



DECEMBER 18, 2022

22004 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall CA 91321
661-259-2913 | info@placeritachurch.com
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God's Protection

Acts 18:9-17

I. God Spoke to Paul (vv. 9-11)

A. Do not be _____ (v. 9b)
[Psa. 56:3-4; 115:11]

B. Keep on _____, do not be silent (v. 9c)
[Rom. 10:14-15, 17; Lk. 19:37-40]

C. I am _____ you (v. 10a)
[Matt. 28:20; Deut. 31:6; Josh. 1:5, 9; Matt. 1:23]

D No one is going to _____ or harm you (v. 10b)
[Ex. 15:4; 17:12-13; Judg. 7:22-25; 1 Sam. 17:46; Dan. 3:24-26; 6:22;
Isa. 54:17]

E. I have _____ people in this city (v. 10c)
[Acts 13:48; 16:14; Eph. 1:4-5; Rom. 9:11-13; Jn. 1:12-13]

II. God Protected Paul (vv. 12-15)

A. A _____ attack (v. 12) [Jn. 3:19-20; Lk. 23:10-12; 1 Jn. 3:13]

B. An _____ accusation (v. 13) [1 Pet. 4:12-14]

C. An _____ answer (vv. 14-15) [Prov. 19:21]

III. God Avenged Paul (vv. 16-17)

A. The Jews were driven _____ (v. 16) [Psa. 141:9-10]

B. The ruler of the synagogue was _____ (v. 17) [1 Cor. 1:1]

TAKE HOME

- How does believing that God is ***your*** protector help you have more confidence in your witness for Him?
- Are there ***people*** in your life right now that God has called to be His? What part do you think He wants you to play?
- Has God ever ***used*** a secular authority to help you in a difficult situation? What did you learn from this?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placertachurch.com.

1. Read Acts 18:9. What can we learn from God’s instruction to Paul to not be afraid but to keep on speaking and not to be silent? What do you do when you are afraid in a situation like this? (Psa. 56:3-4; 115:11; Rom. 10:14-15, 17; Lk. 19:37-40)

2. Read Acts 18:10. What can we learn from the phrase, “I am with you”? Where else do we see similar promises in Scripture? How does that encourage you today? (Matt. 28:20; Deut. 31:6; Josh. 1:5, 9; Matt. 1:23)

3. Read Acts 18:10-11. How did the promises God made at the end of verse 10 influence what Paul did in verse 11? What can we learn that would encourage us to be faithful and unmoved in our resolve to honor Christ? (Ex. 15:4; 17:12-13; Judg. 7:22-25; 1 Sam. 17:46; Dan. 3:24-26; 6:22; Isa. 54:17)

4. What does this phrase, “I have many people in this city” have to do with the doctrine of election? How does this principle encourage you in evangelism today? (Acts 13:48; 16:14; Eph. 1:4-5; Rom. 9:11-13; Jn. 1:12-13)

5. Read Acts 18:12-15. What were the Jews accusing Paul of? What answer would you have expected? What answer was given from Gallio? What can we learn from this? (Jn. 3:19-20; Lk. 23:10-12; 1 Jn. 3:13; 1 Pet. 4:12-14; Prov. 19:21)

6. Read Acts 18:16-17. What happens in these verses? Why is this happening? What happens to Sosthenes later in his life? How does this encourage you? (Psa. 141:9-10; 1 Cor. 1:1)

7. Read the take home questions. Which one encourages you or challenges you the most? Why? How will you live differently this week based on what you learned in this passage?

“How strange and wonderful are the providences of God! The Jews tried to force the Roman proconsul to declare the Chitin faith illegal, but Gallio ended up doing just the opposite.”

- Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*