

Paul's Plants, Apollos Waters

Acts 18:18-28

Paul, after getting frustrated with the Jews at Corinth, taught for quite some time the gentiles about God's grace, and remained there a good while.

1. He had a vow
 - a. We see Paul still practices tradition in a sense with a Nazaretic vow.
 - b. It may have been an act of reconciliation after losing his patience with the Jews at Corinth
2. He leaves Aquila and Priscilla at Ephesus and goes to the synagogue
 - a. He still had a heart for his people
 - b. These Jews enjoyed reasoning with Paul
3. Paul wanted to "keep the feast" at Jerusalem
 - a. He left Ephesus desiring to return
 - b. He went to Caesarea and Antioch and visited
4. Paul visited the ministries he had started
 - a. He visited them "in order"
 - b. His purpose was to "strengthen all the disciples"
 - i. This required Paul to have strength
 1. Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.
 2. 2Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
 - ii. This required close fellowship
 1. Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies,

kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

iii. Only those who were there received strength

1. Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. Those who were too weak didn't show up

a. Vicious circle

b. Too weak to show up to get the strength to fight

• You see when we don't get the strength we need, we won't have the strength to stand and fight.

○ **Ephesians 6:10** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the

darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

- So, when we fail to be strengthened, we can't help but fall/fail in the fight.
- Now, I just want quickly make a few observations about Apollos and his time at Ephesus.
 - This is also where the Apostle Paul left Aquila and Priscilla.
- Apollos was educated and eloquent vs. 24-25a
 - He could have considered himself better than others
 - He instead shared his knowledge to help others
- Apollos was fervent and faithful vs. 25
 - He continued to learn of the Lord
 - He spoke with a spiritual fervency what he knew
- Apollos was meek and moldable vs. 26-27

- Aquila and Priscilla hear him and help him
- Instead of getting mad at being corrected, he got correct!
- Apollos was publicly persuasive vs. 28
 - Now he has a more perfect persuasion!
 - He shows us that we are to publicly proclaim Christ!

- So, when speaking to the church at Corinth, Paul said this...
 - **1Corinthians 3:6** I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.
 - 7** So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.
 - 8** Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.
 - 9** For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

- The very people Paul struggled to reach Apollos was able to reach.
 - Did this make Apollos better.
 - Of course not, God uses His garden tools as he sees fit.
 - The main thing is to be in the shed, ready to use!

