

God Saves Using People Who Love
International Bible Lesson
Acts 18:1-11, 18-21

Sunday, November 29, 2015
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“But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, ‘Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles’” (Acts 18:6).

Because Paul loved God and his neighbor as himself, he walked away from those who opposed and abused him in Corinth. Because Paul loved Jesus, he obeyed Jesus who commanded, “If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet” (Matthew 10:14). Because Paul loved his enemies, he walked away rather than allow his presence to tempt them into more and greater sins. Because Paul loved his enemies, he was innocent: he had treated them rightly and had shared the good news of Jesus with them. Because Paul loved his enemies, he warned that their rejection of God’s way of salvation and the consequences was their responsibility, not his. Because Paul loved himself as he loved others, he chose to no longer allow himself to suffer

the abuse of those who opposed him. Because Paul loved others, he did not just walk away from others; Paul walked to a different group of people in order to serve them with his God-given gifts. As a result, Paul entered his most creative period. Paul wrote letters to Thessalonica from Corinth. Then, Paul wrote letters to Corinth that would solve problems and guide churches, elders, and pastors for hundreds of years. His letters became part of the Bible. No wonder Paul wrote from Corinth, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

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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?

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

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