

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Acts 18:1-11, 18-21

Sunday November 29, 2015

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Can you think of three benefits of a tent-making ministry for churches and those in tent-making ministry?

Smaller churches can have ministers when they cannot financially support a fulltime minister.

Larger churches can have extra money to support missionaries, if their minister is a tent-making minister.

A tent-making minister may be a good influence on those they work with outside the church. In some cases, they can lead new believers into the church they serve.

A tent-making minister has some independence, and like Paul can make decisions and move easier rather than compromise the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A tent-making minister may be better prepared for ministry during troubled times.

A tent-making minister may better understand those in his church who have trades and professions and need to support their families and the church too.

2. What actions by Paul might make you think he honored the Sabbath by not making tents on that day?

He went to the synagogue to teach on the Sabbath. He kept his vows.

3. What are some things Paul did when he was opposed, reviled, rejected, and abused?

He made certain he was innocent in the situation and declared that he was. He told those who abused him that what happened to them in the future from their rejecting the gospel was their responsibility, not his. He went forth to serve Christ among those who needed to learn of Christ, taking a different approach.

4. What might you say to someone who said Paul was unloving to do what he did regarding those who opposed, reviled, rejected, and abused him?

Paul loved God, others, and himself according to the Scriptures. Because he loved God, he obeyed God, and he probably knew what Jesus said to do in similar situations, which Paul did in obedience (and he had the Holy Spirit help him know what to do). The loving thing for Paul to do for his hateful opponents and himself was to separate from them. Perhaps over time they would repent, perhaps not, but that was not Paul's responsibility. Because Paul loved his neighbors and himself, he left those who rejected him rather than suffer any more abuse from them.

5. Can you think of three benefits of Paul staying in Corinth 18 months?

Paul could teach them about Jesus and the Scriptures in more depth. Paul could find and train qualified church leaders to serve the church when he moved to his next field of labor. Paul could train Aquila and Priscilla how to be church planters after leading a few people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Paul could write letters that would eventually become part of the New Testament and help Christians and churches for hundreds of years or more all around the world. Paul could rest and prepare for his next assignment from the Lord Jesus.

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