

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: Transition to a Gentile-Focused Ministry

Scriptures - Acts 18:1-28

Opening:

Open your time in prayer by thanking God for placing people in your life for His purposes, asking for faithfulness in everyday opportunities, and praying for courage and wisdom to share the gospel where He has placed you.

Give Background & Context:

Acts 18 shows a shift in Paul's ministry as the gospel continues to expand among the Gentiles. Along the way, we see the importance of faithful everyday ministry through people like Aquila and Priscilla, the wisdom of investing in receptive hearts, and the role of ordinary believers in strengthening others. The passage reminds us that God is always at work—often through ordinary people in ordinary places.

- Read Acts 18:1-11
 - What do we learn about Aquila and Priscilla from verses 1-3? How did their everyday work connect to gospel ministry?
 - How does Paul's approach in the synagogue (v. 4-6) show both persistence and discernment?
 - God tells Paul, "Do not be afraid... I am with you" (v. 9-10). Why would Paul need that encouragement at this point?
 - What does this passage teach us about serving faithfully in ordinary places and relationships?
- Read Acts 18:12-23
 - What happens before Gallio in verses 12-17, and why is his response significant for Paul's ministry?
 - How does this section show God's protection over Paul, even through political and social tension?
 - In verses 18-23, what stands out about Paul's continued movement from city to city? What does that reveal about his sense of mission?
 - How can we trust God's protection and direction when ministry or obedience becomes difficult?
- Read Acts 18:24-28
 - How is Apollos described in verses 24-25? What strengths did he already have?
 - What was missing in Apollos's understanding, and how did Priscilla and Aquila respond?
 - Why is it important that they took him aside privately and explained things more accurately?
 - What happens after Apollos is further instructed, and how does God use him? (v. 27-28)
 - What does this section teach us about being teachable, correcting others wisely, and helping others grow in their usefulness to God?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
 - The sermon emphasized: "Serve where God put you." Where has God placed you right now that you might be overlooking as a ministry opportunity?
 - Aquila and Priscilla used their home, work, and relationships for the gospel. What resources or rhythms in your life could be used more intentionally for God's purposes?
 - Paul stayed faithful in difficult places but also recognized when to redirect. How do you personally discern when to keep pressing in versus when to shift focus?
 - "Who are the low-hanging fruit in your life?" What is one practical step you can take this week to engage someone who may be open to spiritual conversation?