

“CO-WORKERS FOR CHRIST”

Acts 18:1-4

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INTRODUCTION

See I Cor. 2:1-3. So are we to conclude that Paul was defeated and discouraged?

So he did not really do much of anything in Corinth, right? **Wrong!**

Granted, such a combination of circumstances would be enough to discourage even the strongest of men; but **read I Cor. 2:4-5**. He did his work in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul went right to work—*He found partners for his manual work, and he found souls for his gospel work!*
Paul was not a “slacker”. You must not be either!

DON'T BE AFRAID TO WORK FOR CHRIST!

I. FINDING PARTNERS FOR HIS MANUAL WORK (1-3)

Silas and Timothy were not there; so he needed to find someone else to labor with him.

A. The Location of his new work—Corinth (v. 1)

Why would anyone want to work in such a vile place? Is this any place to start a church?

Is this any place to raise a family?

THE PLACE WAS SO BAD THAT PAUL STAYED THERE 1 ½ YEARS!

See I Cor. 6:9-11. **A PLACE RIPE FOR THE GOSPEL!**

B. The Persons for his manual work: Aquilla and Priscilla

1. Aquilla

- A Jew; Home in Pontus; Recently from Italy; Expelled by Claudius along with other Jews—Turmoil caused by “Chrestus”
- First Extra-biblical mention of Christ.
- Workers with Paul here, in Ephesus, and later in Rome!
- Likely used their financial means to support the Gospel—how we need believers like them!

Even better: *“Do your giving while you’re living, so you’re knowing where its going.”* Book: Splitting Heirs

2. Priscilla

- Likely from Rome
- Her name usually mentioned before her husband

These two were likely already saved—or would Paul stay with them, and would they if unsaved Jews want to keep Paul—esp. with the attitude of the Jews of Corinth toward Paul—vv. 6ff? Moreover, why would Luke not mention their conversion by Paul?

C. The Nature of the Labor

- Same trade
- “Tentmakers by trade”—cf. Paul’s home in Cilicia and “cilicium”—material out of goat’s hair for tents and curtains etc. This word used for “leather-makers.”

D. The Pattern of this labor in other cities as well

- Note that “they were working”
- Paul regularly worked to support himself and his team as is seen also in Thessalonica (*I Thes. 2:9; II Th. 3:8*) and in Ephesus (*20:34*); again Paul was with this same couple— Acts 18:18, 26; I Cor. 16:19—greetings to Corinthians! Later this couple moved to Rome again—Romans 16:3.
- Paul stresses the fact that he was not a financial burden to the Corinthians in II Cor. 11:7ff. Concerning the importance of work, Robertson quotes from Rabbi Judah who said that “he that teacheth not his son a trade, doth the same as if he taught him to be a thief” (p. 295).
- Note Paul’s emphasis with the Corinthians of his working and knowing how to deal with being in need (I Cor. 4:11, 12; I Cor. 9:1-18; II Cor. 11:9; and also Phil. 4:12).

E. The Local Church Today Looks for Workers!

II. FINDING SOULS FOR THE GOSPEL-WORK (4)

- A. Reasoning in the synagogues—cf. 17:17 in Athens; 17:2 in Thessalonica
- B. Regularity of the Gospel work—every Sabbath
- C. Attempted persuasion
- D. Reaching all national groups—Jews and Greeks
- E. We cannot expect to wait for the souls to come to us!

CONCLUSION

Finding Partners for manual work; finding souls for the Gospel-work.

Let us be about God’s work and not be lazy.

What have you done with the financial means and resources God has given you? Are you using your manual labor as a means to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Moreover, *are you involved directly in the Gospel work?*

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