



To Each One

The God of Comfort

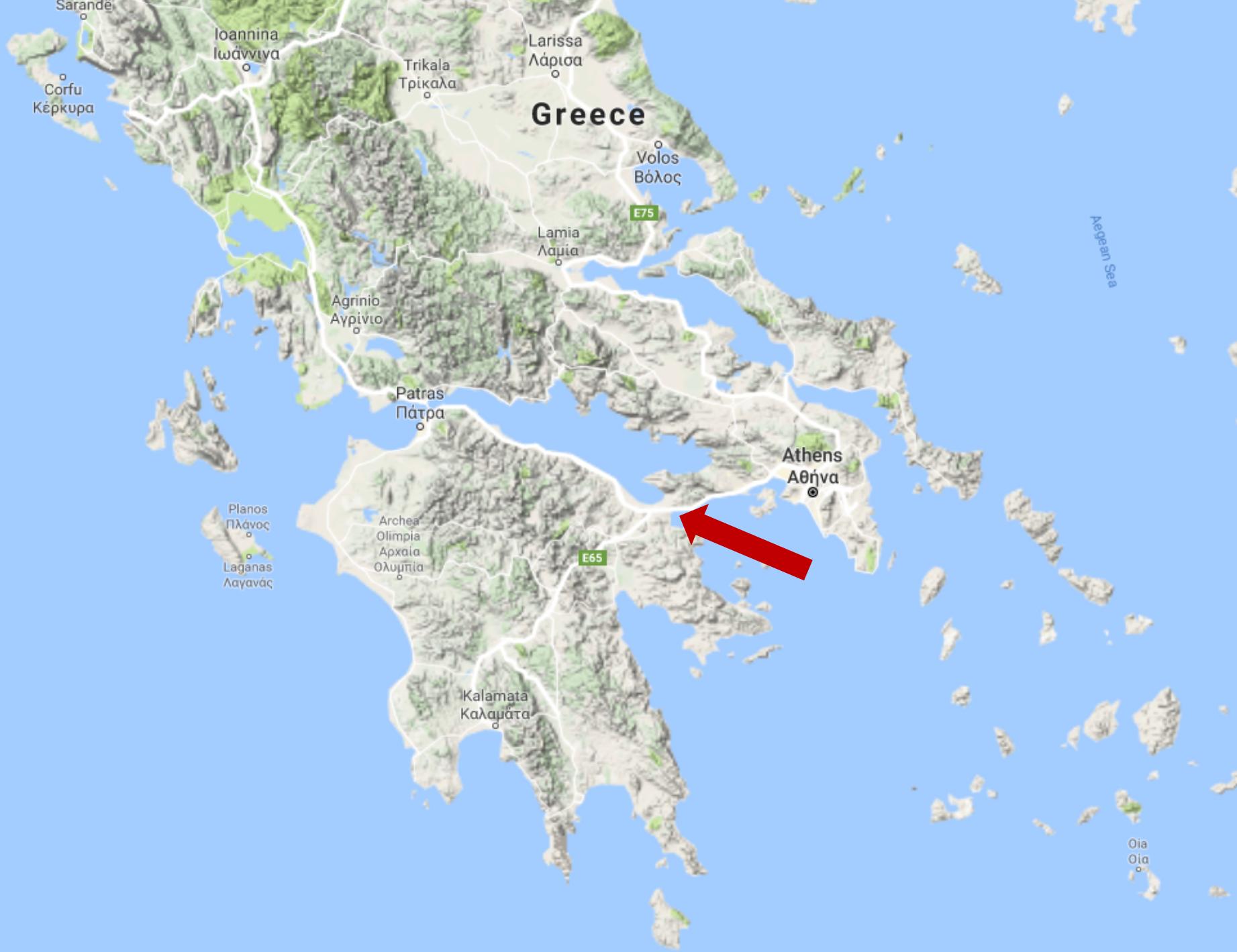
Acts 18:1-17

Acts 18:1

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.















Corinth

1. A large city of 200,000, significantly larger than Athens
2. Very well-situated, leading to great prosperity
3. Very cosmopolitan and progressive, attracting many different kinds of people
4. Known for its immorality



Prior to arrival

1. He was arrested, beaten and jailed in Philippi
2. He was chased out of town by an angry mob in both Thessalonica and Berea
3. He seemed to have left Athens peacefully, but very little fruit is mentioned
4. He was alone (Silas and Timothy would arrive in Corinth later)
5. He was worried about the Thessalonians



1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, 5

¹ Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith...

⁵ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.



1 Corinthians 2:1-3

And I, when I came to you... I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling...



2 Corinthians 1:3-4

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.



The God of Comfort

1. God comforts by creating supportive partnerships



Acts 18:2-5

² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.



Acts 18:2-5

² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because **Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome.** And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.



Acts 18:2-5

² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,³ and because **he was of the same trade** he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.



Acts 18:2-5

² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade.⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.



The God of Comfort

1. God comforts by creating supportive partnerships
2. God comforts through a confirmation of his presence



Acts 18:6-11

⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.



Acts 18:6-11

⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ **for I am with you**, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.” ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



I am with you

Genesis 26:24 And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, **for I am with you** and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.”

Genesis 28:15 “Behold, **I am with you** and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”



I am with you

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for **I am with you**; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Jeremiah 1:8 “Do not be afraid of them, **for I am with you** to deliver you, declares the Lord.”



I am with you

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, **I am with you always**, to the end of the age.”



The God of Comfort

1. God comforts by creating supportive partnerships
2. God comforts through a confirmation of his presence
3. God comforts by opening our eyes to his activity



Acts 18:9-11

⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, **for I have many in this city who are my people.**” ¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



1 Kings 19:13-14, 18

And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”

¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”



Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.



Mark 4:26-27

²⁶ And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.”



The God of Comfort

1. God comforts by creating supportive partnerships
2. God comforts through a confirmation of his presence
3. God comforts by opening our eyes to his activity
4. God comforts by protecting us from attack



Acts 18:12-17

¹² But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, ¹³ saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint.



Acts 18:12-17

¹⁵ But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.” ¹⁶ And he drove them from the tribunal. ¹⁷ And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.



Acts 23:11

The following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome.”



The God of Comfort

1. God comforts by creating supportive partnerships
2. God comforts through a confirmation of his presence
3. God comforts by opening our eyes to his activity
4. God comforts by protecting us from attack



1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

