

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: To the End III

Text: Acts 18:1-28

HI: The mission continues.

Title: *The Mission Continues*

Hook: “full circle”

Date: 5.19.24

Purpose: To equip God’s people for mission with the promise of Christ’s presence.

FCF: Like the original readers, we witness engage a clear mission while living circuitous lives. God’s grace is experienced through the presence of Christ in the lives of his witnesses.

COR: Strategically passive politicians, aggressively active resistance, and the anxious unknown all buffet our lives as they did Paul’s. But as a bigger picture emerges, we see a sovereign Lord whose faithful presence provides loving community through this world’s insecurity.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Christ is present with his witnesses. He provides gospel partnership to advance his mission. He has many people in this city. “the Christ was Jesus” – the center of Paul/Apollos message in Corinth. Jesus is the anointed one sent by God to save God’s people. He has always been God’s plan to save us from sin.

Apologetic: There is beauty in the unity of Christ’s community. We see Christ as work in every bit of provision here, as we do in our day when a group of people who have nothing else in common become family through the gospel.

Text Tone: Training

Preaching Voice: Sage

Form: Hourglass (late movement 2)

Call to Worship: Psalm 135:1, 3

Benediction: Matthew 28:18-20 (Great Commission)

Outline:

I. In the wilderness of witness Jesus is present. (1-11)

A. Look at Paul’s experience. (1-8)

B. Listen to Jesus’ assurance. (9-11)

II. While the winds shift, the Lord directs. (12-23)

A. Gallio’s judgment sets a precedent. (12-17)

B. Paul’s journey shows a principle. (18-23)

III. The messenger changes, but the gospel remains. (24-28)

A. Apollos is gifted. (24-25)

B. Apollos is humble. (26-28)

Main Idea:

Subject: New gospel partnerships and Paul's missionary travels come full circle

Complement: the mission continues

Exegetical Idea: As new gospel partnerships emerge and Paul's missionary travels come full circle, the mission of Jesus continues.

Theological Idea: Jesus continues his mission through providing new gospel partnerships and assurance of his presence.

Homiletical Idea: The mission continues.

Introduction:

READ Acts 18:1-11

18 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.

"To Corinthianize" = "to be sexually immoral"

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 2 Corinthians 1:20

1 Corinthians 2:1-2, 5: And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified...⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

“And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling...” 1 Corinthians 2:3

Paul’s sermon in Antioch in Pisidia: And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. Acts 13:48

I. In the wilderness of witness Jesus is present. (1-11)

READ Acts 18:12-23

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.

¹⁸ After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. ¹⁹ And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. ²¹ But on taking leave of them he said, “I will return to you if God wills,” and he set sail from Ephesus.

²² When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. ²³ After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

“For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. 1 Corinthians 9:19-20

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. Acts 16:6-7

II. While the winds shift, the Lord directs. (12-23)

HI: The mission continues.

READ Acts 18:24-28

²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, ²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

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III. The messenger changes, but the gospel remains. (24-28)

1 Corinthians 15:25: For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Romans 16:3

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