. IN CORINTH

- A. Paul was not driven from Athens, but they were cold to the Gospel
 - 1. So, Paul left to go where people would listen and hear the Word
 - a. Two often quoted verses come to mind:
 - i. ROM. 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - ii. ROM. 10:14 – “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”
 - b. Some places are cold – some are not – God knows!
 - i. We cannot take the Gospel to the wrong address
 - ii. Some may hear, others may reject, but a seed is planted
 - iii. Paul knew that. 1 COR. 3:7 – “So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”
 - c. Have your neighbors heard? Paul’s did. He didn’t go anywhere without the Gospel on his lips and a burden in his heart.
 - 2. Corinth was a very wealthy city in a very beautiful locale
 - a. “Non cui-VIS homini con-TIN-git ad-IRE Co-RIN-thum”
 - i. “It is not permitted everyman to see Corinth.”
 - ii. Only the blessed are allowed to experience this city
 - iii. It was truly a rich and splendid city (much like Naples)
 - b. It was known for its commerce and wealth
 - c. It was about 50 miles from Athens
 - d. It was known for its sinfulness
 - 3. We take medicine to the sick and hurting
 - a. We take the Gospel to those who are dying in sin
 - b. YES – the average Corinthian maybe had no desire for God
 - i. They probably thought they had all of life’s goods
 - ii. They probably thought their money was enough
 - iii. They probably refused to think about their need
 - c. But there were SOME who did!
- B. Paul met two new friends there (vs. 2)
 - 1. They were both tentmakers (vs. 3) like Paul
 - a. Be careful of the context and order of the verses here
 - b. He came unto them BECAUSE they were Jews and Tentmakers
 - c. He abode with them because of Jewish hospitality
 - i. They did not get saved and THEN invite him to live there
 - ii. They were refugees from Rome and took Paul in

- iii. Notice that Silas and Timothy had not caught up yet (vs. 5)
 - d. Of course, we know they DID get saved
 - e. Later with Apollos – ACTS 18:26 – “And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”
- 2. It is IMPORTANT to have a job and a trade
 - a. One rabbi says, “He that teaches not his son a trade is as if he taught him to be a thief.”
 - b. Another says, “He that has a trade in his hand is as a vineyard that is fenced.”
 - c. Some “young gentlemen” in ministry never seem to get their hands dirty or sweat – I’m glad we have none of those!
- 3. Sometimes Preachers must be TENTMAKERS (bivocational)
- C. He worked with them and took every opportunity to TELL them about Jesus
 - 1. He’d make tents and work hard in companionable labor
 - 2. Then take a break, drink some water, and he’d tell them about Jesus
 - a. They’d stop to eat their lunch, and he’d tell them about the Cross
 - b. They’d have coffee in the morning, and he’d expound the OT
 - c. They’d run to market for supplies, and he’d chat about Salvation
 - 3. He never let the Gospel diminish his work
 - a. But he’d never let the fact that he worked diminish his preaching!
 - b. And Aquilla and Pricilla got Saved!
 - c. Remember: Persecution is a fact of the Christian life
 - 4. They were only IN Corinth BECAUSE OF Claudius

II. BECAUSE OF CLAUDIUS

- A. Roman Emperor AD 41-54
 - 1. We don’t know the exact date – but it can be compared to Gallio (vs. 12)
 - 2. Gallio was Proconsul beginning sometime around AD 51 or 52.
 - 3. Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome in his 9th Year
 - a. One chronicler during the life of Claudius (Suetonius) wrote: “The reason was because the Jews were a turbulent people - assiduo tumultuantes; and that it was impulsore Christo - upon the account of Christ; some zealous for him, others bitter against him, which occasioned great heats, such as gave umbrage to the government, and provoked the emperor, who was a timorous jealous man, to order them all to be gone.”
 - b. Jews have persecuted Christians. Christians have persecuted Jews
 - c. It is no wonder that the heathen persecutes both.
- B. This was not the first time a Roman Emperor tossed the Jews out
 - 1. Two times before
 - 2. 139 BC – Jews were expelled after being accused of missionary efforts.

3. AD 19 – Tiberius again expelled Jews from the city for similar reasons.
- C. God has always used the even the evil intentions of the world for His purposes
 1. Remember even the birth of Christ!
 2. LUKE 2:1 – “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.”
 3. We may not always have freedom of speech or freedom of religion
 4. Let’s use it while we do!

III. WITH CRISPUS

- A. Paul kicks into high gear (vs. 5)
 1. PROV. 27:17 – “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”
 2. So many people sit around waiting for someone else to do something
 - a. For the members of Naples Baptist Temple: This is YOUR church
 - b. This is not the “pastor’s” church – I’m just a member here
 - c. A need seen is an assignment given!
 - i. I am VERY thankful for all who show up on workdays
 - ii. And for VBS and for outreach
 - iii. A tentmaking Pastor cannot go it alone!
 3. Don’t be a thermometer – be a THERMOSTAT
 4. Don’t wait for someone else to get on fire for God
 5. GET ON FIRE YOURSELF!
- B. Paul preaches in the Synagogues – that has been his habit
 1. He testifies that Jesus is Messiah. Savior. DELIVERER!
 2. But the Jews oppose themselves (Reject the Gospel)
 3. Paul declared himself clean from their blood (vs. 6)
- C. Paul moves to the house of Crispus (which was BY the Synagogue – vs. 7 & 8)
 1. Crispus was THE chief ruler of the Synagogue – follows divine order:
 - a. He HEARD the Gospel
 - b. He BELIEVED the Gospel
 - c. He was BAPTIZED into church membership
 2. Right there in the street, preaching to all the Jews as they pass by
 3. The Gospel was made OBVIOUS – it stuck out ALL OVER

IV. NEW CHURCH

- A. Paul remains in Corinth for 18 months
 1. Not on vacation, but preaching, winning the lost, baptizing believers
 2. TEACHING the saints to be disciples of Christ
 3. We know that these baptized believers were organized into a church
 - a. We have the books of 1 and 2 Corinthians to prove it
 - b. 1 COR. 1:2 – “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that

in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"

- c. The second book confirms it: 2 COR. 1:1 – "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:"
- B. While they had many problems, they were STILL one of the Lord's Churches
- C. And naturally persecution followed
1. The devil doesn't like it when you take his territory
 - a. He can't stop it, but he doesn't like it!
 - b. He will fight back
 - c. And he might even use "religious" people to do it!
 2. The JEWS haul Paul to Gallio the "deputy" (proconsul)
 - a. But he would have no part of their religious squabbles (vs. 14)
 - b. Paul didn't even have to defend himself - Gallio did it FOR him!
 - c. But government is NOT on the side of Christ (not now, not ever)
 3. Then the GREEKS beat Sosthenes in front of Gallio (vs. 17)
 - a. That didn't defeat or discourage Sosthenes!
 - b. 1 COR. 1:1 – "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,"
 - c. He got up and got back into the fight!

V. PAUL CONTINUES

- A. Neither success nor apparent failure should be grounds to stop witnessing!
1. God encouraged Paul to keep going (vs. 9 & 10) in six ways
 - a. No fear
 - b. Speak
 - c. Don't be silenced
 - d. God is with Paul
 - e. No one can hurt Paul
 - f. There are many more to be saved in Corinth!
 2. God encourages US to keep going too!
 3. 2 TIM. 4:2 – "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."
- B. Maybe you need to take the example of Crispus this morning
1. He heard, then he believed, then he followed in scriptural baptism
 2. Maybe you've heard but not believed
 3. This is your opportunity to come to Jesus and accept Him as Savior
- C. Be Saved Today!