

Acts 18:1-22: Paul in Corinth, Ephesus And Ends Second Missionary Journey.

I. (1-18) Paul in Corinth.

Corinth was a major city of the Roman Empire important for trade and travel; it was also a city known for its pleasure-seekers and sexual immorality as it was the center of Aphrodite worship (also known as Venus, the goddess of fertility and sexuality).

Paul's tent-making was an important part of his ministry; he worked to sustain himself on the mission field.

i. (3) Work.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 - *that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,*

2 Thessalonians 3:7-8, 9 - *For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you...For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.*

Colossians 3:17 - *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

Historically, the Roman emperor Claudius banished Jews including Aquila and Priscilla from Rome because of some internal conflict. Paul describes the character of his bold preaching in Corinth preaching in **1 Corinthians 2:1-16**, where he declared, *For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*

ii. (9-10) Do not be afraid.

Fear is an emotion...which causes a...change in behavior, such as running away, hiding or freezing...in regard to things happening in the present, or to a future situation, which is perceived as risk to health or life, status, power, security. Thus fear is judged as rational/appropriate and irrational/inappropriate. An irrational fear is called a phobia.

The solution to Paul's fear (discouragement and all fear) is to obey Jesus' command to not be afraid; and to keep moving on in accomplishing the task. Paul was in Corinth a year and a half, which seems to be longer than in any other city where he founded a church.

Mathew 28:20 - ...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

“**Do not be afraid**” occurs in 58 verses in the NKJV, including 48 exact phrases.

Genesis 15:1 - After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

Joshua 8:1 - Now the LORD said to Joshua: “Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.

Mathew 28:10 - Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

“**Do not fear**” occurs in 69 verses in the NKJV.

Isaiah 35:4 - Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.”

Daniel 10:12 - Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.

Luke 12:32 - “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

To everyone God called to accomplish anything on His behalf He told “Do not be afraid”, “Do not fear.”

I am inwardly fashioned for faith, not for fear. Fear is not my native land; faith is. I am so made that worry and anxiety are sand in the machinery of life; faith is the oil. I live better by faith and confidence than by fear, doubt and anxiety. In anxiety and worry, my being is gasping for breath--these are not my native air. But in faith and confidence, I breathe freely--these are my native air...We are inwardly constructed in nerve and tissue, brain cell and soul, for faith and not for fear. Dr. E. Stanley Jones.

II. (19-21) Paul in Ephesus.

Paul had wanted to preach in Ephesus some two years earlier, but was prevented by the Holy Spirit ([Acts 16:6](#)). Now, the Holy Spirit gives him permission and success too.