

August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Unstoppable Mission

### *God's Kingdom Advances Despite Spiritual Opposition*

*Acts 18:12-23*

As Christ builds His church, we must proclaim the Gospel faithfully, trust God's providence amid opposition, and strengthen one another for the work God continues to accomplish through us.

#### **Opposition: The Unified Attack Against Christianity**

*Acts 18:12-13* "But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, <sup>13</sup>saying, 'This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.'"

❖ When the Gospel is opposed, Christ is still ruling over the circumstances.

✎ Jesus predicted opposition against those who proclaim the kingdom of God.

*Matthew 10:16-18* "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, <sup>18</sup>and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles."

✎ We live in a time of grace when God withholds judgment, calls humanity to repentance, and permits spiritual opposition to His kingdom.

*Acts 17:30-31* "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."

*Romans 2:4* "Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"

✎ Jesus is establishing His kingdom within the kingdom of darkness, ultimately bringing every kingdom under His dominion.

📖 Matthew 13:36-43

*Hebrews 10:12b-13* "[Christ] sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup>waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet."

❖ Religious, political, and ruling entities joined against the kingdom proclaimed by Paul.

✎ Satan infiltrates the systems of this world, forming coalitions against God and His kingdom.

📖 Psalm 2:1-6

✎ Christ rules the universe and establishes His church despite opposition.

*Matthew 28:18-19a* "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,'"

- ✚ Paul was accused of lawlessness, but he was proclaiming Christ.

*Acts 18:5,11, "When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus." "And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."*

- ✚ Paul dedicated his life to God and remained faithful to his call: proclaim the Gospel.

*1 Corinthians 2:1-3 "And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling,"*

*Revelation 12:11 "And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."*

### **Provision: The Blessing of Trusting God**

*Acts 18:14-17 "But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, 'If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. <sup>15</sup>But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.' <sup>16</sup>And he drove them from the tribunal. <sup>17</sup>And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this."*

- ❖ Paul trusted in God's purposes for the proclamation of the Gospel.

- ✚ When Paul faced opposition, he learned to trust God's leading without giving up.

*Acts 9:15-16 "But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name.'"*

*Acts 9:22 "But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ."*

*Acts 14:19b-21a "...they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. <sup>20</sup>But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup>When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples..."*

- ✚ We are called to remain confident and focused despite difficulties.

📖 2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 16-18

- ✚ God has called us to proclaim the truth of the Gospel, as he opens doors.

*Acts 18:18 "After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila."*

*John 9:4 "We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work."*

- ✚ There is a time for people to receive and believe the truth.

*Isaiah 55:6 "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near;"*

- ✚ There is a time when the work of God is accomplished in a place.

*Acts 18:6 "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.'"*

### **Confirmation: God Faithfully Accomplishes His Work.**

*Acts 18:18 "After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila."*

- ❖ The church in Corinth was established through Paul's ministry.
  - ↳ Paul left Corinth, but believers remained established in the Lord and growing in Christ.
 

*1 Corinthians 2:1 "And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom."*
- ❖ The relationship among Aquila, Priscilla, and Paul produced fruit for the kingdom of God.
  - ↳ They worked together daily, ministered, and grew together; they traveled with Paul, faced the cost of discipleship, and ministered in Ephesus to others.
 

*Acts 18:19-21 "And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. <sup>20</sup>When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. <sup>21</sup>But on taking leave of them he said, 'I will return to you if God wills,' and he set sail from Ephesus."*
- ❖ God will accomplish His purposes through us amid difficulties.
  - ↳ Paul was a vessel of God for fruitful ministry.
 

*1 Corinthians 3:6 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."*

*Isaiah 55:10-11 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."*
  - ↳ Paul finished his second missionary trip, trusting that God is the one building His Church.
 

*Acts 18:22-23, "When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. <sup>23</sup>After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples."*