

05 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 1 Corinthians – week 1



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member how the church in Corinth started in Acts 18:1 – 17?
2. Who did Paul find in v.2? **(He found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla.)**
3. What does v.3 tell us about Paul? **(Paul was of the same trade and stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.)**
4. What was Paul's strategy in v.4? **(He reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.)**



Let's go deeper

5. Who arrived in v.5? **(Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, and Paul was testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.)**
6. What does v.6 tell us? **(When the Jews opposed and reviled Paul, he went to minister to the Gentiles.)**
7. What does vv.9 – 11 tell us? **(The Lord said to Paul, do not be afraid, go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, no one will attack you to harm you. I have many in this city who are my people.)**
8. How did Christianity advance in v.15b? **(Gallio refused to be a judge of the complaints the Jews brought against Paul to stop preaching.)**



Let's apply this

9. Acts 18:9 – 11; The Lord said to Paul, do not be afraid, go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, no one will attack you to harm you. I have many in this city who are my people.

Paul continued in Corinth, knowing God was with Him and people would be saved. Paul was responsible to obey God; God was responsible to save sinners.

- Do you have a support team like Aquila, Priscilla, Silas or Timothy?
- Are you encouraged by Jesus' words to Paul in vv.9 – 11?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you power to keep on speaking about Jesus to people in Bloemfontein, and trust Jesus for their salvations.

SUMMARY:

1 Corinthians: Week 1 – Church planting in Corinth

Read: Acts 18:1 – 17

vv.1 – 3; Paul's support team. Paul's tentmaking was an important part of his ministry. He met a Jewish couple, Aquila and Priscilla, who were workers in leather with him. Saul of Tarsus learned to make leather tents to support himself in his ministry. Aquila and Priscilla are a great example of how business leaders can help to further the work of the Lord.

vv.4 – 5; Paul's strategy. Paul lived and worked with Aquila and Priscilla, but on the Sabbath days he witnessed boldly in the synagogue. When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, they brought financial aid, and this enabled Paul to devote his full time to the preaching of the gospel. Friends like Aquila and Priscilla, Silas and Timothy, and the generous believers in Macedonia, made it possible for Paul to serve the Lord effectively.

v.6; Paul's opposition. To have blood on your hands means that you bear the responsibility for another's death because you were not faithful to warn him. The image comes from the watchman on the city walls whose task it was to stay alert and warn of coming danger (see Ezekiel 3:17–21; 33:1–9). But to have blood on your head means that you are to blame for your own judgment. You had the opportunity to be saved, but you turned it down (see Joshua 2:19). Paul's hands were clean (see Acts 20:26) because he had been faithful to declare the message of the gospel. The Jews had their own blood on their own heads because they rejected God's truth.

vv.7 – 8; Salvations and baptisms. The ruler of the synagogue was responsible to care for the building, and to ensure that the services were held in a regular and orderly manner. Paul's ministry in Corinth is an example of him fulfilling the Lord's great commission given in Matthew 28:19–20. Paul came to Corinth ("Go"), he won sinners to Christ (make disciples), he baptized, and he taught them (Acts 18:11). He even experienced the assurance of the Lord's "I am with you" (Acts 18:9–10).

vv.9 – 11; A word of encouragement. The answer to Paul's fear was to obey Jesus's word to not be afraid, to speak and not keep silent, meaning to keep proclaiming the Word of God. Paul was encouraged by the presence and the promise of the Lord, that no one would hurt him, and he will bring many sinners to the Saviour.

vv.12 – 17; Christianity advance. In approaching Gallio, the Jews of Corinth tried to stop Paul's preaching, and tried to force the Roman proconsul to declare the Christian faith as illegal, but Gallio ended up doing just the opposite. By refusing to try the case, Gallio made it clear that Rome would not get involved in Jewish religious disputes. As far as he was concerned, Paul and his disciples had as much right as the Jews to practice their religion and share it with others.