

Approaching God

Read this portion Psalm 37 and begin with an opening prayer

Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace. - (Psalm 37:1-2,37)

Ask the Lord this morning to sharpen your powers of observation, so that we can see what is right before our eyes: the flimsiness of the world's propaganda and the solidity of His promises to us in Jesus. Where is the Spirit calling you to trust the Lord and to take simple steps of faithfulness today? Talk to your Heavenly Father about these things.

Acts 18:12-28

Passage Introduction: The Ministry of Paul & Apollos

Luke offers us no set pattern for the way in which people come, step by step, into full membership in the Christian family and full participation in all the possibilities that are thereby open to them. Sometimes it happens this way, sometimes that. Just as humans grow to maturity at different paces, and some make great strides in one area while others have to catch up later, so it seems to be in the church. What matters is that we are open, ready to learn, even from unlikely sources, and prepared for whatever God has to reveal to us through the Scriptures, the apostolic teaching and the ongoing and always unpredictable common life of the believing family. That's the picture we get in Acts 18.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Use the Margin
for Notes:

Acts 18:12-28 - **12** While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment. **13** "This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law." **14** Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, "If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. **15** 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." **16** So he drove them off. **17** Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever. **18** Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken. **19** They

Notes:

arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. **20** When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. **21** But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will." Then he set sail from Ephesus. **22** When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch. **23** 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. **24** Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. **25** 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. **26** 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. **27** When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. **28** For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- What are 2-3 things you learn about God in this passage and the mission of the Gospel?
- What accusations are brought against Paul in Acts 18:12-13? What is the reaction of proconsul Gallio?
- How do Priscilla and Aquila help Apollos? What were the results of their personal attention towards him?

Key Takeaway:

Who have been your mentors or guides in the faith as Priscilla and Aquila helped Apollos, and in what ways did they help you? Who are you now mentoring or who might you in turn mentor or train in the faith?

Close in Prayer:

Thank God for all those people who taught you the Word, and pray for continuing opportunities to teach others.