



Evangelism Today - March 2023

Acts 18:9-11

1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. 6 And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." 7 And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue.

8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

When you imagine Paul preaching the Gospel, what comes to mind?

We tend to imagine an impassioned preacher proclaiming the story of Jesus in an open-air synagogue or envision a hot debate between Paul and a religious leader. In this scripture reading, Paul is kicked out of the synagogue but remains in Corinth for one and a half years. Where did he evangelize people after getting removed from the synagogue?

His ministry moved out of the public space into the home.

There are many different forms of evangelism that Christians employ today. The two most common forms are Traditional Exhortation and Apologetics. Traditional Exhortation is where one uses Scripture to convince someone of their need for Jesus. Apologetics seeks to offer a logical defense of Christian beliefs, explaining how Christianity is the true faith tradition. These forms of evangelism certainly have a time and a place, but they are increasingly less effective in a largely secular society.

A more effective method of evangelism today is relational evangelism. This was the primary form of Gospel-sharing in the early church and is how Paul reached the Corinthians after being banned from the synagogue.

Do you find it easy or difficult to talk to others about Jesus?

How can you invite others into your daily life?

Who is primarily responsible for the work of evangelism?

Why might relational evangelism be more effective than other forms of evangelism today?

