

The Pre-Disposition of the Opposition

Acts 18:1-17 Paul's Humanity

Paul in Corinth

1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.

8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, "**Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:**

10 **For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.**"

11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

12 And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat,

13 Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.

14 And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you:

15 But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters.

16 And he drave them from the judgment seat.

17 Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.

Acts 18:6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

- Paul had left Athens
 - Silas & Timothy were still in Macedonia
- Paul arrived in Corinth and found Aquila an Italian Jew and his wife Priscilla
 - They had left Rome at Claudius Caesar's command
 - They were tentmakers by profession
 - Paul joined them in their occupation because that was his as well
- Paul continued to go and reason at the synagogue with Jews and Greeks
 - Silas & Timothy arrive
 - Paul makes a spirit led presentation of the Gospel of Jesus as Christ to the Jews

- Most Jews “opposed themselves, and blasphemed”
 - When you believe you’re 100% right you cannot be reasoned with
 - Those Jews that could not see Christ as Messiah could not see it because one of the most blinding sins is that of self-righteousness
- Paul got in the flesh and told them off
 - Nothing Paul said was untrue
 - Their blood would be on them
 - Paul was clean
 - Paul was called to the Gentiles
 - We can say true things but in the wrong spirit
 - It can be a difficult thing to feel that the opposition is yours
 - It can be difficult to not take it personally
 - This makes us feel as though we have to fight
 - This fight belongs to God and He alone can fight it
 - They are not my opposition, I am
 - It helped Paul learn a valuable lesson which he taught Timothy
 - 2Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,
25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.
- Paul joined the Gentile Justus
 - Justus lived next door to the synagogue
 - Justus worshiped God (great testimony)
 - Justus was host to Paul’s Preaching near the synagogue
 - This was kind of hard core!

- Paul couldn't go to the synagogue
 - The Gentiles couldn't go to the synagogue unless converted to Judaism
 - Those opposing had to hear the Gospel of Christ
 - Those opposing had to watch the Gentiles receive Christ
 - Crispus accepts Christ and is baptized (chief ruler of the synagogue)
 - This caused many to believe
- Paul gets a vision
 - Be not afraid
 - Speak loud and often
 - I Am with thee
 - Many allies
- Paul continued for a year and a half teaching God's Word
- Then came the Predisposed to Oppose
 - Tried to use man's law and judge
 - Tried to use Proselyted Greeks (wouldn't look as bad on them)
 - Beat Paul's friend Sosthenes (1Cor.1:1) when they couldn't get to Paul
- **I want to take a few moments and look at those with the Pre-Disposition of Opposition.**
 - **Predisposed:** having or showing an inclination or tendency toward a specified condition, opinion, behavior, or matter beforehand
 - **Oppose:** To act against; to resist, either by physical means, by arguments or other means
- **Pre-Determined**
 - they come to church planning to leave the same way
 - they will not be swayed by any song, sermon, or spirit
- **Pre-Detached**
 - they're here and that's all God's going to get

- They feel God only requires their attendance
- They do not feel the need to interact in any type of serving, fellowship, or worship
- **Pre-Desensitized**
 - Flash flood or fiery flame, they won't move.
 - They've seen it all, and nothing ever lasts so why try?
 - Calluses cover any scars so they don't get hurt again
- **Pre-Developed**
 - they are the most spiritual person there,
 - so they have no need of what the spirit might provide today
 - the message is for someone else
- **Pre-Depressed**
 - these are stuck thinking that joy unspeakable is joy unseekable
 - they are too focused on how they feel to allow the Comforter to show them just how Powerful He is
 - God is good, just not to me very often
- **Pre-Deceased**
 - dead in their sins
 - and don't seem to care that Christ has offered life everlasting
 - Too busy consuming what they need like a zombie
 - Unwilling to allow the One Who IS Life to give them life
- **Those that oppose themselves aren't doing it on purpose.**
 - They are genetically pre-disposed to do so.
 - It's called a sin nature.
 - I love what Paul told Timothy "don't strive with them, be gentle, apt to teach, patient and meek. Let God bring them around"
- You may be sitting here right now and have already determined that NOTHING is going to change your mind
 - Hey, you're not fighting me
 - I am not your enemy

- More importantly, God is not your enemy
- You are the only one hurting you right now
- But that can change, just lay down all your pre-conceived ideology
- Come to the One Who decided over 2 millennia ago that You were worth it
- God determined long ago that He would choose you
- Now you just need to choose Him