

## **PAUL'S MINISTRY TO GENTILES**

Paul received two special ministry changing visions while on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary evangelism trip (MET)

- The first special ministry changing vision occurred at Troas of Asia Minor. It was the call to Macedonia and Paul's westward ministry to Gentiles (Acts 16:9-10).
- The second special ministry changing vision occurred at Corinth of Achaia. It was to confirm Paul's call to Minister to Gentiles.

(Acts 18:9-10) "And the Lord said to Paul in the **night by vision**, 'Do not be afraid any longer, **but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you**, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.'"

This was in response to an earlier statement by Paul's conflict in the Jewish synagogue at Corinth.

(Acts 18:6) "But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, 'Your blood be on our own heads! I am clean. **From now on I will go to the Gentiles.**'"

<b>We will study <u>four aspects</u> of the development of God's call to Paul regarding his Ministry to Gentiles.</b>
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### **1. Paul learned a great deal about his ministry to Gentiles from his 2<sup>nd</sup> MET.**

For example,

- He learned that the Jewish synagogue was no longer a good fishing hole for the grace gospel (Acts 18:4-6).
- He also learned that church houses were an important part of his ministry to the Gentiles Acts (18:7-11) (tent making).
- He learned that to preach a grace gospel of salvation, he must **not charge** or pass the bucket to finance his gospel ministry (Acts 18:1-3; 1 Cor.4:11-12; 2 Cor.7:7-10; 2 Thess.3:8-9).

(1 Thess.2:9) "For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaim to you the gospel of God."

### **2. It is interesting to examine God's development of Paul's calling to his ministry to Gentiles.**

- At Paul's conversion, God sent Ananias to mentor Paul's call to ministry to Gentiles (Acts 9:13-16).
- On Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> MET, God confirmed His call to Paul for the ministry to Gentiles (Acts 13:46-52; 14:27).
- Paul's ministry to Gentiles was recognized by Apostles of Jesus at Jerusalem Church Conference (Acts 15:3, 7, 12-14, 19, 22-23).
- On Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> MET, God reconfirmed Paul ministry to Gentiles.

- On Paul's 3<sup>rd</sup> MET, he departed from this call to go westward to Gentiles.
  - Paul chose to go against this detailed directive will of God by going eastward to Jerusalem in Acts 21:17-26; 26:20-23; 28:16-31.
- **Paul learned another great lesson from God about the importance of obeying the details of the directive will of God.**
  - Many spiritually mature believers told Paul not to go eastward and they told him many times. Yet he went anyway.

**3. Apostate Jewish religion hired mob violence to silence Paul and to force local gov't to do their dirty work (Acts 18:12-17).**

This was the same tactic they used against Jesus with Pilate.

These religious cowards hid in the shadow of secrecy and local gov't leaders like Gallio. This is a typical ploy of Cosmos Diabolicus of the angelic conflict (AC) against the gospel of grace salvation.

(Acts 18:9-10) “And the Lord said to Paul in the **night by a vision**, ‘Do not be afraid any longer; but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.’”

Gallio would not allow this type of attack against freedom of speech (Acts 18:14-16).

**4. It is interesting that a Roman citizen had more freedom of speech, regarding his faith, in Roman court than, a believing Jew, in Jewish court as the custodian of Mosaic Law of the priest-nation of Israel.**

The apostate Jews living in Corinth enjoyed religious freedom because of Rome, but didn't want the same privilege for Christian Jews. Gallio understood the issue for the Jews was religious intolerance and not a legal issue for Roman law.

**Paul learned another doctrinal principle:**

- **God was faithful to His promise given to Paul (Acts 18:9-10).**

When the Jews lost their court case against Paul, they beat up their attorney named **Sosthenes**.

(Acts 18:14-17) “But, when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.” And he drove them away from the judgment seat. And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat.”

He became a prominent believer in Corinth.

(1 Cor. 1:1) Paul, called *as* an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,