

# Message Notes

## "Church Planting in Corinth"

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** – "Hey, somebody want to pick that up?"

Paul's Opening Remarks to the church in Corinth  
(1 Corinthians 1:1-3)

### *Paul the church planter – Acts 18*

*Setting the Stage (18:1-3)*

*The Danger of Being Religious! (18:4-6)*

*And yet, some believed and were baptized (18:7-8)*

*Stop fearing, for I am with you! (18:9-11)*

*A threat to the promise of safety! (18:12-17)*

Six Take Aways from Paul ~ the church planter

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

### *Paul the Developer of Leaders*

**Strategy #1 – Teamwork in the context of Relational**

*Ministry (Acts 18:18)*

**Strategy #2 – Grassroots Leadership Development**  
(Acts 18:19-21)

**Strategy #3 – Long-term, personal involvement with people** (Acts 18:22-23)

**Strategy #4 – Don't shoot the wounded, heal them up, and send them out!** (Acts 18:24-26)

**Strategy #5 – Multiplication of Leaders (let 'em go!)**  
(Acts 18:27-28)

**Application** – "Lessons from Paul for our lives..."

**NOTE** – Please use a personal or pew Bible to look at passages not listed on this page.

**Genesis 1:1, 2:1**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array

**2 Chronicles 6:26**

"When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have sinned against you, and when they pray towards this place and confess your name and turn from their sin because you have afflicted them."

**Psalms 19:1**

**1 Kings 8:30**

**2 Chronicles 30:27**

**Isaiah 65:17**

"Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind."

**Isaiah 66:22**

"As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure."

**Matthew 19:27, 28**

<sup>27</sup>Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?" <sup>28</sup>Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

**John 14:1-6**

<sup>14</sup>Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. <sup>15</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>16</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>17</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going. <sup>18</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**Acts 3:19-21**

**Romans 8:17-25**

<sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. <sup>18</sup>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup>Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

**2 Corinthians 4:16-5:8**

**2 Peter 3:9-13**

**Hebrews 12:26-29**

**Revelation 21:1-22:1-6, 17**





## Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

# Paul's opening remarks to the church in Corinth

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## 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God in Corinth,  
to those sanctified in Christ Jesus  
and called to be holy,

together with all those everywhere who call  
on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.



A woman in a white wedding dress and veil stands in the center of the frame, holding a bouquet. She is positioned in front of a large, arched opening in a stone wall, which appears to be part of a ruined church. The architecture features Gothic-style arches and stone masonry. The ground is paved, and the background shows some trees and a hillside. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

the affection of Jesus: what was he thinking  
by making the church his bride?

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The Birth of  
a new baby  
church!!



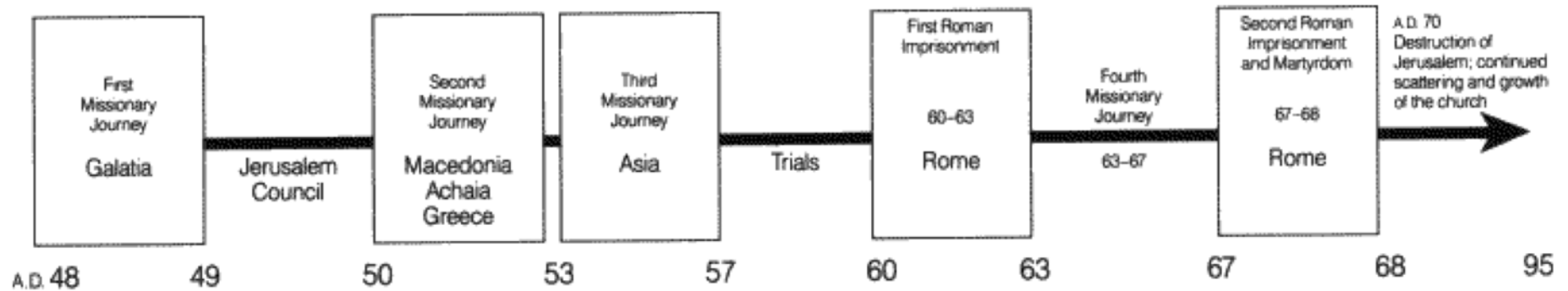
Paul ~ the church planter



# Paul the Church Planter

## Acts 18:1-3

<sup>1</sup>After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup>There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, <sup>3</sup>and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.



