



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

God's Preacher Given Promise and Protection

JANUARY 17, 2019

Pastor David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Acts 18:9-17 *And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; 10) for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” 11) And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. 12) But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, 13) saying, “This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.” 14) But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrong or vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; 15) but if there are questions about words and names of your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.” 16) And he drove them away from the judgment seat. 17) And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat. And Gallio was not concerned about any of these things. (NASB)*

“PERSECUTION DID COME, JUST AS PAUL HAD EXPECTED, WHEN THE JEWS TOOK HIM BEFORE THE PROCONSUL GALLIO (THE FAMOUS SENECA’S BROTHER) AND CHARGED HIM WITH INTRODUCING AN ILLICIT RELIGION. HOWEVER, THAT OPPOSITION BACKFIRED, AND FOR A TIME PAUL AND HIS FOLLOWERS ENJOYED MORE FREEDOM THAN BEFORE.”
KENT HUGHES

Why did Jesus come to Paul in the vision? What were the five important ingredients in Jesus’ words to Paul? How did Paul respond to this vision? Who was Gallio? Why did the Jews

wait until he became the proconsul? Was there any truth in their accusation? How did Gallio demonstrate his wisdom? Did the Jews stubbornly refuse to drop the case? Why was Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, beaten by “*alk*”

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JANUARY 24: ACTS 18:18-23 *THE GREATEST MISSIONARY ON THE MOVE*
- JANUARY 31: ACTS 18:24-28 *APOLLOS PROVES THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST*

Paul had faced persecution in most of the cities he had evangelized. In Lystra he had been stoned and drug through the streets unconscious by the terrorists who had thought they had killed him. In Iconium and Pisidia Antioch he had been run out of town. In Philippi he had been beaten with rods and put in stocks in the deepest part of the prison. In Thessalonica he had been run out of town by the unbelieving Jews, and they even followed him to Berea to kill him. He had escaped by ship and in Athens the intellectuals had professionally dismissed him. As soon as he was successful in winning others to Christ, he immediately suffered persecution. Now that Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, had believed and been baptized with all of his family and so many were coming to Christ through his influence, Paul must have begun packing his bags, thinking that he needed to leave before the frustrated rage of the unbelieving Jews erupted in violence and assault on his life or on one of his team.

“FED BY THE RESENTMENT ABOUT THE MOVE NEXT DOOR, THE DEFECTION OF CRISPUS, AND THE INCREASE OF CONVERSIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE (MANY OF WHOM HAD BEEN ADHERENTS OF THE SYNAGOGUE), JEWISH ANTAGONISM SEEMED READY TO BREAK THE BONDS OF RESTRAINT ... A SIGNAL THAT HE SHOULD LEAVE THE WORK.”
EVERETT HARRISON

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER’S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

God's Preacher Given Promise and Protection

I. PERFECT PROTECTION PROMISED ACTS 18:9-10

Jesus personally appears to Paul in a night vision and gives him precise direction and encouragement. First, Jesus commands him to discontinue his fear. Physically Paul feared success the most because it was usually followed by immediate, intense persecution. Second, Jesus commanded Paul both positively and negatively to continue to be a bold witness: *“go on speaking and do not be silent.”* Third, Jesus promised His personal presence with Paul: *“I am with you.”* Forth, Jesus promised perfect physical protection to Paul: *“no man will strike you in order to harm you.”* This was a guarantee of deliverance from any possible harm! Fifth, Jesus promised Paul great success in his proclamation of the Gospel: *“for I have many people in this city.”* Paul is encouraged to stay and see the salvation of the Lord in the lives of his hearers. Jesus had asked for them and they were given by His Father (Ps 2:8), and why we must pray for leaders (1 Tim 2:1-4).

“IF GOD SAID, ‘I HAVE MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY,’ IT MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE GOD, WHO ALONE IS ABLE TO SEE THE FUTURE AND DETERMINE IT, WAS LOOKING AHEAD, SAYING THAT BY THE PREACHING OF THE WORD THROUGH PAUL’S MINISTRY HE WOULD BRING MANY TO FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST ... MOREOVER, HIS EXPERIENCE IN CORINTH WAS SUCH A TURNING POINT THAT IT AFFECTED EVERYTHING PAUL DID FROM THAT POINT ON.”
JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

II. PERSISTENT POWERFUL PREACHING ACTS 18:11

Paul obeyed Christ’s command, *“And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.”* This is the first time that Paul had spent such a long time in any city, and he will settle even longer in Ephesus, then an equally long time in Caesarea and finally Rome. While in this most wicked place, where the unbelieving Jews are angrily plotting his demise, he puts down his roots and continues here teaching and preaching the Word of God,

right next door to the synagogue. Week after week Christ was building his church and many were faithfully placing their faith in His finished work for them upon the cross. Among them were numerous Gentiles including Gaius (who later hosted the church in his house) and Quartus (Rom 16:23, 1 Cor 1:14, 16), Stephanas, Fortunatus and Achaicus (1 Cor 16:17), as well as the wealthiest man from this wealthiest city in that day, Erastus, the treasurer of Corinth (Acts 19:22, Rom 16:23, 2 Tim 4:20). And soon, even the next ruler of the synagogue will believe!

“IT WAS FOR THE HONOR OF THE GOSPEL THAT THERE WERE SOME RULERS, AND PERSONS OF THE FIRST RANK BOTH IN THE CHURCH AND STATE, THAT EMBRACED IT. THIS WOULD LEAVE THE JEWS INEXCUSABLE, THAT THE RULER OF THEIR SYNAGOGUE, WHO MAY BE SUPPOSED TO HAVE EXCELLED THE REST IN KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES AND ZEAL FOR THEIR RELIGION, BELIEVED THE GOSPEL, AND YET THEY OPPOSED AND BLASPHEMED IT.” MATTHEW HENRY

III. PAINFUL PUNISHING PERSECUTION ACTS 18:12-17

The new proconsul was considered an easy target by these deceitful and unbelieving Jews who were plotting the downfall of Paul and the church. If they could get Gallio to rule in their favor against Christianity, his popularity would set a precedent against the churches throughout the empire. So they fabricate the lie, *“This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.”* Gallio knows it is not true and refuses to take the case. The unbelieving Jews, and especially Sosthenes, the next ruler of the synagogue seem to refuse to be ignored and continue to demand a hearing. His lictors are called upon by Gallio to enforce his authority with their rods, *“And he drove them away from the judgment seat.”* Thus, Sosthenes is given the beating that he plotted for Paul! (Prov 26:27)

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you confident in being a bold proclaimer of God’s Word, remembering that He is with us every day (Mt 28:20)?
- 2) Are you willing to patiently take the time to present the truth of the Gospel step by step to unbelievers?
- 3) Are you, who are unbelieving, aware of the close danger you impose upon yourself, not only in eternity but even now?