

## Its Tuesday so it must be Corinth!

- Here we go again, another town, another evening service!
  - anyone who has ever travelled on business gets to feeling jaded, all towns look alike...
  - are we getting that way with this section of Acts?
  - only another week to go!!
  - *note: no evening services here on 18th, 25th, 1st or 8th - joint carol service at Chalmers Ardlar on the 18th*
- Still worth exploring how the Gospel message shaped what Paul did and what happened as he did it
  - recap on journey and where, geographically, he is

## A life given over to the Gospel (vs.1-5)

- First thing I wanted to pick out is Paul's lifestyle
  - often kind of skip over it in the Scripture; so much part of our assumptions as we read the passage...
  - here is someone whose whole life is very explicitly given over to the gospel
  - his work, his career, his home - all of these are defined by the gospel role he has been called to
- As he said in Philippians 1:21, "**For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.**"
  - examples in vs.1-5

### Tentmaking

- Describe what it is - term derives from Paul's activity here!
- describe as a contemporary missionary strategy, particularly in hard to reach areas
- actually close to what all of us are meant to be like...
- perhaps particularly a possibility in the future here? Could we host a church-plant alongside us to reach a different generation, resourced by church planters who live as tent-makers?

### Full-time

- Valid to be supported by others in the work of the gospel:
  - and neat distinctions between missionaries and pastors aren't really possible!
  - though the assumption that the paid person is the leader isn't necessarily clear!!
- Will we give our lives over to Christ?

## A town divided by the Gospel (vs.6-17)

- Gospel message stirred things up!!
  - Jews opposed Paul (v.6)
  - Paul split off from synagogue (v.7) and take a group with him (v.7-8) - **quite in your face!!**
  - Jews not content with that new status quo (v.12)
  - and they took the case into the public domain, bringing a charge before the court (v.12-13)
  - end result was a "rammie", as we might say! (v.14-17)
- There was division and opposition, there was reaction, upset:
  - all in response to the Gospel
  - we should expect, and certainly not be surprised when Gospel work creates trouble
  - and the focus of the trouble is something that will prevent the gospel message being proclaimed.
- Whether its the kind of trouble here, or other forms of disruption:
  - illness - eg someone who has been coming to an evangelistic course, falls ill

- disruption - eg vandalism at Forgewood Hall always got worse in run up to the Holiday Club, and we had similar issues with the wall here this past summer
- fallings out amongst God's people - so often in run up to or during occasions when the Gospel is being presented - eg Holiday Clubs, etc

### A servant strengthened in the Gospel (vs.9-11)

- Paul clearly affected by the disruption:
  - if the Lord said, **do not be afraid**, its a fair conclusion to draw that he was afraid!!
  - if the Lord said, **keep on speaking, do not be silent**, its a fair conclusion to draw that he was considering being silent
  - if the Lord said, **no-one is going to attack you and harm you**, its a fair conclusion to draw that he was worried they might!
- The Lord strengthened so that the Gospel could be proclaimed:
  - and he strengthened **in the midst** of the situation
  - Paul didn't know in advance the Lord's comfort
  - it came in the midst of the trouble - strength sufficient for the task at hand
- Let me suggest that will be our experience too!

### Application

- Will we give our lives over to the gospel?
- Dare we divide our town over the Gospel?
- Will we look to God alone for the strength we need?