

## ACTS CHAPTER 18

VS 1 AFTER WHAT EVENTS? WHERE DOES PAUL GO? \_\_\_\_\_  
CORINTH'S REPUTATION FOR WICKEDNESS WAS KNOWN ALL OVER THE ROMAN EMPIRE. CORINTH IS LOCATED A LITTLE MORE THAN FORTY MILES WEST OF ATHENS. IT IS A DAY'S SAIL OR ELSE TOOK A FEW DAYS BY FOOT. IT WAS A MAJOR PORT, AT THE CROSSROADS OF EAST AND WEST FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. CORINTH HAD SERVED AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER OF THE PROVINCE SINCE 27 BC. THIS MADE IT A STRATEGIC LOCATION FOR PLANTING THE FAITH. IT WAS A NEW CITY WITH NO MAJOR BUILDING MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD, AS IT WAS FOUNDED BY CAESAR IN 44 BC. A TEMPLE TO APHRODITE SAT IN THE CITY, WHICH ITSELF WAS PERCHED AT THE TOP OF A 1,900-FOOT HILL. ITS POPULATION IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN ABOUT TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND. IT HAD A REPUTATION FOR PROSPERITY AND LICENTIOUSNESS. IT WAS THE LAS VEGAS OF ITS TIME. THERE WERE MANY PHILOSOPHERS AND ITINERANT TEACHERS IN CORINTH, PREYING ON THE IGNORANT AND SUPERSTITIOUS POPULATION.

VS 2. LUKE INTRODUCES US TO AQUILA AND HIS WIFE PRISCILLA, TENTMAKERS AND/OR LEATHERWORKERS FROM ROME. WHY HAD THEY LEFT ROME? THIS PROBABLY ALLUDES TO THE DECREE IN AD 49 THAT EXPELLED JEWS WHO CREATED CIVIL DISTURBANCE AT THE INSTIGATION OF CHRIST. THE DEBATE OVER JESUS HAD CAUSED RIOTS IN THE CITY, PROBABLY ABOUT WHETHER JESUS WAS THE CHRIST. THE DECREE OF EXPULSION AND THE FACT THAT THEY HAD TO LEAVE ROME MAY WELL SUGGEST THAT THEY WERE CHRISTIANS WHILE IN ROME. WE ALSO LEARN THAT AQUILA WAS A NATIVE OF PONTUS, NEAR THE BLACK SEA. THEY WERE AMONG AN ESTIMATED FIFTY THOUSAND JEWS LIVING IN ROME. WE KNOW THAT THIS DEDICATED COUPLE SERVED MOST FAITHFULLY AND EVEN RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR PAUL (ROMANS 16:3-4). THEY ASSISTED HIM IN EPHESUS (ACTS 18:18-28), WHERE THEY EVEN HOSTED A CHURCH IN THEIR HOME. THEY WERE AN IMPORTANT PART OF PAUL'S "TEAM" AND HE THANKED GOD FOR THEM. THEY ARE A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW "LAY MINISTERS" CAN HELP TO FURTHER THE WORK OF THE LORD.

VS 3 WHAT INFORMATION DO WE LEARN IN THIS VERSE? 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_. THERE WAS A PRECEDENT FOR HAVING A TRADE AMONG RABBIS. RABBIS WERE NOT TO PROFIT FROM THE STUDY OF THE TORAH, NOR WERE THEY TO SIT IDLE. ALL JEWISH BOYS WERE EXPECTED TO LEARN A TRADE, NO MATTER WHAT PROFESSION THEY MIGHT ENTER. THE RABBIS SAID, "HE WHO DOES NOT TEACH HIS SON TO WORK, TEACHES HIM TO STEAL." SO SAUL OF TARUS LEARNED TO MAKE LEATHER TENTS AND TO SUPPORT HIMSELF IN HIS MINISTRY. THE WORD USED HERE MEANS MORE THAN A TENT-MAKER. IT MEANS A LEATHER-WORKER AND PAUL MUST HAVE BEEN A SKILLED CRAFTSMAN.

VS 4 AS WAS HIS PATTERN, PAUL HEADS FOR THE SYNAGOGUE TO DEBATE AND TRY TO PERSUADE JEWS AND GREEKS ON THE SABBATH ABOUT JESUS. AFTER ALL, THAT IS WHY HE CAME TO CORINTH.

