

The Book of Acts

Chapter 18

Growth of the New Testament Church

Quiz

2

- In what town did Paul preach after leaving Philippi?
 - Thessalonica
- What is the name of the leading believer in Thessalonica?
 - Jason
- What commendation was given to the Bereans?
 - Verse 11, they searched the scriptures daily
- Where did Paul go after fleeing Berea?
 - Athens

Quiz

3

- When the philosophers called Paul a “**babbler**” what is that?
 - A seed-picker, picking up bits here and there
- Where was Paul invited to speak in Athens?
 - Mars Hill
- What was different about Paul’s sermon on Mars Hill?
 - He spent most of his time introducing the Person of God
- What topic in Pauls Mars Hill sermon ended the talk?
 - The resurrection of Christ from the dead

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

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Wednesday, 3 July 2019

Paul moved to Corinth, v.1-4

5

- Leaving Athens, Paul went over to Corinth
- Paul met Aquila and his wife Priscilla, v.2
 - They were Jews expelled from Rome (imperial edict issued in A.D. 49 or 50). ^{Ryrie}
 - They were tentmakers as was Paul, v.3. Most Jewish fathers taught their sons a trade. Tent-making was important in Tarsus. ^{Ryrie}
 - Paul & Silas lodged with them
- Again, Paul reasoned (discussed/argued) in the synagogue with the Jews and Greeks (evidently proselytes), v.4

Paul preached Jesus was Christ, v.5-11

6

- Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, v.5
- Paul testified that Jesus was Christ (the Messiah).
 - When the Jews opposed and blasphemed, Paul turned to the Gentiles, v.6. He did not waste time with those who refused to believe.
 - He began services in the house of Justus, v.7
 - Souls began to be saved, v.8
- God gave Paul assurance of His protection, v.9-10
 - Evidently, Paul was fearful of trouble again.* **He was human!**
- Paul continued there 18 months, v.11

Persecution in Corinth, v.12-17

7

- Luke records for us that Gallio was deputy of Achaia. This is significant. He was known as being a man of excellent disposition, beloved by all men, an enemy to all vice, and especially a hater of flattery. ^{Poole}
- The Jews captured Paul and took him to the judgment seat.
- Gallio rejected their complaints and sent them away, v.14-16
 - God's hand was on this and Luke noted it.
 - The Greeks that disliked Jews took advantage of Gallio's judgment and beat up Sosthenes the unbelieving Jewish leader. A man by his name is later listed as a Christian, 1Co 1:1.

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

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Wednesday, 3 July 2019

Paul began his return trip, v.18-22

9

- Aquila and Priscilla accompanied the missionaries, v.18
 - Paul shaved his head to conclude a vow. It seems that this was a regular vow not a Nazarite vow (more in the next article).
- They travelled first to Ephesus then onward
 - Aquila and Priscilla remained at Ephesus, v.19
 - Paul preached in the synagogue, v.19-20
 - He then left to go to the feast (probably Passover), v.21
 - He landed at Caesarea and then went **UP** to the church (Jerusalem), v.22
 - Then he went **DOWN** to Antioch, v.22

The shaving of the hair was no part of the ceremony of taking the vow, but a token of release from it after its objects were accomplished. And if, to complete the ceremony, he designed to offer the usual sacrifice within the prescribed thirty days (see Josephus, Jewish Wars 2: 15. 1), that would explain the haste with which he left Ephesus (Act 18:21), and --if he failed to reach it in time-- explain also the subsequent observance of a similar vow at Jerusalem, on the recommendation of the brethren (Act 21:24). JFB

Paul's Vow in Corinth

10

Third Missionary Trip Began, v.23

11

- After furlough at Antioch Paul and Silas went west again, v.23
 - They travelled through the area of Galatia and Phrygia
 - They visited the churches in order
 - They strengthened all the disciples



Luke Introduces Apollos, v.24-28

12

- Apollos was a Jew born at Alexandria a port in northern Egypt.
 - He was eloquent (skilled speaker)
 - He had a great knowledge of the Bible
 - He went to Ephesus
- He taught in the synagogue, yet he only knew of John the Baptist's ministry not of Christ's, v.25-26
 - Aquila and Priscilla taught him more of the way of God, v.26*
 - He travelled into Achaia (Greece) exhorting disciples and convincing Jews, v.27-28



Applications for us today

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- Aquila and Priscilla were Christian tentmakers who knew the Bible well and were a help in the ministry.
 - Even if God has not called you into the ministry, you can be of useful service to the Lord if you know well your Bible and are willing to help out.
- When Jews got stirred up, Paul began to fear persecution again.
 - Paul was human just like you and me. God does not always prevent persecution, but he always stands with us.
- God caused friendly Gallio to be in charge when Paul was arrested.
 - That was not an accident. It was a blessing.
 - Look for blessings that God brings into your life. Never view them as luck or accidents.
- Apollos was teachable and this made him a useful preacher.
 - No matter how much we know about the Bible, there is always more to learn.
 - Seek always to have a teachable spirit