

**DATE: Saturday-Sunday, September 26-27, 2020**

**SERIES: *RENEW***

**SERMON: Renew Your Optimism**

***Acts 18:1-11***

[1] After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

[2] There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,

[3] and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

[4] Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

[5] When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

[6] But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

[7] Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God.

[8] Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

[9] One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.

[10] For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.”

[11] So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

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**SCRIPTURE: Acts 18:1-11**

*Optimism is based on the reality and promises of God.*

**1 Pray fervently.**

**2 Live and rest in the promises of God.**

- *Acts 18:9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.*

**3 Connect with Godly people.**

- Aquila and Priscilla
- Silas and Timothy
- Crispus and Sosthenes
- Justus

**4. Trust God completely.**

- If God can plant a church in wicked Corinth, no one and no place is beyond His touch.

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*Optimism is based on the reality and promises of God.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ fervently.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the promises of God.

- *Acts 18:9* One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ with Godly people.

- Aquila and Priscilla
- Silas and Timothy
- Crispus and Sosthenes
- Justus

4. \_\_\_\_\_ God completely.

- If God can plant a church in wicked Corinth, no one and no place is beyond His touch.

# Lagniappe

My sermon for this weekend is about renewing your optimism.

I've noticed that the events of 2020 have played havoc with our optimistic natures. In a sense, we are asking, **“What’s going to happen next?”**

Today and over the weekend as we worship, fellowship, and study God’s Word, I want us to have our hope and optimism renewed because we have much for which we can be thankful for and optimistic about.

**It all begins with God.** While we don’t know the future, we know God holds our future in His hands. What a wonderful place to be! What a great reason for which to be optimistic about the future!

I love the promise from Psalm 91, “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.’ “

**Our God is in control. Our future is in His hands, and it is a great--and perfect--future.**

God knows you and me, He cares for us deeply, and He is moving our future according to His plan.

Jesus said it in this way: *Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your head, because your redemption is drawing near. Luke 21:28*

**Our hope and optimism are built on God’s eternal plan.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Barin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.