

Comments About Acts 18

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 18.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Overview of Paul's travels

As we entered into Acts 13, we began reading about Paul's missionary journeys. According to some Bible commentaries, the trips can be categorized in the following manner.

- First missionary journey—Acts 13:1 until Acts 14:28
- Second missionary journey—Acts 15:36 until Acts 18:22
- Third missionary journey—Acts 18:23 until Acts 21:16
- Trip to Rome—Acts 21:17 until Acts 28:31

Ministering in Corinth

In chapter 17, we learned about Paul teaching in Athens.

- Paul left Athens and went to Corinth (Acts 18:1).
- Paul met a Jewish man named Aquila—who was born in Pontus and left Italy with his wife, Priscilla, when Claudius commanded the Jews to depart from Rome (verse 2).
- Aquila was a tentmaker and invited Paul to stay with them (verse 3).
- Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and persuaded both Jews and Greeks (verse 4).
- Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia and Paul testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ (verse 5).
- When the Jews resisted, he proclaimed that he would preach to the gentiles (verse 6).
- As Paul preached, various people believed (verses 7-8).
- The Lord spoke to Paul in a vision by night (verses 9-10).

Acts 18:9-10—“Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.’ ”

■ Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia, mentioned that he wanted the Jews to take care of their own matters (verses 12-17).

Returned to Antioch

■ Paul sailed for Syria with Priscilla and Aquila (verse 18).

■ Paul had his hair cut off, because he had taken a vow (same verse).

■ Paul traveled to Ephesus, Caesarea and Antioch (verses 19-23).

Ministry of Apollos

At this time, a Jewish man named Apollos came Ephesus.

■ Apollos was an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures (verse 24).

■ Apollos taught the things of the Lord accurately, even though he knew only the baptism of John (verse 25).

■ Although Apollos spoke boldly, Aquila and Priscilla took him aside to explain the way of God more accurately (verse 26).

■ The brethren wrote to the disciples, encouraging them to receive Apollos because he refuted the Jews publicly—showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ (verses 27-28).

Paul mentioned to the church in Corinth that disciples should not place a wrong emphasis on teachers.

■ 1 Corinthians 1:12

■ 1 Corinthians 3:1-7

1 Corinthians 3:4—“For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?”