

## ~TENTMAKER (81)

[Greek, *ske-no-poi-os*']

- One who makes or repairs tents.
- And on account of being of the same trade he stayed at their home, and they worked, for they were **tentmakers** by trade. (**Acts of Apostles 18:3**)
- Designates the trade of Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla by the Greek term *ske-no-poi-os*'. Various opinions have been offered as to the exact type of craftsman indicated by this word, whether a **tentmaker**, weaver of tapestry, or ropemaker, however, numerous scholars acknowledge that **there seems no reason to depart from the translation tent-makers**. [The Expositor's Greek Testament, edited by W. Nicoll, 1967, Vol. II, p. 385]
- When Paul first visited Corinth he stayed with Aquila and Priscilla on account of being of the same trade.
- After these things he departed from Athens and came to Corinth. (**Acts of Apostles 18:1**)
- And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus who had recently come from Italy, and Priscilla his wife, because of the fact that Claudius had ordered all the Jews to depart from Rome. So he went to them. (**Acts of Apostles 18:2**)
- And on account of being of the same trade he stayed at their home, and they worked, for they were **tentmakers** by trade. (**Acts of Apostles 18:3**)
- The apostle Paul was from Tarsus in Cilicia, an area famous for its goat-hair cloth named *cilicium* from which tents were made.
- Then Paul said; I am, in fact, a Jew, of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. So I beg you, permit me to speak to the people. (**Acts of Apostles 21:39**)
- Among the Jews of the **First Century C.E**, it was considered honorable to teach a lad a trade even if he was to receive a higher education.

- So Paul likely gained experience in the manufacture of tents while still a youth. Tentmaking may also have been the type of work the apostle did in Thessalonica.
- Certainly you bear in mind, brothers, our labor and toil. It was with working night and day, so as not to put an expensive burden upon any one of you, that we preached the Good News of God to you. ([1 Thessalonians 2:9](#))
- Nor did we eat food from anyone free. To the contrary, by labor and toil night and day we were working so as not to impose an expensive burden upon any one of you. ([2 Thessalonians 3:8](#))
- And other places.
- You yourselves know that these hands have attended to the needs of me and of those with me. ([Acts of Apostles 20:34](#))
- I have exhibited to you in all things that by thus laboring you must assist those who are weak, and must bear in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, when he himself said; There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving. ([Acts of Apostles 20:35](#))
- Down to this very hour we continue to hunger and also to thirst and to be scantily clothed and to be knocked about and to be homeless ([1 Corinthians 4:11](#))
- And to toil, working with our own hands. When being reviled, we bless. When being persecuted, we bear up. ([1 Corinthians 4:12](#))
- The work was not easy, for it is reported that the *cilicium* tended to be stiff and rough, consequently difficult to cut and sew.