

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. (Acts 18:1 NKJV)

Paul isn't hunting comfort; he's chasing lost people.

Whenever culture barrels downhill, gospel opportunity goes uphill.

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. (Romans 1:24-27 NKJV)

Corinth was a moral dumpster fire, yet Paul marched in armed with the gospel.

Where's your Corinth?

Darkness is simply absent light; let us carry the torch.

And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. (Acts 18:2-3 NKJV)

Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla. Two displaced artisans collide with an itinerant apostle.

Having a job isn't an interruption; it's an on-ramp.

Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. (1 Corinthians 9:12b NKJV)

Gospel flexibility outflanks every barrier.

Whether you code software or sling lattes, every paycheck funds kingdom advancement

And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. (Acts 18:4 NKJV)

Evangelism is not a Twitter dunk; it's a kitchen-table conversation.

"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18 NKJV)

Our faith is reasonable because our Savior is real.

But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook [his] garments and said to them, "Your blood [be] upon your [own] heads; I [am] clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." (Acts 18:6 NKJV)

Rejection of the gospel is not failure, but giving up on the call is.

And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain [man] named Justus, [one] who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. (Acts 18:7-8 NKJV)

Paul sets up shop literally "next door,"

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; (1 Corinthians 1:26-27 NKJV)

Acts 18:1-22, Gospel in the Grit
Calvary Chapel Titusville 7/20/25
Pastor Paul Andris

If Crispus can come, anyone can.

Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; "for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." (Acts 18:9-10 NKJV)

Wait—Paul? Afraid? Yes.

God's Presence produces perseverance.

And he continued [there] a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. (Acts 18:11 NKJV)

Gospel advance is more crock-pot than microwave.

When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, saying, "This [fellow] persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." (Acts 18:12-13 NKJV)

Ah, here's the expected showdown.

And when Paul was about to open [his] mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. "But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look [to it] yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such [matters]." And he drove them from the judgment seat. (Acts 18:14-16 NKJV)

God is always the Defender.

Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat [him] before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things. So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila [were] with him. He had [his] hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. (Acts 18:17-18 NKJV)

Paul heads back toward Antioch, his headquarters, his home church.

The haircut indicates completion of a Nazirite-style vow.

Remember, salvation hinges on grace alone:

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV)

And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked [him] to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus. (Acts 18:19-21 NKJV)

Timing is God's. Availability is ours.

And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. (Acts 18:22 NKJV)

Mission accomplished, for now. Paul later writes to them:

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NKJV)

Look back in worship, look up in dependence, and look out in mission.