

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

MINISTERING AT CORINTH - VS.1-17

Act 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.

Act 18:2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.

Act 18:3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.

Act 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

Act 18:5 When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.

Act 18:6 But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Act 18:7 And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.

V1. “Paul departed from Athens” - He did not stay there long. The philosophers there were too easy, too indolent, and too wise in their own eyes to receive the Gospel. (1 Cor. 2:1-5)

V2 In the city of Corinth he found this Jewish couple, recently come from Rome. The reason they left Rome was because of anti-Semitism which had rolled like a wave over the earth, which during Roman times happened several times. At this time Claudius commanded all Jews to leave Rome (49AD). The date of this account is around 54AD. Among those who got out of Rome was a very wonderful couple, Aquila and Priscilla. (Corinth, Ephesus, Rome -Rom. 16:5) Are you open to meeting other faithful witnesses to accomplish what the Lord has for you? Have you been doing that?

V3 They were tent makers (or leather workers) by trade - For it was a rule among the Jews (and why is it not among the Christians?) to bring up all their children to some trade, were they ever so rich or noble.

Vs 4-5 Paul had waited in Athens for Timothy and Silas to come, but they didn't show up. Now they come to him in Corinth and bring the report from the churches in Macedonia. When we get to the first Thessalonian Epistle, we will find that Paul wrote it during this period, after he had received Timothy's report. **Now he feels that he must speak out, and he testifies that Jesus is the Messiah. Do you have that burning desire to get the gospel out? How convicted are you to follow the Great Commission?**

V6 Apparently it was at this time **that Paul made the break that took him to the gentile world.** It would seem that from this point Paul's ministry was largely to the Gentiles. We will find that true in Ephesus and less obviously in Rome. (Ez. 3:18-21)

V7-8 Paul spent about eighteen months in the city of Corinth where he had a tremendous ministry. When the Jews oppose him, he turns to the Gentiles.

BACKGROUND ON CORINTH – 146 B.C.

Acro Corinth – 2000 feet high - “the Big Apple”; 53 miles from Athens; Ornate architecture; Many taverns on the south side of the marketplace, with drinking cups in liqueur lockers. A large city of about 300,000 in Paul's day.

Erastus – Roman 16:23 – the city treasurer Roman general Mummius destroyed it – laid waste for 100 years; Julius Caesar sent people to rebuild it

Outdoor theatre – 20,000 people; Corinthian games – second only to Olympics Temple of Aphrodite – 1000 temple prostitutes - “Corinthianize”

In the first 17 verses, **the establishing of a strong church-this time in Corinth**, can be seen. Several important ingredients can be noted:

1. **THE GOSPEL PREACHED** (1 Cor 2:1-5)
2. **THE WICKEDNESS OF CORINTH**
3. **FAITHFUL WORKERS** – vs. 1-4
4. **OPPOSITION** – vs. 5-6, 12-17
5. **GREAT RESULTS** – vs. 7-8
6. **ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE LORD**– vs. 9-11; “I am with you”; “No man will attack you in order to harm you”; “I have many people in this city”

Act 18:8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

Act 18:9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;

Act 18:10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."

Act 18:11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Act 18:12 When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat,

Act 18:13 saying, "This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."

Act 18:14 And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you.

V 8 And many hearing - The conversion of Crispus, and the preaching of Paul. It can be observed that through the conversion of one man, many believed and were baptized! Is the saving of certain influential people more important than the saving of ordinary, unimportant ones?

Vs 9-10 We find now that the Lord speaks to Paul because he is coming into a great new dimension of his missionary endeavor. Corinth was about the last place that you would expect the Lord to "have much people." I have been through Las Vegas quite a few times., I wouldn't get the impression that the Lord might have people there. If the Lord were to say to me, "I have much people in this city," I wouldn't question the Lord, but it surely would be the opposite from my own impression.