Galatians  
Place: Antioch  
Date: 48-49(?)

1 Thessalonians  
Place: Corinth  
Date: 51-52

1 Corinthians  
Place: Ephesus  
Date: 56-57

Ephesians  
Place: Rome  
Date: 60-63

1 Timothy  
Place: Macedonia  
Date: 62-66

2 Timothy  
Place: Rome  
Date: 66-67

2 Thessalonians  
Place: Corinth  
Date: 51-52

2 Corinthians  
Place: Macedonia  
Date: 56-57

Colossians  
Place: Rome  
Date: 60-63

Titus  
Place: Macedonia  
Date: 62-66

Galatians  
Place: Antioch  
Date: 55-57?

Philemon  
Place: Rome  
Date: 60-63

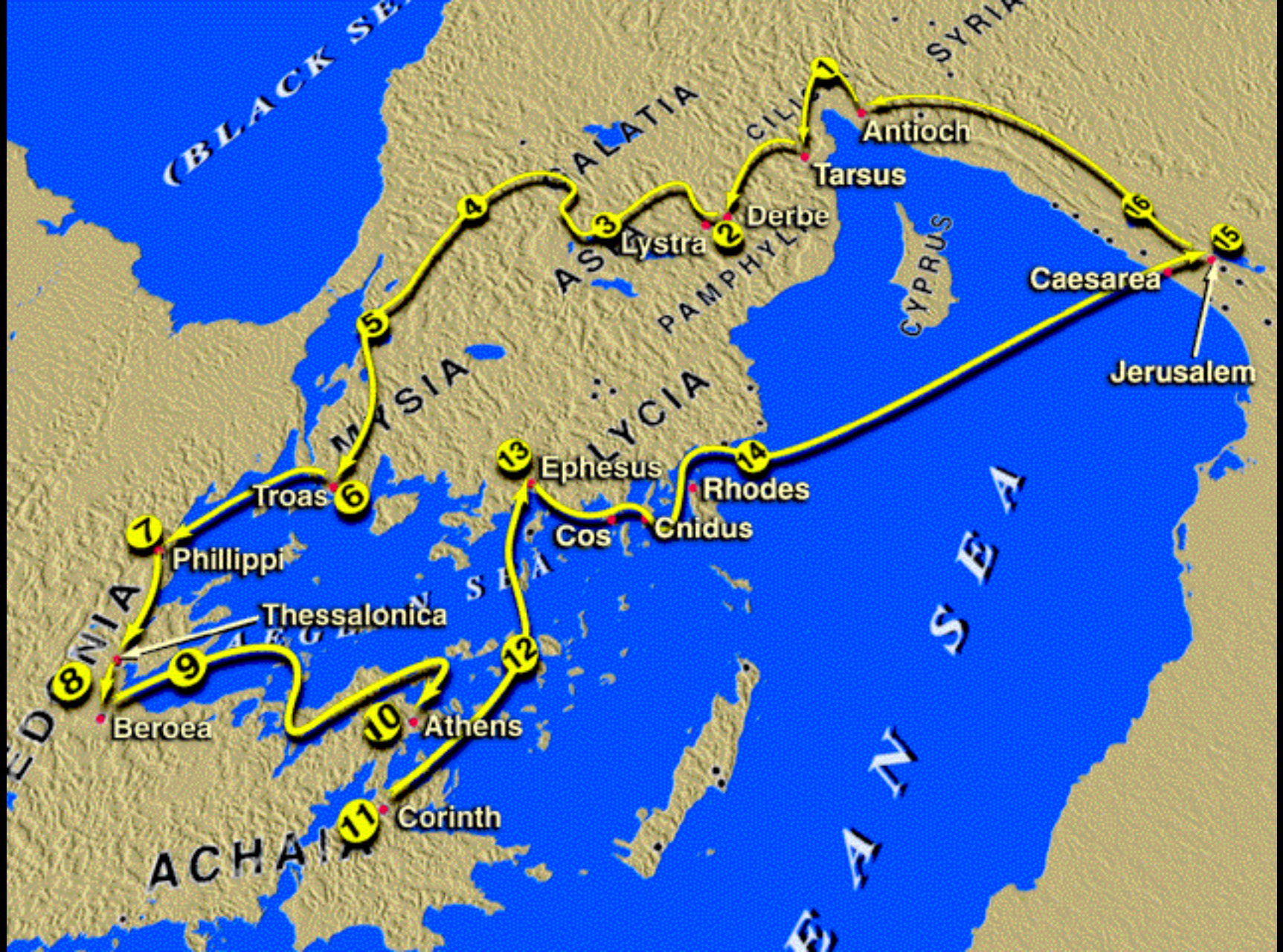
Romans  
Place: Corinth  
Date: 57?

