

Acts
Christ *with* Us and *for* Us
Acts 18:1-23

My mentor in ministry once told me that the difference between me now and me twenty years from now will be the people I meet and the books I read. There is something very profound in that statement. It reminds me that everything I know, I learned from some person or some experience. We have all been influenced by the books we have read and by the people we have met. Even those who stumble upon new discoveries are only finding what God has already known and was willing to reveal.

1. Christ defines our prophetic position.

2. Christ defines our gospel perseverance.

3. Christ defines our freedom perspective.

Christ is with us in our calling, in our mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. We preach boldly and unapologetically to all who will listen, Christ crucified and risen. That is our task. That is our responsibility. Christ is not only with us in our calling, He is for us in our mission. Because Christ is for us, we need not be afraid. He is the resurrection and the life. We walk by faith not by sight. We keep our minds on things above where Christ is, rather than becoming obsessed with the things of this world. There nothing better than the truth that Christ is with us and for us.

For further consideration:

Paul was a tentmaker and a preacher. How is God calling you to work hard and to be involved in ministry? Where are your priorities when it comes to your earthly vocation and your kingdom ministry? Are you actively trying to integrate those two things? What do you think it looks like to do both well? Are there things in this world that you fear losing? How would that fear tend to obscure the reality of God's sovereignty and goodness in your life? Are there certain liberties that you are unwilling to give up for the sake of the gospel? Does the gospel shape your perspective of freedom and rights, or do you find that your politics tend to shape your perspective? Who are the friends with whom you share life and ministry? What important words of encouragement have they shared that kept you firmly grounded in the gospel?