Paul had already been in Corinth for quite a while, and he was most likely wondering about that city. I'm of the opinion that when he received this opposition, he was ready to leave and go somewhere else. However, the Lord Himself steps in and detains Paul. He tells him three things, (1) "**Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;**" (2) "**for I am with you,**" (3) "**and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.**"

V 11 After Paul has had several months of ministry in Corinth, again opposition will arise.

V 12 This "judgment seat" is the Bema seat. It is the Bema that Paul talks about in the Epistle to the Corinthians. I have been there and I have sat on the ruins of the Bema seat in Corinth. They brought Paul to the Bema seat, the judgment seat, and there they brought the charge against him.

V 13 They didn't mean contrary to the law of the Roman Empire or contrary to the law of Corinth. They meant contrary to the law of the Mosaic system.

V 14 About to open his mouth - In self-defense, ever ready to vindicate his conduct.

A matter of wrongdoing - Injustice, or crime, such as could be properly brought before a court of justice.

or wicked crimes - Any flagrant and gross offence. The word used here occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. It denotes properly an act committed by him who is skilled, facile, or an adept in iniquity an act of a veteran offender. Such crimes Gallio was willing to take cognizance of.

reason why ... - Greek: "I would bear with you according to reason." There would be propriety or fitness in my bearing and trying the case

Faithful workers – Aquila & Priscilla
v.2 Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla.
God moved this couple around! They had house churches in their home at Rome (Rom. 16:3-5); Corinth (1 Cor. 16:19); Ephesus; Is not it awesome what the Lord did through the “chance meeting” of Paul and Aquila & Priscilla? Are you open to meeting other faithful witnesses to accomplish what the Lord has for you? Have you been doing that?

Act 18:15 But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters."

Act 18:16 And he drove them from the judgment seat.

Act 18:17 Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

PAUL RETURNS TO ANTIOCH – VS. 18-23

Act 18:18 So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow.

Act 18:19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Act 18:20 When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent,

Act 18:21 but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

V 15-17 Some commentators/Bible expositors condemn this man Gallio in no uncertain terms. He is pictured as an unfeeling typical judge of that day. I want to say something for the defense of Gallio. I thank God for him, and I personally think that he took the right position. I'll tell you what I mean by that. He is probably the first person who made a decision between church and state. Gallio said that if the matter was concerning religion or about some religious thing, then they should take it and handle it themselves. He was a Roman magistrate and he was concerned with enforcing Roman law. But when the case did not involve Roman law, he would not interfere. He told them to handle religious matters themselves. He adopted a "hands off" policy. But Gallio separated church and state. He would not interfere with Paul preaching in the city of Corinth. Corinth was a city of freedom, including religious freedom. Since the issue had to do with religion, he asked them to settle it themselves. **Sosthenes - 1 Cor. 1:1;**

Vs 18-19 Paul continued many days - After the year and six months, to confirm the brethren. Aquila having shaved his head - As was the custom in a vow, Act_21:24; Num_6:18. At Cenchrea - A seaport town, at a small distance from Corinth.

Vs 20-21 Again someone may ask what business Paul has in keeping feasts. Remember his background. He is a Jew like Simon Peter. He has the background of the Mosaic system. He knows a lot of his friends will be in Jerusalem for the feast. He wants to go up to witness to them. He feels that he must by all means keep this feast that is coming in Jerusalem. He is under grace. If he wants to do that, that is his business.

However, he did see that there was a great door open in Ephesus. He has the heart of a missionary, and he wants to return to them. Ephesus was one of the great cities of the Roman Empire.

1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Christ is Enough - Hillsong Music

Christ is my reward/ And all of my devotion/ Now there's nothing in this world/ That could ever satisfy/ Through every trial My soul will sing/ No turning back/ I've been set free.

Christ is enough for me/ Christ is enough for me/ Everything I need is in You/ Everything I need.

Christ my all in all/ The joy of my salvation/ And this hope will never fail/ Heaven is our home/ Through every storm/ My soul will sing/ Jesus is here/ To God be the glory.

