

11/4/07

Acts 18

Having finished his ministry at Athens, Paul continued to his next place of ministry, which happened to be Corinth. The ministry that God had for Paul at Corinth was to be a very fruitful, yet difficult one.

18:1-17 The ministry at Corinth.

18:1-6 *The ministry in the synagogue.*

18:1 The arrival of Paul at Corinth.

- 1) Corinth was the capital of the province in the south Achaia while Thessalonica was the capital in the north.
- 2) The city was destroyed by Mummius of Rome in 146 B.C. and later colonized a century after by Caesar in 44-46 B.C.
- 3) The city was about 45 miles from Athens and unlike Athens, Corinth was the center of commerce not culture.
- 4) The city enjoyed two ports Cenchrea and Lechaem, since it sat on a isthmus or thin strip of land whose width at the neck was 5 miles, therefore the city was called the city on two seas.
- 5) It was called the bridge of Greece between Asia Minor and Italy and ships

of substantial size would be rolled over the 5 mile stretch of land on logs rather than sailing the southern route of Cape Malea.

- 6) They had a saying, “Let him who thinks to sail around Malea make his will”.
- 7) All trade from north-south or east-west passed through Corinth.
- 8) The very geographical and commercial position promoted her wickedness and it was synonymous with a life of sensual pleasure and debauchery, the Las Vegas of that day.
- 9) The city had the temple of Aphrodite's on the Acropolis with her 1000 prostitute priestesses.

18:2 The Christian expulsion from Italy.

- 1) The decree by Claudius in 49-50 A.D.
- 2) Aquila and Priscilla, a husband and wife team used by God to help Paul.
Rom.7:16:3; 1Cor.7:16:19
- 3) Their names are Latin, some times she is called Prisca. 2Tim. 4:19

18:3 The work partnership in tent making.

- 1) They were tentmakers or leather-workers like Paul.
- 2) Paul often made reference to his working in order to not be a burden to anyone and

be blameless in the ministry. Acts 20:34;
2Cor. 11:9; 1Thess. 2:9; 2Thess. 3:8

18:4 The preaching of Paul in the
synagogue.

- 1) The custom of Paul was to go to the Jews
first.
- 2) The custom was to reason and persuade
them about the Messiah from the
scriptures, both Jew and Hellenist Greek.

18:5 The arrival of Silas and Timothy.

- 1) Their arrival brought Paul the report
about Thessalonica, which that caused
him to write the first epistle.
- 2) They possibly brought the gift from
Philippi, which allowed Paul to give
himself more to the gospel. Phil. 4:15
* He was seized, compelled or held
together by the Spirit or in the Spirit
to testify to the Jews that Jesus was
the Messiah.

18:6 The Jewish opposition to the gospel.

- 1) They resisted and blasphemed Paul.
- 2) The physical act of shaking himself off
was O.T. practice signifying a release of
responsibility as well as rejection of the
Jews and he quoted Ezekiel. Ezk. 3:18;
33:4

- a) Paul proclaims the same to the
Ephesian elders. Acts 20:26
- b) The Jews set themselves in battle
array literally, as they opposed him.

18:7-11 *The ministry to the Gentiles.*

18:7 The departure marked the beginnings
of the church.

* Justus was probably a Greek proselyte, a
Roman.

18:8 The number of converts were many.

- 1) Crispus was the ruler of the synagogue,
who was probably replaced by
Sosthenes, mentioned in verse 17.
- 2) His family also believed the gospel.
 - a) Individual Jews were coming to Christ
some with their families but this
should never be taken as a promise
that if we are saved, then all our
family members will be saved.
 - b) This is rather the record of what
happened at that time, yet we should
believe and pray that they come to
Christ.
- 3) Many Corinthians believed the gospel and
were baptized.

18:9-10 The Lord encouraged Paul.

- 1) The Lord appeared to Paul while he prayed in the temple, when he first went to Jerusalem from Damascus and Jesus told him to get out of Jerusalem for the Jews would not receive his testimony concerning Him. Acts 22:17-18
- 2) The message was in a night vision
 - a) Do not be afraid, literally, stop being afraid. 2Tim.1:7
 - b) But speak, literally, keep on speaking. Matt. 28:20
 - c) Do not keep silent.
- 3) The reason or promise was three-fold.
 - a) The reason, I am with you.
 - b) No one will attack you to hurt you.
 - c) The reason I have many people in this city.
 - 1) Crespus, Gaius and house of Stephanas. 1Cor. 1
 - 2) Paul was fearful when he came. 1Cor. 2:1-7

18:11 The faithful obedience o Paul.

- 1) He continued for 18 months.
- 2) He taught the word of God among them.

18:12-17 *The minister Paul was accused by the Jews before the proconsul.*

18:12-13 The initial charges against Paul.

- 1) Gallio was the proconsul, son of the elder Seneca the rhetorician. vs. 12a
* His brother Seneca said of him that there wasn't anyone as nice or good.
- 2) The Jew unanimously were against Paul and presented him before the judgment seat. vs. 12b
- 3) The charge or complaint was that Paul was persuading people to worship God contrary to the law of Moses. vs. 13

18:14-15 The refusal of the Jewish audience by Gallio.

