

6. Preaching is not a crime! **Acts 18:1-17**

Introduction

1. The God behind the Emperor (v1-4)

2. The God behind Silas & Timothy (v5)

3. The God behind Titius Justus (v6-8)

4. The God behind the Proconsul (v9-17)

Growth Group questions

Can you think of the last time you jumped to the wrong conclusion? Maybe you've only heard half the story, or you've made a wrong assumption. When you knew all the facts, how did your perspective change?

READ Acts 18:1-17

1. Why is Corinth a key place for Paul to go to? (look at a map!). What has his strategy been so far in Greece? What might we learn from this for our evangelism as a church? and in our church planting?

2. How does Paul follow the same strategy he's used in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea and Athens? Why does he do this? (cf Romans 1:16-17; Isaiah 49:6)

3. But notice when Paul doesn't have funding for his ministry, what does he do? What do we learn about Paul from this? Notice who he ends up working with. How did they arrive there? Why was this no coincidence? how significant will they be for the gospel (cf Acts 18:19, 26, Rom. 16:2)?

4. How do things change when Silas and Timothy join Paul? (reading between the lines it looks as if they bring a gift from the churches in Macedonia - Phil. 4:14, 2 Cor. 11:8-9). What does this say about the churches in Macedonia? How can we learn from them?

5. How does Paul put himself out in order to get the gospel to these Jewish folk? But what is the result? How does Paul respond and why? (cf Matt. 10:14-15; Acts 13:46-52) Why is it a dangerous thing to hear the gospel and reject it?

6. What is the result? How does this lead to a break with Judaism and force people to decide in Corinth? how difficult must it have been for Titius Justus?

7. What would Paul have normally done now? (compare with Philippi, Thess etc). But what does he do (v11)? Why (see v9-10). How does God encourage Paul? what is specific for him, and what is general for all Christians? (cf Matt 28:19-20)? How does Jesus being with us make all the difference in our willingness to speak for him, despite opposition?

8. How does God keep Paul safe? Why is Gallio's decision a surprise? What does it result in? Why should we not be afraid of pagan authorities?

9. Look back over the passage. How was God at work behind the scenes ensuring that his gospel would produce fruit and was unstoppable. How does that encourage you in your witness to others?