Christ is enough for me/ Christ is enough for me/ Everything I need is in You/ Everything I need.

I have decide/ to follow Jesus/ No turning back/ No turning back (2x)

The cross before me/ The world behind me/ No turning back/ No turning back/ (2x)

Christ is enough for me/ Christ is enough for me/ Everything I need is in You/ Everything I need. (2x)

I have decide/ to follow Jesus/ No turning back/ No turning back (3x)

Act 18:22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.

Act 18:23 After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

MINISTRY OF APOLLOS – VS 24-28

Act 18:24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.

Act 18:25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Act 18:26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Act 18:27 And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace;

Act 18:28 for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Vs 22-23 He landed at Caesarea. Caesarea and Joppa were the ports from which one could go up to Jerusalem. He went to Jerusalem and gave his report there. Then he went back up north to his home church, which was in Antioch. This concludes the second missionary journey of Paul. Notice that it isn't long before he starts out on his third journey.

V 24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos - Apollos afterward became a distinguished and successful preacher of the gospel, 1Co_1:12; 1Co_3:5-6; 1Co_4:6; Tit_3:13. Nothing more is known of him than is stated in these passages.

born at Alexandria - Alexandria was a celebrated city in Egypt, founded by Alexander the Great. There were large numbers of Jews resident there. See the notes on Act_6:9.

an eloquent man - Alexandria was famous for its schools, and it is probable that Apollos, in addition to his natural endowments, had enjoyed the benefit of these schools.

mighty in the scriptures - Well instructed, or able in the Old Testament. The foundation was thus laid for future usefulness in the Christian church. See the notes on Luk_24:19.

V 25 This man had been instructed - Though not perfectly, in the way of the Lord - In the doctrine of Christ. Knowing only the baptism of John - Only what John taught those whom he baptized, namely, to repent and believe in a Messiah shortly to appear.

V 26 They invited Apollos home for dinner after the service. They realized that his information was very limited; so they told him about Jesus.

V 27 Apollos was a brilliant man, but up until the time Aquila and Priscilla took him home for dinner, he didn't know the gospel of the grace of God. Here is a case where a woman helped a preacher a great deal. She taught him something that he didn't know.

V 28 for he vigorously refuted the Jews - He did it by strong arguments; he bore down all opposition, and effectually silenced them.

publicly - In his public preaching in the synagogue and elsewhere.

showing from the Scriptures - Proving from the Old Testament.

Showing that Jesus of Nazareth corresponded with the account of the Messiah given by the prophets. See the notes on Joh_5:39.

that Jesus is the Christ - That Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah.

Questions:

1. Faithful witnesses are seen in all of the church plants in the Book of Acts. Do we see this with the planting of the church in Corinth? Who were the witnesses mentioned?
2. Is not it awesome what the Lord did through the "chance meeting" of Paul and Aquila & Priscilla? Are you open to meeting other faithful witnesses to accomplish what the Lord has for you? Have you been doing that?
3. Opposition always occurs following faithful and successful witnessing, who refuse to quit. Who do we see doing this in Corinth?
4. How did the Lord use the religious opposition mentioned in verse 6 ***"But when they opposed him and blasphemed"***; How about verse 17?
5. What is meant by ***"Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean"***? With regard to the Great Commission?
6. **V 8** ***It can be observed that through the conversion of one man, many believed and were baptized! Is the saving of certain influential people more important than the saving of ordinary, unimportant ones?***
7. What do we learn from verse 8, with regard to baptism? – ***"And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. (1 Cor. 11:6)*** Who do you think did the baptizing? How many preachers were there? (1 Cor. 1:14-16)
8. How essential was what the Lord did for Paul in verses 9 & 10?
9. What do you think is meant by ***"for I have many people in this city"***?
10. Why did Paul take the vow as described in verse 18? How important are local customs and traditions to the spreading of the gospel?
11. Do you see anything significant in verse 26 regarding the way Aquila/Priscilla explained the way of God more accurately?