VS 5 WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SILAS AND TIMOTHY ARRIVE? WHY DO YOU THINK THIS HAPPENED? WHEN SILAS AND TIMOTHY ARRIVE FROM MACEDONIA, THEY BROUGHT FINANCIAL AID (2 COR. 11:9) AND THIS ENABLED PAUL TO DEVOTE HIS FULL TIME TO THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL. WHAT A GREAT JOY IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR PAUL TO SEE HIS FRIENDS AND TO HEAR FROM THEM THE GOOD NEWS OF THE STEADFASTNESS OF THE CHRISTIANS IN THE CHURCHES THEY HAD PLANTED TOGETHER. (1 THESS. 3) HUMANLY SPEAKING, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO CHURCH IN CORINTH WERE IT NOT FOR THE DEVOTION AND SERVICE OF MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

VS 6 HOW DID THE JEWS RESPOND TO PAUL'S MESSAGE? IN A SYMBOLIC GESTURE, PAUL SHAKES DUST OFF HIS GARMENT (13:51). HE DECLARES TO HIS OPPONENTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS. PAUL TELLS THEM THREE IMPORTANT THINGS, 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_. PAUL'S ACTION DEPICTS A BREAK IN FELLOWSHIP AND MEANS THAT PAUL IS INNOCENT OF ANYTHING THAT TAKES PLACE, WHICH IS WHY HE SAYS THAT HE IS CLEAN, A REMARK SUGGESTING THAT HE IS FREE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS SINCE HE AS FULFILLED HIS CALL TO THE NATION. THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE ABANDONMENT OF THE JEWS BUT MEANS THAT HIS EFFORTS IN CORINTH WILL CONCENTRATE ELSEWHERE.

VS 7-8 LUKE NOTES ONLY TWO CONVERTS. THE FIRST IS \_\_\_\_\_ WE LEARN ONLY TWO THINGS ABOUT HIM. 1. \_\_\_\_\_ AND 2. \_\_\_\_\_. AND THE SECOND IS \_\_\_\_\_. WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT HIM? THEY ARE BUT TWO OF MANY WHO BELIEVE AND ARE BAPTIZED. CRISPUS IS NOTED IN 1 COR. 1:14 AS ONE WHOM PAUL BAPTIZED. HIS NAME DOES INDICATE THAT HE IS A ROMAN CITIZEN, IN WHICH CASE WE HAVE AN EXEMPLARY GENTILE AND AN EXEMPLARY JEW NOTED IN THESE VERSES.

VS 9-11 HOW DID THE LORD COMMUNICATE WITH PAUL? WHAT DOES THE LORD SAY TO PAUL? 1. \_\_\_\_\_ THE DIRECTION NOT TO FEAR ECHOES NUMEROUS O.T. TEXTS. HE CAN GO ON PROCLAIMING THE WORD WITHOUT CONCERN FOR HIS SAFETY. THE LORD MAKES HIM THREE PROMISES: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_. WE ARE GOING TO SEE OTHER SUCH ASSURANCES IN ACTS. (23:11;27:23-24). JUST WHEN PAUL NEEDED IT THE LORD SPOKE TO HIM. WHEN THE LORD GIVES US A TASK TO DO, HE ALSO GIVES US THE POWER TO DO IT. IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, PAUL FOUND HIS COURAGE AND HIS STRENGTH. IS THAT WHERE YOU FIND YOUR REST, COURAGE AND STRENGTH?

VS 12-17 JOSEPHUS SPELLS OUT JEWISH PRIVILEGES AS SET FORTH BY AN EDICT FROM CLAUDIUS. THESE INCLUDED THE RIGHT TO OBSERVE ANCESTRAL CUSTOMS AND TO WORSHIP THEIR OWN GOD. THE EXAMINATION WE ARE GOING TO SEE IS ACCORDING TO ROMAN PROCEDURES. GALLIO IS A ROMAN PROCONSUL . ALTHOUGH POPULAR, HE WAS ALSO KNOWN TO BE ANTI-SEMITIC. HE WAS NOT PROCONSUL FOR LONG IN CORINTH AS A FEVER FORCED HIM TO LEAVE EARLY. WE CAN DATE HIS TIME THERE

TO AD 51-52. ANCIENT SOURCES SHOW HIM TO BE A METICULOUS LAWYER, SO HIS LEGAL JUDGMENT WOULD BE MADE WITH CARE. WHAT HAPPENS TO PAUL IN VERSE 12?

