



GRACE COMMUNITY

CHURCH

huntsville

“Marks of a Missional Church”

Acts 18

Introduction: A “missional” church fulfills the Great Commission (Mat 28:18-20).

- ❖ “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- ❖ Acts 18 is an example to follow, individually and corporately: *Are we “missional?”*

10 Marks of a Missional Church:

I. TEAMING THROUGH PROVIDENCE (18:1-3)

A. Paul continued on his 2nd Missionary Journey, leaving Athens for Corinth.

- ❖ Corinth, the capital of Achaia, known for its pottery, metal manufacturing, carpet weaving, and moral depravity, was a promising geographical center for the gospel.
- ❖ Paul arrived in Corinth “in fear and in much trembling” (cf. 1 Cor 2:1-5).

B. Aquila and Priscilla had recently come to Corinth from Rome.

- ❖ Aquila, a Jew, and Priscilla, his wife, had been banished from Rome by an edict of Claudius (A.D. 49), expelling Jews because of disruptions in the Jewish community.
- ❖ Fellow tentmakers and Christians, Aquila and Priscilla and Paul formed quite the team through the providence of God, likely establishing the church in Corinth.
- ❖ Aquila and Priscilla go to Ephesus with Paul, equip Apollos, risk their lives for Paul, and hosted at least 2 other churches (cf. Acts 18:18-19,26; Rom 16:3-5; 1 Cor 16:19).

II. PERSUASIVELY GOING (18:4)

A summary statement of Paul’s earliest missionary work in Corinth, Paul again begins his city ministry by going to the Jewish synagogue.

- ❖ Paul reasoned from the Scriptures (cf. 17:2,17) and spoke persuasively concerning the gospel to both Jews and Greeks. *Does Acts 18:4 contradict 1 Corinthians 2:4?*

III. TEAMING THROUGH FRIENDSHIP (18:5a)

A. Silas and Timothy brought with them a report from Thessalonica.

- ❖ Paul, rushed out of Macedonia (cf. 17:5-15), dearly missed the thriving and persecuted church in Thessalonica and longed to see them. He was notably concerned about their welfare (cf. 1 Thes 2:17-3:5).

- ❖ Timothy's report from Thessalonica brought joy and thankfulness to Paul and prompted him to write 1 Thessalonians (cf. 1 Thes 3:6-10).

B. Silas and Timothy brought with them a monetary gift from Philippi.

- ❖ In 2 Corinthians 11:9 and possibly Philippians 4:15-16, Paul writes of this gift.

IV. SOLEMNLY GOING (18:5b-6)

A. Freed up to do more preaching and less tentmaking, Paul was wholly absorbed with the Word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

- ❖ The solemn apostolic witness for Paul likely included details of his vision of Christ, his conversion, his charge as a missionary, etc. The promised Messiah had come!

B. But some of the Jews resisted and defamed the message of Paul, who protested their actions with a symbolic but solemn gesture and explanation.

- ❖ Paul was not responsible for their unbelief, but he agonized over it (cf. Rom 9-11).

V. TEAMING THROUGH RESISTANCE (18:7-8)

As a result to the Jewish resistance, Paul ceased worshipping at the Jewish synagogue but starting holding worship services next door.

- ❖ The home of Titius Justus became a hub of Christianity and gospel growth in Corinth.

VI. CONTINUALLY GOING (18:9-11)

Christ appears to Paul and encourages him in a vision to continue in Corinth.

- ❖ Paul is commanded to stop being afraid, to not go silent, and to keep on speaking.
- ❖ Paul is promised divine company, protection, and a Corinthian people for Jesus.

VII. TEAMING THROUGH PERSECUTION (18:12-17)

Assured and not alone, Paul faces and withstands fierce Jewish persecution.

- ❖ The Jews seem to have initiated trial proceedings against Paul (accusing him of violating the laws of the Roman empire, e.g., that his message was prompting unrest), hoping to get a trial and guilty verdict to shut down Christianity in Achaia.

VIII. STRATEGICALLY GOING (18:18-21)

Paul remains in Corinth for many days longer and then sets sail for Ephesus.

- ❖ Aquila and Priscilla stay in Ephesus, but Paul leaves after reasoning in the synagogue.

IX. TEAMING THROUGH CHURCHES (18:22-23a)

Paul visits the Jerusalem church and spends some time regrouping in Antioch.

- ❖ The Antioch church is where the journey started (cf. 15:33-40) for Paul and Silas.

X. INSTRUCTIVELY GOING (18:23b-28)

While Paul goes out on his third missionary journey, Apollos comes to Ephesus.

- ❖ Paul strengthens Galatian churches; Priscilla and Aquila equip Apollos for leadership.