

# Answering and Overcoming Evil, Pain and Fear



**Acts 18:1** After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth.

<sup>2</sup> And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

<sup>3</sup> and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working; for by trade they were tent-makers.

<sup>4</sup> And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

<sup>5</sup> But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul *began* devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

<sup>6</sup> And when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood *be* upon your own heads! I am clean. From now on I shall go to the Gentiles."

<sup>7</sup> And he departed from there and went to the house of a certain man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue.

<sup>8</sup> And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.

<sup>9</sup> And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid *any longer*, but go on speaking and do not be silent;

<sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

<sup>11</sup> And he settled *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

<sup>12</sup> But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat,

<sup>13</sup> saying, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."

<sup>14</sup> But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you;

<sup>15</sup> but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters."

<sup>16</sup> And he drove them away from the judgment seat.

<sup>17</sup> And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and *began* beating him in front of the judgment seat. And Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.

**Acts 14:19** But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

<sup>20</sup> But while the disciples stood around him, he arose and entered the city. And the next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.

<sup>21</sup> And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

<sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

**Acts 16:22** And the crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them, and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods.

<sup>23</sup> And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;

<sup>24</sup> and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

**1 Thessalonians 1:6** You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

<sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

<sup>9</sup> For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

<sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**2:1** For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,

<sup>2</sup> but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

**1 Thessalonians 2:13** And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

<sup>14</sup> For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,

<sup>15</sup> who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men,

<sup>16</sup> hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

**1 Thessalonians 3:1** Therefore when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone;

<sup>2</sup> and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,

<sup>3</sup> so that no man may be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

<sup>4</sup> For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.

<sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor should be in vain.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.

<sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**James 1:1** James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings.

<sup>2</sup> Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

<sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

<sup>4</sup> And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

<sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

<sup>7</sup> For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

<sup>8</sup> *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

<sup>9</sup> But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position;

<sup>10</sup> and *let* the rich man *glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

**1 Peter 3:13** And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

<sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

<sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

<sup>17</sup> For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also died for sins once for all, *the* just for *the* unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;