

sermon notes

November 16, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church
No Other Name | "Ministry Crisis in Corinth" | **Acts 18:1–23**

The Goodness of God in the Midst of a Ministry Crisis:

- 1) God _____ ministry _____ (18:1–8)
- 2) God _____ his _____ (18:9–17)
- 3) God _____ his servant for the _____ (18:18–23)

Six Promises of God to Believers:

1. He will never _____ us or _____ us (Deut 31:6; Isa 41:10; Matt 28:20; Heb 13:5–6)
2. He will bind up _____ (Ps 147:1–3; 2 Cor 4:17–18)
3. He won't let us be _____ beyond what we can _____ (1 Cor 10:13; Phil 4:19)
4. He works all things for the _____ of his _____ (Rom 8:28)
5. He is coming back to _____ us to our eternal _____ (John 14:1–3)
6. He will judge all _____ and establish perfect _____ (Ps 96:13; Acts 17:31)

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 18:1–23. Make a quick list of Paul's ministry partners in the book of Acts. Why is it important for us to minister alongside partners instead of ministering solo? What implications does this have for the church where a plurality of elders is required? Who are some people that you serve alongside who encourage you and support your ministry? Who do you encourage and support in ministry?

Why do you think the Lord commanded Paul, "Do not be afraid" (18:9)? Did Paul have good reason to be afraid? The church was growing and people were getting saved; why would Paul be afraid? What were the other commands that the Lord gave Paul when he appeared to him in a vision (18:9–10)? Why do you think Paul needed these commands and the assurances that followed?

GET PERSONAL

What do you think Paul was feeling when he was taken by the Jews to the tribunal (18:12)? Do you think he doubted God's promise to protect him or do you think he exercised great faith? How did God fulfill his promise without Paul even saying a word? When are you tempted to doubt God's promises? How do you battle those doubts? How can meditation on Scripture help us in times of doubt?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Review the list of "Six Promises of God to Believers." Of the promises on that list, which one do you need to be reminded of the most? Which one is most comforting? Make your own list of God's promises to believers with scriptural support for each promise.

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

How do we know that God's promise to Paul at Corinth ("no one will attack you to harm you," Acts 18:10) isn't a universal promise for all Christians for all time? Explain the role of context in discerning God's universal promises from those that are specific to certain people and events in the Bible. Why is it important to differentiate between what is *descriptive* in the Bible and what is *prescriptive*?