- 1) The time factor was immediate, Paul did not even get to speak. vs. 14a
- 2) Gallio pointed out his duty was to Roman law and refused to hear their complaint was based on the fact that there was neither criminal nor civil fault. vs. 14b-d
- 3) Gallio clearly identified their complaint as to the Jewish law. vs. 15

18:16-17 The dismissal of Jews by Gallio.

- 1) He drove them from the Judgment seat. vs. 16
- 2) The Greeks showed their disdain for the Jews. vs. 17
 - a) They took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue and beat him, most likely for protesting and insisting on the matter. vs. 17a-c

* He is the one who took the office of Crispus and believed to be the same one mentioned in First Corinthians. vs. 8 1Cor. 1:1

b) Gallio took no notice of those things. vs. 17d

18:18-22 Paul returns to Antioch.

18:18 The departure of Paul from Corinth.

- 1) Paul stayed a good while.
- 2) Paul left the brothers and sailed to Syria, with Priscilla and Aquila Spring of A.D. 53.
 - * Nothing is said about Silas or Timothy, they could of stayed at Corinth or they could of gone also but not recorded?
- 3) Paul took a vow at the port of Cenchrea, the eastern port of Corinth, on the Seronic Gulf.
 - * Some say it was a Nazarite vow others say it wasn't. Num. 6:2, 5, 9; 11:1-21

18:19 The arrival at Ephesus.

- 1) The husband and wife team remained at Ephesus, after a 2-3 day.
- 2) Paul went into the synagogue.
 - a) They were still at Ephesus. 1Cor.16:19
 - b) They were back at Rome. Rom. 16:3
 - c) They were back at Ephesus. 2Tim. 4:19

18:20-21 The request of the Ephesians to Paul.

- 1) Paul was asked to remain at Ephesus. vs. 20
- 2) Paul declared he must be at Jerusalem for the feast, be it Passover on March 22, Pentecost or Tabernacles we aren't sure. vs. 21a-c
- 3) Paul would return if it was God's will. vs. 21d-e

18:22 The return of Paul to Antioch.

- 1) Paul landed in Caesarea and went up to Jerusalem to greet the church, a very brief encounter, perhaps due to the Gentile ministry?
- 2) Paul went down to Antioch.
 - a) This was the church who had a heart of the Gentile mission field.
 - b) The Spirit of God called Paul out with Barnabas for the first missionary journey.
 - c) The second missionary journey went out from Antioch also.
 - d) The third would be no different.

18:23-21:14 The third missionary journey.

18:23 The apostle Paul headed out on his third mission journey.

- 1) Paul spent some time at Antioch. vs. 23a

- 2) Paul without doubt received news about the Galatian churches, over land through Cilicia, over the same route as the first journey. vs. 23b
* South Galatia. Acts 16:6
- 3) Paul desired purpose was to strengthen all the disciples, or students. vs. 23c

18:24-28 The ministry at Ephesus.

18:24 The visit of Apollos to Ephesus.

- 1) He was a Jew.
- 2) He was born at Alexandria.
 - a) The seat of Platonic thought and Greek philosophers.
 - b) Founded by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.
 - c) The Jew Philo combined Greek philosophy with the Hebrew scriptures in allegorical interpretation, which dominated the interpretation of scripture for a long time.
 - d) The LXX had been translated there.
 - e) The city was well known for it's Universities and libraries, only second to Athens.
- 3) He was an eloquent man, meaning in speech and thought.
* 1x in the N.T.
- 4) He was mighty in the Scriptures, the Old Testament.

- 5) He came to Ephesus.
 - a) A great commercial city of Asia Minor and capital of the province of Asia.
 - b) Paul would spend three years there in the 3rd journey.

18:25 The confidence of Apollos.

- 1) He had been instructed “katecheo” oral teaching, in the ways of the Lord.
* We get our word catechized from it.
- 2) He was fervent “zeo” in spirit, which means to boil or bubble but it is not attributed to the Holy Spirit, it is not capitalized.
- 3) He spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord.
- 4) But he knew only the baptism of John, the obvious implication is that he did not know the baptism of Jesus, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Acts 1:5, 8

18:26 The needed instruction of Apollos.

- 1) He began to speak boldly in the synagogue.
- 2) Aquila and Priscilla were present attending and heard him.
 - a) They had a house church at Ephesus for about 4-5 years, as recorded in First Corinthians. 1Cor. 16:19

- b) They probably were present during the riot. Acts 19
- c) returned back to Rome around late 57 A.D. and became active in the church at Rome. Rom. 16-3-4
- 3) They took him aside and taught him the way more accurately.
 - a) He was teachable not prideful!
 - b) They were acting as a team, Perscilla was not teaching a man!

18:27-28 The departure of Apollos from Ephesus.

- 1) The man Apollos desired to cross Achaia and the brethren at Ephesus gave him letters of commendation. vs. 27a-b
- 2) The purpose was that the believers would receive him. vs. 27c
- 3) The outcome of the arrival of Apollos was a great benefit to the young and older Christians regarding the gospel of grace. vs. 27d-e
 - a) There were so many strange doctrines floating around the church.
 - b) Apollos made his way over the Corinth, for he is mentioned nine time in First Corinthians.
- 4) He refuted vigorously the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah. vs. 28