

## **Acts 18: PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY CONTINUED**

### **Introduction**

We ended chapter 17 with Paul in Athens as he expanded his reach beyond just synagogues but also to the market place. "He reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there." He even went to speak at the meeting of the Areopagus, aristocratic council, or the high court of ancient Athens where he presented the gospel.

Acts 18 details the rest of Paul's second missionary journey (which ended in verse 22) and the beginning of his third missionary journey (which started in verse 22). When Paul left Athens, he went to Corinth, where he met a missionary couple called Aquila and Priscilla, who were considered the first Christian missionary married couple. Aquila and Priscilla later became Paul's partners in ministry for many years. Amazingly, Paul stayed a year and six months in Corinth which is the longest he has stayed in a single location. As usual, Paul began his ministry in the Synagogue, "Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks." Also, as usual, the Jews tried to arouse people against Paul, but God foiled their plan. After Corinth, Paul made a stop in Ephesus, then Jerusalem, and then made his way back to Antioch. The Book of Acts tells us that he spent some time there before setting out for his third journey.

His third missionary journey lasted from 53 to 57 A.D. and is found in Acts chapters 18:23-21:14. The journey was a more extended trip than the previous two, and he spent his time shoring up the churches he had planted on his first two journeys. As we will later learn, he spent a significant portion of his third missionary journey in Ephesus, about 2-3 years. Luke also introduces us to Apollos who Paul later referenced in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 3:6-8). Apollos came to Ephesus and encountered Priscilla and Aquila. At the time of meeting Priscilla and Aquila, he lacked a deeper knowledge of the gospel although he was eloquent and fervent. Priscilla and Aquila were very instrumental in instructing him to become more effective in ministry.

### **Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Acts 18:1-28**

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

### Think Through the Following Questions

1. What can we learn from Paul's bi-vocational approach to his ministry in Corinth? Acts 18: 1-4.
2. What do you make of Paul's statement in Acts 18:6b "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."?
3. How does the relationship between Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla demonstrate the importance of Christians working together for the sake of the gospel?
4. Why do you think Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half contrary to everywhere he has been so far?
5. What can we learn from the life of Apollo? He was eloquent and had a powerful ministry, yet he lacked knowledge in certain areas.
6. How can we receive help from other disciples and increase our knowledge of the Lord? How does Apollos' willingness to learn and improve illustrate the importance of humility in Christian service?
7. How do Aquila and Priscilla's actions toward Apollos model how we should disciple others?
8. What does Luke mean when he said about Apollos that he "taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John"?

**Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?**

**Application: How do you think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?**