

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **April 8, 2018** sermon, "Go on Speaking." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 18:1-17) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

AS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST ADVANCES, WE SHOULD KNOW THAT . . .

1. Close fellowship is critical (1-4)
 - a. None of us were meant to go it alone.
 - b. It is possible to be alone and not lonely, and equally possible to be lonely and not alone.
 - c. Paul took the initiative, seeking others out.
 - i. He did not sit back and wonder why others did not greet him, or seek him out.
 - ii. He sought the fellowship he needed, never blaming others.
2. Needed assurance is available (5-11)
 - a. In his personal time, Paul was occupied with the Word. Are you?
 - b. When there are opportunities for the gospel, there will be opposition to the gospel.
 - c. When you claim the promises of God, you will have a greater sense of the presence of God.
3. Intensifying opposition is inevitable (12-17)
 - a. The closer someone gets to Jesus, the greater the opposition they will face.
 - b. When Paul faced legal threats, he remained focused on forward advancement.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Paul was intensely faithful, and he knew that he needed to encourage the people around him to be faithful, as well. Where is our Life Group excelling in terms of people taking initiative to encourage each other? How can you improve? (NOTE: Paul did not complain when others seemed to overlook him. He simply took initiative.)
2. Based on #2, above: In his personal time, Paul spent time in the Word. What does your own personal time in the Word look like? Describe your Bible reading, memorization, learning and obeying. What other personal pursuits might you lay down to make more time for Scripture?
3. Based on #2, above: Paul was ever-advancing the cause of Jesus. He did many creative things in order to enter into conversations with others about Jesus: he read the secular philosophers so he could enter into the conversation of the day, and he started a cottage industry (tent-making) so he could pay his way and have relationships with others. But whatever he was doing, he was always focused on proclaiming the identity of Jesus Christ. What can we learn from Paul?
4. Based on #3, above: As we forge ahead and take ground, opposition will increase. Where have you experienced (or "where are you experiencing") opposition as you seek to advance the gospel? Are you getting better at facing that opposition without complaint? Without excuses? Without changing course? Without fear? Without blinking? How can we pray for you?



