



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of February 1, 2026

Acts 18:1-17

[1] After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. [2] And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, [3] and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. [4] And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. [5] When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. [6] And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." [7] And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. [8] Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. [9] And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, [10] for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." [11] And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. [12] But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, [13] saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law." [14] But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. [15] But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things." [16] And he drove them from the tribunal. [17] And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

1. Describe what you know about the Apostle Paul and explain why it might be easy to assume he didn't struggle with the same fears, hurts, and even despair that all people experience. How do we know from Scripture that this assumption is false and why is it important for us to know it's false?
2. In our passage this week, Paul and his gospel message were rejected yet again by his countrymen whom he loved dearly. Describe what it must feel like to be rejected over and over again, by the people you love the most. What did God do to encourage Paul? What do God's actions teach us about who it is that actually saves? Does this encourage you or discourage you in your evangelism?
3. In spite of the conversions of Titius Justus, Crispus, his entire family, and many other Corinthians, Paul was still fearful and greatly demoralized so Jesus appeared to Paul in a vision to encourage him. Why do you think Paul was still so disheartened and distressed? Can you relate to Paul? If so, how?
4. In the vision, Jesus reminds Paul that He is always with him. This is the same Paul who had a supernatural encounter with the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. Why do you think Paul needed this reminder that Jesus was still with him? How does Jesus' presence encourage the fainthearted? How are you reminded that Jesus is with you even in your darkest moments?
5. Jesus also told Paul in his vision that no one would attack and harm him. True to His word, when Paul is brought before the Roman official Gallio, the Lord orchestrates circumstances such that Paul is not punished, rather Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, is the one who is beaten. Will God always prevent His children from being attacked and harmed? If not, how should we understand passages such as this?
6. Paul's trials and struggles are beyond comparison. However, we all face difficulties in life that can sometimes lead us to despair. What are some things going on in your life right now that may be causing you to fear and want to give up? What do you think God is teaching you through His word this week?