

Cell notes Sunday 16th July 2017
'Under Pressure – facing the costs'

Word: Read Acts 18: 1 -11

1 On Paul's practical arrangements

Paul continued the work of evangelism, reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath, combining it with his work as a tent maker to provide a source of income.

- Are we prepared to adjust to different situations and show similar flexibility? How flexible are we willing to be?
- Do our work situations limit our capacity to witness or provide new opportunities?
- What kind of a city was Corinth?
- What reasons prompted Paul to stay and work with Aquila and Priscilla other than sharing tent making as a skill?

2 On Paul's preaching ministry in Corinth and opposition

- Why do you think that Paul initially felt more comfortable in the synagogue?
- How did the arrival of fellow workers Silas and Timothy help Paul?
- The Jews opposed Paul and became abusive. What are our responsibilities and how do we decide when a break off point is necessary? What was God's strategy?
- What effect did Paul's obedience have on the spreading of the Gospel in Corinth?

3 On the necessity of encouragement when under pressure

The Lord spoke words of reassurance to Paul in a vision. Paul was afraid of being attacked and harmed. He had been under pressure before.

- To what extent do we seek encouragement? Are we too comfortable? To what extent do the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives (2 Corinthians 1:6)
- As a group how can we remind ourselves of the Lord's promises to us? Will this lead us to greater obedience and boldness in our ministry? To what extent do we rely on God?

4 On the importance of the word of God

Initially Paul reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks, then devoted himself to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ, but then dedicated himself to the Gentiles. Paul stayed with them a year and a half teaching them the word of God.

- What Importance do we give to knowing the word of God? How do we communicate the Gospel effectively today? Does our way of life agree with what we teach? (1 Corinthians 4: 17)

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