



ACTS – Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 18

Lesson 15

After seemingly discouraging results in Athens, Paul went south to Corinth. There Paul met with a rare salvation, protection, and opposition. He remained in Corinth longer than in any other city to date. From Corinth, Paul briefly stayed in Ephesus on his way to Jerusalem and eventually back to his sending church at Antioch. Meanwhile, we are introduced to a fervent preacher named Apollos – an example to us of both boldness and humility. May we learn from the many examples provided to us in this chapter.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 18

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Paul*.

Key Words: *God, Jesus, Spirit, Paul, believed, Scriptures/word, and baptized/baptism*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used seven times in Acts 18. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.



As you read of the cities visited by Paul in Acts 17, retrace his journey, using the map.

MINISTRY OF PAUL IN CORINTH: Read Acts 18:1-17

1. From Athens, Paul traveled to the city of Corinth, known for its idol worship. Corinth was also well known for its immorality. Paul had sent Timothy and Silas to Macedonia. He quickly found two fellow believers. Who were they?

- a. What did Paul write about them in Romans 16:3?
- b. Aquila and Priscilla shared the same occupation as Paul, tent making. Read 2 Corinthians 11:9. What did Paul remind them about not being a financial burden to them?

Note: It is believed that this aid from the churches in Macedonia was brought to Paul when Silas and Timothy joined Paul in Corinth. Acts 18:5

2. After the arrival of Silas and Timothy, we are told that Paul *testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ*. What word in this verse expresses Paul's incentive?

- a. Using synonyms, define the word *compelled*.
- b. Describe what it is like to be *compelled by the Spirit* to do something?

3. Paul's message was *opposed*. He *shook his garments*. Then what did he say to them?

- a. How does the message of Ezekiel 33:4 apply to Paul's statement to those who *opposed him*?

4. In the midst of opposition and rejection, Acts 18:8 records a salvation which must have been a great encouragement to Paul. What prominent Jewish man believed?
 - a. Who also believed?
5. The conversion of the *ruler of the synagogue* could certainly provoke persecution from those who opposed Paul. What were the words of encouragement given to Paul by the Lord? verses 9,10

- a. Underline the first four words of this vision. How does it encourage you to know that even a man as bold as Paul had times of *being afraid*?

Challenge: Find verses using the phrase *do not fear* or *do not be afraid*. List a few of them.

- b. The Lord did not simply tell Paul *do not be afraid*. He gave him a reason in verse 10. What was it?
 - 1.) In what ways is God's presence an antidote to *being afraid*?
 - 2.) The Lord also told Paul *I have many people in this city*. Fear often causes us to feel very alone. What are some other misperceptions we can have when we are fearful?
6. Rather than flee the potential opposition or travel to a city that had not yet heard the gospel, what does Acts 18:11 tell us Paul did?
 - a. Paul's letters to the Corinthians reveal a great deal about the church and Paul's teaching to them. Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 and describe Paul's approach.

Challenge: Scan 1 Corinthians and list some of the problems that were occurring in the church at Corinth after Paul left them.

7. God did not promise Paul that there would be no further opposition in Corinth. What happened according to Acts 18:12-17?
 - a. As you consider this story, reflect upon God's faithfulness to the words of Paul's vision. In what ways do you see God's faithfulness to His promise to Paul?

PAUL RETURNS TO ANTIOCH: Read Acts 18:18-23

1. After *remaining a good while* in Corinth, Paul, Priscilla and Aquila *sailed for Syria*. Paul *had his hair cut off at Cenchrea*. Why?
 - a. We do not know the reason for Paul's vow. Some believe it was the vow of the Nazarite which is recorded in Numbers 6:2-8. According to verses 2 and 8, what is to be the heart behind this special vow?
 - 1.) What can we personally learn from this?
2. Where did Paul go next?
 - a. Paul would later return to Ephesus, but this stay in Ephesus would be brief. However, Paul did not ignore the spiritual need of the people in this city. What did he do? verse 19
 - b. Rather than oppose Paul in some way, what was the response of some of the people? verse 20
 - 1.) Although these words must have been a great encouragement to Paul, what did he tell them?
 - a.) Underline the phrase *God willing*. Record the complimentary words in:
Hebrews 6:3

James 4:15
 - i.) This is not simply a phrase to tack onto a statement about our plans. It is an attitude to live by. Why is this attitude important?
 - b.) We do not know the particular *feast* that Paul referred to. However, since his stay in Corinth lasted about 1-1/2 years, we know Paul did not feel compelled to attend every year. Yet, Paul felt that he *must keep this coming feast in Jerusalem*. Considering the favor Paul had in Ephesus, what does this teach you about Paul's faithfulness to do what he felt he *must* do?

MINISTRY OF APOLLOS: Acts 18:24-28

1. Acts 18:24 introduces us to Apollos. What do these verses tell us about him?
verse 24

verse 25
2. Apollos *taught accurately the things of the Lord*, yet was limited in what he could share because he *knew only the baptism of John*. According to Matthew 3:1,2, what was John the Baptist's message?
 - a. What result did his message have? Matthew 3:5,6
 - b. How did John, himself, indicate that his message was limited? Mark 1:7,8
 - c. In Acts 1 we read that before He ascended, Jesus gathered His apostles together and commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the *Promise of the Father*. Acts 1:4 According to Acts 1:5, what type of *baptism* had already been given (by John)?
 - 1.) What *baptism* did Jesus tell them to wait for?
3. As Apollos boldly spoke out the things that he did know, how did Priscilla and Aquila assist him with the things he did not know? verse 26
 - a. What can we learn from the manner of their approach?
4. Acts 18:27 tells us that Apollos *desired to go to Achaia*. The *brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him*. This would indicate that Apollos had a teachable spirit. What can we learn about true wisdom from the following verses:
Proverbs 1:5

Proverbs 8:33

Proverbs 9:9

James 3:17
 - a. The chief city of Achaia was Corinth. What did Apollos do when he *arrived*? verses 27,28

- b. Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth reflected upon the carnality of the people as there was contention in the church as many were stating they were *of Paul*, or *Cephas* (Peter), or *Apollos*. Rather than be jealous of Apollos' ministry, what does 1 Corinthians 16:12 infer were Paul's feelings about him?

1.) Record the Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 3:6.

a.) What was Paul's point?

i.) Why is it important that we remember this about those who teach and serve us?

REVIEW: Read Acts 18

1. Acts 18 mentions several people briefly. Although their names flit in and out of Scripture, share one thing you learned from one of them.
2. What stood out to you as you studied Paul's ministry in Corinth?
3. God encouraged Paul by reminding him that He had many people in Corinth. What does this say to you about your responsibility to come alongside other believers who are being opposed?
 - a. What are some specific ways you might encourage them?
4. Although Apollos' knowledge was incomplete, he taught what he knew *accurately*. Why is it important to teach the Scriptures *accurately*?

*Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom,
that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*

- Colossians 1:28

Observation Worksheet

Acts 18:1-28

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. ³ So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. ⁵ When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. ⁶ But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." ⁷ And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. ⁹ Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." ¹¹ And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. ¹² When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, ¹³ saying, "This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." ¹⁴ And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. ¹⁵ But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters." ¹⁶ And he drove them from the judgment seat. ¹⁷ Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things. ¹⁸ So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. ¹⁹ And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, ²¹ but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus. ²² And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. ²³ After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples. ²⁴ Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and

explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.