

HOW DO WE FULFILL CHRIST'S GLOBAL MISSION?

(Part 2: Acts 18:1-11)

“Whenever the church is involved in the work of missions, she is at her very best. Missions involves fulfilling the Great Commission which is her greatest mission. The church never looks more beautiful and radiant than when she is advancing out into the world with the love of God in the gospel of Christ. When the church is most involved in missions, the church is at her supreme best.” This insightful and penetrating statement captures the message of the book of Acts as it features the New Testament Church at her supreme best, fulfilling her mission in reaching all nations with the gospel of Christ. As we study and reflect on Paul’s gospel mission in the city of Corinth, we will learn three effective ways on how we could fulfill our role in carrying out Christ’s global mission.

1. We must structure our lives around the Great Commission.

2. We must _____ in spite of great opposition.

Whenever God’s people actively engage in the work of spreading the gospel, opposition and resistance will definitely arise. When Paul faithfully testified to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus, the unbelieving Jews organized and united themselves to oppose Paul and revile his message (Acts 18:5-6). Of all the people who should have been receptive to the gospel, it must be the Jewish people. But instead of accepting Paul’s message, they decisively and deliberately rejected the gospel. Consequently, Paul responded with a symbolic act of protest (*he shook out his garments*) and with a prophetic language of admonition saying, *“Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles”* (Acts 18:6; Ezek. 33:4)

However, Paul did not completely give up on his fellow Israelites (Rom. 1:16; 10:1). After being run out of the local synagogue, Paul continued preaching the gospel just right next door in the house of a Gentile God-fearer who was converted to Christ named Titius Justus (Acts 18:7). In the midst of the fierce hatred and opposition of the unbelieving Jews, God began to save many people in the city of Corinth including the ruler of the synagogue himself, Crispus along with his entire household (Acts 18:8). Our God is indeed a Mighty Savior. No one could stop God and nothing could hinder Him from saving His people!

3. We must _____ encouraged by God’s affirmation.

Despite such remarkable fruitfulness in his missionary work in Corinth, with the conversion of several people in the city, Paul’s confidence seemed to weaken and fade away. He was so gripped with fear and discouragement that our Lord Jesus Himself gave him a message of encouragement through a vision (Acts 18:9-11). Our Lord’s encouragement to Paul is also his message of encouragement to each one of us to press on and stay on mission for the cause of the gospel. When we are tempted to give up in serving the Lord and fulfilling our mission to proclaim the gospel, we must find encouragement in the affirmation of the presence of God (*“I am with you”*), the preservation of God (*“No one will attack you to harm you”*) and the purpose of God (*I have many in this city who are My people”*).