Philippians  
Place: Rome  
Date: 60-63



Paul's First Church Planting Journey - Acts 13:1-14:28 (c. AD 46-48)





Paul's Second Church Planting Journey - Acts 15:40-18:23 (c. AD 49-52)

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# The Danger of Being Religious!

## Acts 18:4-6

<sup>4</sup>Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. <sup>5</sup>When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>6</sup>But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

# And yet, some believed...

## A Church is born!!!

**Acts 18:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshipper of God. <sup>8</sup>Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

# **“Stop fearing, for I am with you!”**

**Acts 18:9-11**

<sup>9</sup>One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. <sup>10</sup>For I am with you, and no-one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” <sup>11</sup>So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

# A threat to the promise of safety

## Acts 18:12-17

<sup>12</sup>While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him into court. <sup>13</sup>“This man,” they charged, “is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.” <sup>14</sup>Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. <sup>15</sup>But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law — settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.” <sup>16</sup>So he had them ejected from the court. <sup>17</sup>Then they all turned on Sosthenes the synagogue ruler and beat him in front of the court. But Gallio showed no concern whatever.

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4. Churches are started, grown and strengthened when people respond to the message of Jesus
5. God's promises to you are SURE!
6. One word: Sosthenes!

**Paul ~ the developer of leaders**

# *Strategy #1 - Relational Teamwork*

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## **Acts 18:18**

<sup>18</sup>Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because of a vow he had taken.

# Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Paul's Second Church Planting Journey - Acts 15:40-18:23 (c. AD 49-52)

# *Strategy #2 - Grassroots Leadership Development*

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## **Acts 18:19-21**

<sup>19</sup>They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. <sup>20</sup>When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. <sup>21</sup>But as he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.”  
Then he set sail from Ephesus.



# *Strategy #3 - Long-term, personal involvement with people*

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## **Acts 18:22-23**

<sup>22</sup>When he landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

*Strategy #4 - Don't shoot the wounded, but  
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## **Acts 18:24-26**

<sup>24</sup>Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup>He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup>He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

# *How to 'correct' a leader!*

**Matthew 18:15**

*“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.”*

*The importance of “doing life” together!*

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**Acts 18:2-3**

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## **Romans 16:3-5a**

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Greet also the church that meets at their house...

*Strategy #5 - Multiplication of Leaders  
(let 'em go!) The church in Corinth benefits  
from Paul's methods of developing leaders.*

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**Acts 18:27-28, 19:1**

<sup>27</sup>When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. <sup>28</sup>For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. <sup>19:1</sup>While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus...

# *Applications*

**What is God 'calling' you to do with your life?**

**How are you responding to the words of Jesus?**

**Are you involved in helping Jesus' church expand?**

**Do you pour yourself into others to build them up, or  
give up too quickly?**

**Sosthenes: things are not always what they seem...is  
there an area where you are feeling beaten up where  
God will use it for his glory later?**