

Acts 18

Paul in Corinth

After these events Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them, and they worked together, for they were tent-makers by trade. 4 And Paul was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. 6 But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood is on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

7 Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with his entire household; and many of the Corinthians, as they listened to Paul, were believing and being baptized. 9 And the Lord said to Paul by a vision at night, "Do not be afraid any longer, 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 people in this city." 11 And he settled there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

12 But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up together against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, 13 saying, "This man is inciting the 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 some crime or vicious, unscrupulous act, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you;

15 but if there are questions about teaching and persons and your own law, see to it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters." 16 And he drove them away from the judgment seat. 17 But they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and began beating him in front of the judgment seat. And yet Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.

18 Now Paul, when he had remained many days longer, took leave of the brothers and sisters and sailed away to Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. Paul first had his hair cut at Cenchrea, for he was keeping a vow. 19 They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, 21 but took leave of them and said, "I will return to you again if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus. 22 When he had landed in Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

Third Missionary Journey

23 And after spending some time there, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. 24 Now a Jew named

Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was proficient in the Scriptures. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was accurately speaking and teaching things about Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

26 and he began speaking boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the way of God more accurately to him. 27 And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, 28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Questions and comments

1. Paul was a tent maker supporting his ministry. So why are there full time Church leaders?
2. In Corinth Paul makes friends with Aquila and Priscilla who had been forced out of Rome.
3. Paul preaches in the synagogue until Timothy and Silas arrive. Why did he stop speaking?
4. Why did Paul devote himself to the word of God?
5. Paul's message was – Jesus was the Christ – but the Jews resisted this.
6. So Paul, because of this, and the blasphemy regarding Jesus, turned and preached to the Gentiles.
7. The chapter is full of new characters, it's like the credits at the end of a film.
8. The leader of the synagogue and his neighbour believed the message of Paul, along with many other Corinthians.
9. In a night vision Paul had a message from God not to be afraid.
10. Can you imagine Paul being afraid?
11. God instructs Paul to keep going without fear. What did that mean?
12. God reassures Paul that he will not be attacked. When God says 'He has many people in the city', what was He saying?
13. For eighteen months Paul is able to invest the truth of the Gospel into the new Gentile believers.
14. The Jewish mob set about attacking the preaching and attempted to stop it through the courts.
15. Gallio is not interested in any religious contentions and forces the Jews out of the court.
16. Paul is unharmed by this attack but his two friends are abused by the mob.

17. For Paul it was now time for him to move on. Sometimes we come to that place in life.

18. Paul and his two new friends come to Ephesus where he has a haircut.

19. It seems Paul's first connection with a new group of people is received well, but as the truth takes hold of people they refuse to accept it.

20. Jesus said think about the implications and the cost of following Him before you decide to do so.

21. In this chapter we see the term 'Gods will' what does this term mean?

22. Wherever Paul went he encouraged disciples with revelation truth.

23. Why is the bar set today, regarding expectation of God's activity, so low within the Church of Jesus Christ?

24. Why don't we believe God for the victory He has invited us into?

25. Apollos is a man 'fervent in spirit', what does that mean?

26. He is a man that new the ways of the scriptures, what does that mean?

27. What does the 'baptism of John' mean?

28. Although Apollos new a great deal, he was still not fully aware of the victory of grace to save sinners.

29. Aquila and Priscilla, in their spirits, saw he was not quite aware of the teaching of grace, so they helped him understand.

30. Apollos was a skilled speaker and a great communicator of truth, regarding Jesus as the Christ.

31. It was God who came to Paul's rescue in the court so as there was no need for him to defend himself.