

Acts 18-19

All evangelism - taking the Good News to those who have not heard - is a scary business because one never knows what might happen next. Opposition and difficulties often do happen because Satan doesn't like his world disturbed and the gospel is a big disturber as we shall see in this study. Paul frequently found that opposition was fairly quickly raised against him and his message, often (to start with) by Jews but not always and we shall see in this double chapter examples of both Jewish and thoroughly pagan opposition. It is quite possible that if we are not seeing much opposition then we are probably not evangelising much and therefore not disturbing the evil one.

Paul in this study, goes to two of the biggest cities in the Roman world to preach the gospel and certainly to the first goes in trepidation because of the reputation of that city. He is determined to know nothing but Christ crucified and he came in weakness and fear because he knew that what Greeks looked for was a superior wisdom which he was not going to provide. God dying on a cross would be utterly foolish to anyone wanting a new fangled philosophy and Paul was scared that he would offer human wisdom and not God, so he was utterly determined to speak only of Christ - his crucifixion and resurrection to make the focus on what God had done, not Paul.

Read Acts 18.1-4

Why is Paul's meeting of Priscilla and Aquila so important?
What is this 'tentmaking' so important to Paul?

Read Acts 18.5-17

What difference does the arrival of Silas and Timothy make to Paul and the situation?
After Jewish opposition, what does Paul do?
What is the vision and what can we learn from this? (See also 1 Corinthians 2.1-5)
Have you ever had a vision and what was God telling you?
Luke shows an example of how God kept his word in the vision. What about to us?

Read Acts 18.18-23

What does Paul now do?
In v.23 what important thing is Paul accomplishing?

Read Acts 18.24-28

What do you think is missing in Apollos's understanding?
What did Priscilla and Aquila do about it - and how did they handle it?
Why do you think Apollos went where he did?

Read Acts 19.1-7

What did these disciples lack that was different to Apollos and how is this rectified?

Read Acts 19.8-12

What familiar pattern happens in this section?

Read Acts 19.13-22

What does this teach us about the reality of Satan and how he is to be dealt with in Christ?

Read Acts 19.23-41

What is the nature of the opposition here and how is it resolved?

Reflect on how Satan opposes Christians today and how we can be victorious.