

# Acts 18

## Review questions:

1. **At Thessalonica, in whose house did Paul stay?** Jason (*Acts 17.5-9*)
2. **Where did the Christians study the Bible daily?** Berea (*Acts 17.11*)
3. **Where did Paul deliver his speech at Athens?** On Mars' Hill (Areopagus or the Hill of Ares, the god of war)
4. **How did Paul know that Jesus was the Christ?** His resurrection from the dead (*Acts 17.31*)
5. **Were there any converts at Athens?** Only two or three (*Acts 14.34*)

## Acts 18.1-4

### V 1 - What do we know about Corinth?

1. There was a huge amount of land traffic that passed through the city
2. Many ships stopped there and had their cargo unloaded; the cargo was carried overland to another ship at the other port (a canal was built there in 1893)
3. There were two pagan gods for the city:
  - Poseidon (Neptune) – the god of the sea, and Aphrodite (Venus) – the goddess of love
4. It was a very wicked city
  - In ancient Greek plays, there was usually a character who was a drunk from the city of Corinth
  - What problems did the church of Corinth later have?** Four divisions, fornication (man living with his step-mother), misunderstandings about the gift of tongues, the nature of the resurrection, etc.

### V 2 – There was persecution of the church in Corinth

- Josephus said that the persecution was 49-50 A.D., because of Jewish riots over man named "Chrestus"
- Priscilla and Aquila lived there
- What was their profession?** Making tents
- There were many guilds (trade unions) there – probably Paul and Priscilla and Aquila met because of their common occupation

### V 3 – Look up Pontus on a map

- According to *Acts 2.9*, there were Jews from Pontus present in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost
- Also, Peter mentions Christians in Pontus in *1 Peter 1.1*

### V 4 – **What was Paul doing at Corinth?** Preaching in a synagogue

## Acts 18.5-11

### V 5 - Paul stopped making tents

- 1 Thessalonians* was written after v 5 – see *1 Thess. 3.6*

**V 6** – He shook the dust off of himself

-**Where else did he do this?** *Acts 13.51* – Antioch of Pisidia

-Jesus gave instructions to do this in some situations (*Matt. 10.14*)

-**"Your blood"** – said by the Jews at the crucifixion (*Matt. 27.25*), and Pilate had just washed his hands of any guilt over Jesus

**V 7** – Right next door! **Whose house was it?** Titius Justus

**V 8** – **Who else was converted?** Crispus, the leader of the Jews believed - *1 Cor. 1.14* – one of the few people Paul baptized at Corinth

**V 9-10** – **When did we see the last vision in the book of Acts?** The man in Macedonia speaking to the apostle Paul (*Acts 16.9*)

-**What was the message of the vision here?** That Paul would not be harmed at Corinth

**V 10** – **Explain "Many people in this city":**

-*1 Kings 19.18* – Elijah was pursued by Jezebel into the wilderness

-He asked God to take his life, but God said, "There are still 7000 of my people who have not bowed to Baal"

**V 11** – One and a half years later: autumn of 50 AD to spring 52 A.D.

## **Acts 18.12-17**

**V 12** – **Who was the official representative of the Roman government in Corinth?** Gallio

**V 13** – **Which law?** The Law of Moses

**V 14** – **What, then, was the official attitude at this time of the Roman government toward Christianity?** Apathy – not for or against, they just didn't care

**V 15** – **What was the decree of Gallio?** He did not want to get involved with various intricate arguments based on Judaism

**V 16** – **How did he treat the Jews?** He "drove them away"

**V 17** – The Gentiles were so upset that they starting beating up Sosthenes

-**Why?** Because he was a Jew, and they were upset that he had brought such a trivial matter before the Roman official (this shows anti-Semitism in the Roman Empire)

-Sosthenes was later converted to Christ – *1 Cor. 1.1*

## **Acts 18.18-22**

**V 18** - A congregation was established at Cenchrea (see *Romans 16.1* – Phoebe)

-**A vow?** Possibly the Nazirite vow (See *Numbers 6.1-8*)

-**Why did he put himself under a vow?** Because he sometimes honored the ceremonial law of the

Old Testament (that was his heritage), but he never bound it on others

-Maybe a simpler answer would be: Because he wanted to

-Many towns have annual festivals where the men all grows beards – it is not religious, but they do it for personal satisfaction

-There does not seem to be any spiritual significance of Paul's personal decision here

**V 19** – Ephesus – temple to Diana (one of the original 7 wonders of the ancient world)

-**How did Paul try to convert the Jews?** By reasoning with them

**V 20** – He decided to stay longer

**V 21** – **Under what circumstances would Paul return?** If God willed it

-**Does this remind you of another New Testament passage?** *James 4.13-16*

**V 22** – **How do we know he went to Jerusalem?** Up = higher elevation, Down = lower elevation

-3 years – The Second Missionary Journey

**Was the Second Missionary Journey successful?** Yes

1. Churches were established at:

-Philippi

-Thessalonica

-Berea

-Corinth

-Cenchrea

-Possibly at Ephesus

-Possibly at Athens

2. The congregations were strengthened

3. They took the gospel to Europe

## **The Beginning of the Third Missionary Journey**

### **Acts 18.23-28**

Terms to know:

-Septuagint (abbreviated LXX) – a Greek translation made by 70 (LXX) Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt, about 200 B.C.

-This was the Greek translation that is usually quoted from in the New Testament

-Diana – the Roman name for the Greek goddess Artemis

-The "Way" – a common term for the church in the book of *Acts*

-*John 14.6*

-*John 9.2*

-*Acts 19.9*

-*Acts 19.23*

-*Acts 11.3*

-*Acts 24.14, 22*

**V 23** – **Why did they go through Galatia?** Sickness on Second Missionary Journey (*Gal. 4.12-15, Acts 16.6*)

**V 24** – See v 19 – Priscilla and Aquila were left in Ephesus

-Luke digresses temporarily

-Apollos was from Alexandria – a very prosperous city; famous for its Jewish subculture; very similar to Tarsus

-Septuagint (LXX) – See NASB, 1995 edition, footnote on *Acts 7.46*

-There was a great university there, along with the largest library in the ancient world

-See the song: "Shepherd of Tender Youth" – by Clement of Alexandria, #576, *Praise for the Lord*

-**Explain "mighty in the scriptures"**: He knew the Old Testament very well

**V 25** – Baptism of John (see *Acts 13.24*)

-He had much knowledge about the Bible, except he only knew about the baptism of John

**V 26** – **Why did they take him aside?** Because of their tact and diplomacy – they did not want to embarrass him in public

-In dealing with people who sincere, but are mistaken, it is always better to talk with them in private and not embarrass them in public

-See the book: *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie (one of the principles in that book is to use tact and diplomacy in correcting others)

-**What was the attitude of Apollos?** He accepted their words and got back to work for the Lord's church

**V 27** – **Achaia?** Another name for Greece

-**What later references do we have to Apollos?**

-1 *Cor. 1.12*

-1 *Cor. 3.6* – *I planted, Apollos watered....*

Many Bible scholars suggest that Apollos was the author of *Hebrews*; Martin Luther believed this

-The Old Testament references in *Hebrews* were all from the LXX, and the style of writing was classical (this points to Apollos and his background at Alexandria)

**V 28** – **How did he present the truth?** He used the Scriptures and refuted the Jews

-**Any great lessons and messages from Acts 18?**

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