

Call to Worship: Psalm 99:5

Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-17

Sermon: "The Loving Lord Strengthens His Servant" Acts 18:1-11

Benediction: 1 Corinthians 1:9

Paul's preaching had not been generally accepted in Athens.

Paul came to Corinth weak, fearful, and trembling. See how our loving Lord strengthened His servant for the work of the gospel.

Let's see it by noticing the people that the Lord sent to help and encourage Paul.

#### I. Aquila and Priscilla (2-4)

##### A. How and when they came to be in Corinth

1. How--they were in Corinth because of having to flee mistreatment by the central government (2b)

2. When---recently

APPLICATION: Consider how their misfortune at the hands of a corrupt government set them right in the place to be God's servants at just the right time.

Nothing a corrupt ruler does defeats God's plans for His church, but instead, a corrupt ruler finds himself unwittingly being the Lord's servant

##### B. What they were doing: working at their business

##### C. How the Lord helped Paul through them

1. they let Paul stay with them

2. they let Paul work in their business

a. this allowed Paul to preach on the Sabbath in the synagogue

(he had realized that he needed not to receive money for his services in a new mission field)

##### D. APPLICATION

Think of how profoundly the Lord used their simple, basic, righteous living. They worked at their trade, took in a needy stranger, and hired a worker in their business.

#### II. Silas and Timothy (5-6)

A. When Paul was run out of Philippi, then Thessalonica, then Berea, Silas and Timothy continued the work in those churches.

B. Finally, they joined back up with Paul in Corinth.

C. When these fellow workers joined Paul, his ministry was greatly helped by those two fellow workers

1. they joined in the preaching and teaching ministry (2 Cor 1:19)

2. the Lord used their fellowship to turn up Paul's ministry in the synagogue, and propel him to the ministry among the gentiles (5-6)

### III. The Macedonian Churches (5)

#### A. Thessalonians

1. They encouraged Paul greatly by their faith and love amidst tribulations, and their affection for Paul (1 Thess 3:1-7)

NOTE: This is the occasion for the writing of 1 Thessalonians

2. APPLICATION: Consider how powerfully the Lord may use your faith and love, and the expressions of it, in the continuing work of the gospel!

#### B. Philippians 2 Cor 11:9 Philippians 4:15

1. they sent Paul money by the hands of Silas and Timothy
- 2 Corinthians 11:9 And when I was present with you, and in need, I was a burden to no one, for what I lacked the brethren who came from Macedonia supplied. And in everything I kept myself from being burdensome to you, and so I will keep myself.

### IV. Justus (7)

- A. His house was located next door to the synagogue
- B. He allowed Paul to hold gospel meetings in his house, so conveniently located
- C. APPLICATION: What a simple act of service to the Lord!

### V. Crispus and His Household (8a)

- A. Think of the pressure on Crispus and on his family
- B. Think of what they were forsaking
- C. Yet they trusted Jesus as the Christ
- D. He submitted to baptism (1 Cor 1:14)

### VI. Many nameless Corinthians (8b)

- A. they believed
- B. they submitted to baptism

### VII. The Lord Jesus Himself (9-11)

- A. Do not be afraid, but speak
- B. I am with you
- C. no one will attack you to hurt you
  1. because I have many people
  2. (and so I will not let anyone hurt you before you can preach the gospel to them!)

APPLICATION: Let us, then, look for the encouragement that our Loving Lord sends, rather than anything of this world.

APPLICATION: Let us live lives of simple obedience, that we may be used for the encouragement of the saints in the work of the gospel!

Carroll:

we find that at Rome, at Corinth, at Ephesus, they kept house; and in Rome they had a church in their own house. There is no use in talking about this faithful New Testament couple living out of the church. If there wasn't a church, they would establish one. I always like to read about them. They are the ones who take young preachers in charge, who haven't learned all about the gospel, and teach them what they don't know, and keep them from making mistakes – a fatherly, motherly couple.

Trapp:

Good people one kindle another. Paul was much heated with the zeal of God by the company of these two good men. Two flints, though both cold, yet yield fire when smitten together.

RWP:

The coming of S and T with the gifts from Macedonia set Paul free from tent-making for a while so that he began to devote himself with fresh consecration to preaching.

Silas and Timothy preached also (2 Corinthians 1:19)

Carroll:

Luke had remained at Philippi,

Clarke:

From this time we hear no more of Silas; probably he died in Macedonia.