

Paul at Corinth

Acts 18:1-17

PART THREE

Introduction

“And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,” 1 Corinthians 2:3

v5 Paul was encouraged, reinvigorated.

v6

Paul was so thoroughly worn out, gripped by fear, and deeply discouraged that he was about to quit.

“Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent” v9

“for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you,” v10

We are often attacked, but we survive.

The tender intervention of our loving Lord when we are discouraged, downtrodden, or despondent.

Isaiah 40:1, 10-11

“Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” Psalm 27:14

Psalm 31:24

My soul waits in silence for God alone.

Psalm 62:1, 5

“It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.” Lamentations 3:26

2 Timothy 4:16-18

Was Paul a naïve optimist? No. He understood God’s sovereignty.

God’s absolute sovereignty in salvation

“for I have many in this city who are my people.” v10

The Lamb’s book of life was “written before the foundation of the world.” Revelation 13:8

“he chose us in him before the foundation of the world.” Ephesians 1:4

Titus 1:1-3

“before the ages began” or, “before times eternal” (ESV optional trans.).

That means, that God alone chose, out of a spiritually dead humanity, a people to make alive for Himself before He even created time.

2 Thessalonians 2:13; NASU

2 Timothy 1:8-9; (cf. John 1:12-13; Romans 9:11, 16)

2 Timothy 2:10

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

v11

v12

“*Gallio...proconsul of Achaia*” Gallio, brother of Seneca, Roman statesman and Stoic philosopher.

v13

“*saying*”

v14

v15

Gallio, like Pilate, believed in one thing: visible, tangible power and authority.

Ideas can be a force stronger than a thousand Roman legions.

“**Idea**”

Satan uses alternative or opposing ideas to try and defeat Christianity – or the Christian (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

The condemnation and silencing of opposing ideology

Gamaliel to the Council re: Christianity: Acts 5:38-39

Christianity as an idea unleashes power because it is Truth that creates life in the Name – *Jesus Christ*.

When the ruling ideology is love, there is no greater force in this world.

John 15:12-14

“walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Ephesians 5:2

1 John 4:7-12

How many of us believe/trust more in the things *seen* (financial security, family, friends, physical health), than things *unseen* (God, truth, angels, miracles)?

v16 - v17

“*Sosthenes*”

Psalm 138:7-8