

Opposition in Corinth

1. The Jews Make a United Attack on Paul (12-13).

2. Gallio Recognizes Christianity as a Jewish Sect (14-17).

3. King Jesus Continues to Build His Church (18-21).

CONCLUSION: A season of refreshment is followed by a time of opposition in Corinth. King Jesus uses both for His purposes in establishing His Church there. He is calling out those who were raised in Judaism willing to submit to their Messiah and He is grafting in Gentiles to His people. Here He works through the ruling of Roman proconsul Gallio much as He has through pagan rulers Darius and Cyrus before him. All these things follow the King's plan to make His gracious rule and reign known throughout every kingdom under heaven. Come let us praise and serve the glorious King of Kings!

Romans 11: 11 – 24

¹¹ So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ¹² Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the dough offered as first fruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²² Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. ²³ And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

Revelation 7: 9 – 12

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Refreshment or persecution. Which would you like? Who gets to decide which you receive and when? Our King's plans are inscrutable. They are also always good. Trust Him today with whatever He is calling you to do for His glory.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 18:12-21; Romans 11:11-24; Revelation 7:9-12**. DISCUSS, How does King Jesus build His Church? How does He use both times of peace and conflict? Which do we get? Who decides? Is that fair? PRAY "Lord Jesus, You alone are the King. Thank You for building Your Kingdom. Thank You for the privilege You give us to be a part of it."

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **Acts 18:12-21; Romans 9:6-8; Malachi 1:2-5**. DISCUSS, Christ came to rescue the sons of Abraham just as He had long promised. Yet from the very beginning God has always said that not all of Abraham's physical descendants would be his spiritual descendants. What is the difference? Why? How are you demonstrating faith in Jesus? MEDITATE on **Romans 9:6-8**. PRAY "Sovereign King, thank You for the heritage that You have grafted us into through Your work on the cross."

Tuesday

READ **Acts 18:12-21; First Corinthians 9:19-27**. DISCUSS: Paul was under a vow. How does this square with his not being under the law? What does it mean to "become all things to all people"? MEDITATE on **Romans 9:6-8**. PRAY "Lord, forgive us for ways that we presume upon the riches of Your kindness. Teach us instead to repent."

Wednesday

READ **Acts 18:12-21; Titus 1:5-9; 2:1-14**. DISCUSS, The qualifications for elders are things that all followers of Christ should aspire to display. How does this relate to submitting to Jesus as our King? Why is this impossible without faith? MEDITATE on **Romans 9:6-8**. PRAY “King Jesus, make us more like You. Forgive us for the ways we disobey You.

Thursday

READ **Acts 18:12-21; Ephesians 5:1; Colossians 3:12-17**. DISCUSS, What does it mean to take off what is dishonoring to Christ and put on instead compassionate hearts? How are you living out the characteristics of Christ? MEDITATE on **Romans 9:6-8**. PRAY “Jesus, You are King of all things and you care for us! We praise You.”

Friday

READ **Acts 18:12-21; Romans 11:11-24; Revelation 7:9-12**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Romans 9:6-8**. PRAY “Lord King, we worship Your name, Jesus, for You alone reign supreme. Thank You for loving us and building Your Church through us.”

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 18:1-28**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Romans 9: 6 – 8

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.