

Acts # 75

“Like Jesus, Paul Came To His Own And Was Rejected”

Acts 18:1-9

It's not sin that renders so many believers ineffective because God has provided a means for us to deal with post-salvation sins; it's discouragement that is the nemesis of far too many Christians.

It is an unescapable fact that we're going to have contact with people we don't like or cannot even relate to.

People become a major distraction to our momentum in the Christian life when we place our eyes on others.

There are two seemingly opposite ways to do it;

1. Personally love them and 2. Personally hate them;

because either way we're preoccupied with human beings to the point of distraction from our main focus of occupation with Jesus Christ first and foremost.

And as Paul is reasoning in the synagogue, Jews and Gentiles are being persuaded by the ministry of God the Holy Spirit, meaning they understood the Gospel and were under conviction and for the first time in their lives, they believed the truth of Jesus Christ crucified for them.

Paul remembered the promises of God sustaining him in tough times and how the Holy Spirit used the Word of God

to encourage him to face whatever circumstances he encountered.

Paul's been quite clear in his presentation of the Gospel to his countrymen and now he's moving on to/ the Gentiles.

Nothing cut to the quick of the Jews more than challenging their spiritual heritage which they claimed through birth #1 from Abraham's DNA as their exclusive ticket to Heaven.

Salvation is not inviting Jesus Christ into your heart or repenting from your sins or committing your life to the Lord or even making Jesus Christ Lord of your life; it's a non-meritorious expression of faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone.

It's as simple as believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved and believe means to trust in something or in this case, Someone to do for you what you could never do for yourself.

Crispus and his family do just that; they all believe in Jesus Christ alone as their only Savior, who died on their cross in their place for their sins.

And as a result of this prominent family believing, many other Corinthians who heard Paul's good news Gospel message, believed and were baptized to openly demonstrate their new found faith in Israel's Messiah.

So, God says to Paul and to us: Don't ever be silent when you have a chance to communicate the Word of God, even though we'll all be tempted to because of opposition.

The pressure on Paul is getting to him but he's going to get up, come to his spiritual senses, pick up the pieces and move on.

Paul's distress could very easily silence him permanently as he sees the Jews at the synagogue who couldn't care less about the Word of God as his witnessing efforts haven't had much success so far but that's just so far and if we could just hang in there, it would be just so far for us too!