VS 13 WHAT IS THE CHARGE?

VS 14-16 HOW DOES GALLIO RESPOND? THESE VERSE HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO MEAN THAT GALLIO WAS DETACHED AND UNINTERESTED- ITS REAL MEANING IS THAT GALLIO WAS ABSOLUTELY IMPARTIAL, THAT HE REFUSED TO ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE INFLUENCED OR PREJUDICED, THAT HE BROUGHT IMPARTIAL ROMAN JUSTICE TO HIS TASK. VERSE 16 TELLS US \_\_\_\_\_.

VS 17 WE SEE THAT SOME TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS, SEIZING SOSTHENES AND BEATING HIM IN FRONT OF THE TRIBUNAL. WHO IS INVOLVED IS NOT CLEAR. THIS IS VIGILANTISM, ABOUT WHICH GALLIO DOES NOTHING. THE ACCOUNT AS A WHOLE IS NOT UNLIKE THE WAY PILATE HANDLED JESUS. THE ACCOUNT AS A WHOLE SHOWS THAT ROME IS GOING TO STAY OUT OF THE DISPUTE, IF POSSIBLE. IT WILL NOT RULE FOR CHRISTIANITY OR AGAINST IT. THERE IS NO REAL INTEREST IN JEWISH AFFAIRS. LUKE SHOWS THAT THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION.

VS 18-23 THE RETURN TO ANTIOCH. NOW PAUL IS ON HIS WAY HOME. LOOK AT OUR MAP, WHERE DOES PAUL GO?

VS 18 WE LEARN THAT PAUL REMAINED IN CORINTH MANY DAYS LONGER. WHAT DOES PAUL DO? WHERE IS HE HEADED? WHO GOES WITH PAUL? WHAT TWO THINGS DO WE LEARN ABOUT PAUL? IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHAT KIND OF VOW THIS IS. WHEN A JEW WISHED TO THANK GOD FOR SOME BLESSING OR SOME DELIVERANCE HE TOOK THE NAZIRITE VOW. (NUMBERS 6:1-21). NO DOUBT PAUL WAS THINKING OF ALL GOD'S GOODNESS TO HIM IN CORINTH AND TOOK THIS VOW TO SHOW HIS GRATITUDE.

VS 19 WHERE ARE THEY NOW? EPHESUS WAS AN IMPORTANT CITY, AS IT HAD LONG BEEN THE HOME OF THE SHRINE OF ARTEMIS, ONE OF THE MAJOR PAGAN GODDESSES. IT ALSO WAS A GREAT COMMERCIAL CITY. THE SHRINE WAS ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD. IT WAS A MAJOR TRADE CENTER IN ASIA MINOR. A FREE CITY, EPHESUS HAD ITS OWN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY. IT WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF ASIA. WHO DOES HE LEAVE THERE? WHAT DOES HE DO AT EPHESUS?

VS 20 WHAT DID THEY WANT PAUL TO DO? HOW DID PAUL RESPOND?

VS 21 WHAT DOES PAUL PROMISE THEM? WHAT DOES THAT TELL US ABOUT PAUL'S WALK WITH THE LORD? HIS HASTE IS PROBABLY DUE TO A WISH TO REACH JERUSALEM FOR THE PASSOVER FESTIVAL. SEA TRAVEL STOPPED FOR THE WINTER. IF PAUL WAITED UNTIL AFTER WINTER THE WINDOW FOR TRAVEL TO REACH JERUSALEM FOR PASSOVER WOULD BE SHORT. HOW DID PAUL MAKE HIS DECISION?

VS 22 WHERE DOES PAUL LAND? WHERE DOES PAUL GO? AND WHAT DOES HE DO THERE?

THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY- THE THIRD MISSION JOURNEY BEGINS IN VS 23. IN THIS COMPACT TEXT, LUKE SUMMARIZES A FIFTEEN-HUNDRED-MILE JOURNEY. WE DON'T KNOW HOW LONG PAUL REMAINED IN ANTIOCH BEFORE LEAVING ON HIS THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY, BUT PERHAPS IT WAS AS LONG AS A YEAR. LUKE DOES NOT DESCRIBE THIS JOURNEY IN DETAIL BECAUSE HIS MAIN PURPOSE IS TO GET PAUL TO EPHESUS. EPHESUS WAS AN IMPORTANT CITY, AS IT HAD LONG BEEN THE HOME OF THE SHRINE OF ARTEMIS, ONE OF THE MAJOR PAGAN GODDESS. IT ALSO WAS A GREAT COMMERCIAL CITY AND ON THE MAIN TRADE ROUTE EAST FROM ROME. EPHESUS WILL BE PAUL'S MISSIONARY CENTER FOR HIS THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY. ONCE PAUL REACHES EPHESUS, HE STAYS THERE FOR SOME TIME. PAUL WORKS LONG AND HARD TO PLANT A SOLID COMMUNITY THERE. HE WILL STAY FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

VS 24 THE SCENE SHIFTS BACK TO EPHESUS AND TO AN INSIGHTFUL PREACHER. WE ARE INTRODUCED TO A JEW NAMED APOLLOS. WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT HIM? 1. \_\_\_\_\_ ALEXANDRIA WAS THE ROMAN SEAT IN EGYPT. IT WAS ONE OF THE LARGER CITIES OF THE EMPIRE AND HAD A LARGE JEWISH POPULATION. 2. \_\_\_\_\_ THIS IS SOMEONE WHO IS WELL EDUCATED. 3. \_\_\_\_\_ AND 4. \_\_\_\_\_. THIS PROBABLY MEANS THAT HE UNDERSTANDS HOW THE SCRIPTURES MAKE PROMISES ABOUT THE CHRIST. HE PROBABLY KNOWS ABOUT GOD'S WORK OF SALVATION THROUGH JESUS AND GOD'S PLAN TIED TO IT.

VS 25 WE LEARN FIVE THINGS ABOUT APOLLOS. 1. \_\_\_\_\_. 2. \_\_\_\_\_ "FERVENT" MEANS THAT THE PERSON IS ENTHUSIASTIC, EXCITED, OR "ON FIRE". THE TERM LITERALLY MEANS "BOILING" OR SEETHING". IT IS OFTEN USED IN A POSITIVE CONTEXT ABOUT EMOTIONS, AS HERE. 3. HE WAS \_\_\_\_\_. THIS PROBABLY MEANS HE IS WELL VERSED IN THE SCRIPTURE AND UNDERSTANDS HOW THE SCRIPTURE MAKES PROMISES ABOUT THE CHRIST. 4. WHAT ELSE DO WE LEARN ABOUT APOLLOS? \_\_\_\_\_ HIS PREACHING IS NOT INACCURATE, MERELY INCOMPLETE. APOLLO KNEW ABOUT THE PROMISES, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THEIR FULFILLMENT. WHERE DID APOLLOS GET HIS MESSAGE TO BEGIN WITH? SINCE ALEXANDRIA WAS A FAMOUS CENTER FOR LEARNING, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF JOHN THE BAPTIST'S DISCIPLES HAD GONE THERE WHILE CHRIST WAS STILL MINISTERING ON EARTH, AND SHARED WITH THE JEWS AS MUCH AS THEY KNEW. THE ACTION BEGINS WITH APOLLOS SPEAKING BOLDLY IN THE SYNAGOGUE, A DESCRIPTION ECHOING AN EARLIER ONE OF PAUL'S PREACHING. (9:27-28)

VS 26 HOW WAS APOLLOS SPEAKING? \_\_\_\_\_. WHAT DOES THE "BUT" TELL US? WHAT DID THEY DO? HERE WE SEE AN EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN LOVE AND A LESSON FOR US ON HOW TO CORRECT FELLOW CHRISTIANS. AQUILA AND PRISCILLA DID NOT INSTRUCT HIM IN PUBLIC. THEY TOOK HIM HOME TO A SABBATH

DINNER AND THEN TOLD HIM ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AND THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THEY LED HIM INTO A DEEPER KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST AND THE NEXT SABBATH, APOLLOS RETURNED TO THE SYNAGOGUE AND GAVE THE JEWS THE REST OF THE STORY.

VS 27 WHERE DOES APOLLOS WANT TO GO? HOW DID THE BELIEVERS RESPOND?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THIS ENCOURAGEMENT? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

VS 28 WHAT DID HIS MINISTRY LOOK LIKE? HERE APOLLOS NOT ONLY STRENGTHENED THE SAINTS, BUT HE ALSO DEBATED WITH THE UNBELIEVING JEWS AND CONVINCED MANY OF THEM THAT JESUS IS THE MESSIAH.

APOLLOS MINISTERED FOR A TIME TO THE CHURCH IN CORINTH (ACTS 19:1) WHERE HIS LEARNING AND ELOQUENCE ATTRACTED ATTENTION. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT A CLIQUE GATHERED AROUND HIM AND HELPED BRING DIVISION TO THE CHURCH. THIS BRIEF PORTRAIT HELPS US TO APPRECIATE WHY PAUL SEE APOLLOS AS A COLLEAGUE IN 1 COR. 1-4. THEY WILL ALSO CROSS PATHS IN EPHESUS ACCORDING TO 1 COR. 26:12 WHERE PAUL REPORTS HE HAS URGED HIM TO COME TO CORINTH LATER.

WHAT DOES PAUL TEACH US IN THIS CHAPTER ABOUT LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVING THE LORD? LOOK AT:

VERSE 3- WHEN THE LORD GIVES US A JOB WE DO IT WITHOUT BEING A BURDEN. HERE WE SEE PAUL THE TENTMAKER. WHAT ELSE DO WE LEARN ABOUT CHRISTIAN LIVING?

VERSE 4- WHAT DOES PAUL'S MINISTRY SHOW US AND HOW WE APPROACH OUR MINISTRY?

VERSE 5- WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT CHRISTIAN LIVING AND OUR WALK?

VERSE 6 LOOK AT MATTHEW 10:14 And whoever does not receive you nor listen to your words, as you leave that house or city, shake the dust off your feet. WHAT IS PAUL EXAMPLE TO US IN THIS VERSE?

VS 7 WHEN THE LORD SHUTS ONE DOOR HE OPENS ANOTHER. PAUL IS FOLLOWING THE LORD'S DIRECTION FOR HIS LIFE- TO BE AN APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES. ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE LORD'S DIRECTION IN YOUR LIFE?

VS 8 WHEN WE (LIKE PAUL) ARE OBEDIENT WHAT DOES THE LORD DO?

VS 9-11 WHAT DO WE LEARN IN THIS VERSE THAT WE CAN APPLY TO OUR LIVES?

VS 13-16 SEEING GOD IN ALL SITUATIONS. WHO IS IN CONTROL OF THIS SITUATION?

DO WE LOOK FOR THE LORD IN ALL OUR SITUATIONS OR DO WE "FIX" THEM OURSELVES?

VS 18 WE SEE PAUL'S FLEXIBILITY. DO YOU THINK FLEXIBILITY IS IMPORTANT IN THE CHRISTIAN WALK? WHY?

VS 21 PAUL TELLS THEM HE WILL RETURN IF? WHAT DOES THIS SHOW US ABOUT PAUL'S LIFE?

VS 23 WHAT WAS PAUL DOING IN THIS VERSE? HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN ONE ANOTHER IN THE CHRISTIAN WALK?

VS 26 WHAT DO PRISCILLA AND AQUILA DO IN THIS VERSE? HOW? NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE KNOW-WE CAN ALWAYS LEARN MORE!

VS 27 WHAT DO WE SEE CHRISTIANS DOING IN THIS VERSE?

VS 28 HOW WAS APOLLO'S MINISTRY? WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT OUR WALK? ARE WE ALL GOING TO BE POWERFUL TEACHERS/SPEAKERS? WHAT IS OUR JOB? DON'T BE JEALOUS OF EACH OTHER'S GIFTS-BUT SUPPORT. REMEMBER GOD MAY BE USING US AS AN ENCOURAGER.