



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

ACTS 18

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (Part-iii)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Mission work in Corinth and Return Journey to Antioch

Ministry at Corinth (1-11): Who are Aquila and Priscilla? What is special about them? What was Paul's occupation? Where did he begin his ministry? Who joined Paul in Corinth? What was his central message to the Jews? What does it mean, "shook his garment"? Who was saved and baptized? What did the Lord convey to Paul in a vision and why? How long did he continue in Corinth? *When was the last time the Lord spoke to us personally?*

Paul before Gallio (12-17): Why was Paul brought before judgement seat? Why did Gallio dismiss the case? What was the reaction of Greeks? Who was Sosthenes?

Paul's return journey via Ephesus (18-22) Why was Paul in a hurry to leave Ephesus, despite a profitable ministry? What was the vow that Paul took, and why? Is there any spiritual significance to the vow he had taken?

Personal Reflection: *Paul seemed to have had a good work-life balance ... work five days and focus on ministry during Sabbath ... how is our work-life balance?*

Acts 18

10.7.2020

Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15-18)

Timothy
Silas

Philippi

Thessalonica
Berea
Athens

Corinth

Ministry at Corinth (1-11)

Who are Aquila and Priscilla? What was Paul's occupation?

Who joined Paul in Corinth?

Where did he begin his ministry? What was his central message to the Jews? What does it mean: "shook his garment"?

Who was saved and baptized?

What did the Lord convey in a vision and why?

How long did he continue in Corinth?

Ministry in Corinth

- **Corinth**
 - A major city, neighboring Athens
 - Known for its immoral lifestyle
 - Athens had physical Idols ... Corinth had immoral idols
 - Both cities were in spiritual darkness and needed the gospel light ... we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14) and responsible for taking the gospel to the lost (Romans 10:13-15)

The mission of all who are born-again ... to take the good news to the lost

Romans 10:13for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **f 14**How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And **how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15**And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Aquila and Priscilla: a model Christian couple!

- Jews who had fled from Rome to Corinth (1), no children
 - Most likely believers when Paul met them
 - Tentmakers (like Paul, Acts 20:34) and extend hospitality to him (3)
 - Served with Paul in Corinth for 18 months
 - Paul calls them co-workers who risked their lives for him (Romans 16:3/4), ministered to Apollos (24-26)
 - They had a home church (Romans 16:5)
 - Priscilla mentioned first (4 out of 6 times!, very unusual)
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- Fruitful couple, united and committed to the Lord's work
 - *Do we see many couples like Aquila & Priscilla in today's churches?*

Paul's ministry

- Paul began ministry in synagogue (4) (17:2)
- Reasoned with the Jews and Greeks to persuade them (4)
- Paul was prompted by the spirit to preach “Jesus is Christ” (Paul's message in Corinth, I Corinthians 2:1-5)

I Corinthians 2:1-5 ... message of Christ delivered in humility + the power of the Spirit

1And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. 2For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you **except Jesus Christ and him crucified**. 3I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the **Spirit's power**, 5so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

Paul's ministry

- “Shook his garment” when faced with rejection, and shifted his focus to gentiles (Acts 13:46, 51)
 - Jews rejected Jesus (John 1:11)
 - God abandons (“therefore God gave them over” ...Romans 1:24)
- Despite opposition, the ruler of synagogue (Crispus) and his household saved and baptized
 - one of the few baptisms done by Paul, I Corinthians 1:14-17

An Important Truth ... Jesus is CHRIST (as discussed in Acts 17)

CHRIST

- From Greek word, *Christos*, and means the 'anointed' or 'chosen' one
Hebrew equivalent word – *Mashiach* – Messiah

**CHRIST HAS ARRIVED, BEEN CRUCIFIED/BURIED/RESURRECTED
...and CHRIST IS COMING AGAIN!**

- Jesus prophesied as Christ (Psalms 22, Isaiah 53/61)
- Jesus claimed to be Christ (Luke 4:17-21)
- Peter recognized Jesus as Christ (Mathew 16:16)
- Jesus is the anointed one and Messiah that Jews have been waiting for
- Why did Jews fail to recognize Christ as their Messiah?

Gift from Macedonian Church

Timothy and Silas join Paul and also bring a gift from Macedonia church to support his ministry (II Corinthians 11:8-9)

... maybe gift allowed Paul to reduce his ‘tent making hours’

.... Good practice to support the ministry of ministers laboring in God’s vineyard or churches that are in need

... We should **give prayerfully, secretly, cheerfully, and sacrificially** for the glory of God (and never for personal recognition)

Paul's vision from the Lord (9-11)

- Exhortation to continue the work with boldness
- Assurance of God's presence (**I am with Thee!**) (II Timothy 4:16,17)
- “much people” in the city (either already saved, or whom Lord will add through Paul's ministry)
- Paul encouraged, and continues for 18 months teaching the word (longest stay during his first two missionary journeys)

Paul's vision from the Lord (9-11)

- I & II Corinthians give further insights of Paul's time in Corinth
- **Living God Speaks** to us through his Word, Prayer/Spirit, Saints, Circumstances, and through visions/dreams ... IDOLS do not speak!
- Has the Lord spoken to us lately?

Paul before Gallio (12-17)

Why was Paul brought before judgement seat?

Why did Gallio dismiss the case?

What was the reaction to his judgement?

Who was Sosthenes?

Paul before Gallio (12-17)

- Why was Paul brought before judgement seat?
 - Accused of persuading men to worship God
- Why did Gallio dismiss the case?
 - There is no violation of Roman law
 - He is not responsible for suppressing religious freedom

Paul before Gallio (12-17)

- What was the reaction to his judgement?
 - Not happy with the judgement and beat up Sosthenes
- Who was Sosthenes?
 - Chief ruler of the synagogue
 - Paul refers to him as a brother (I Corinthians 1:1)

Paul's return journey to Antioch (via Ephesus) (18-22)

Why was Paul in a hurry to leave Ephesus despite a profitable ministry?
Is there any spiritual significance to the vow he had taken?

Paul's hurry to leave Ephesus

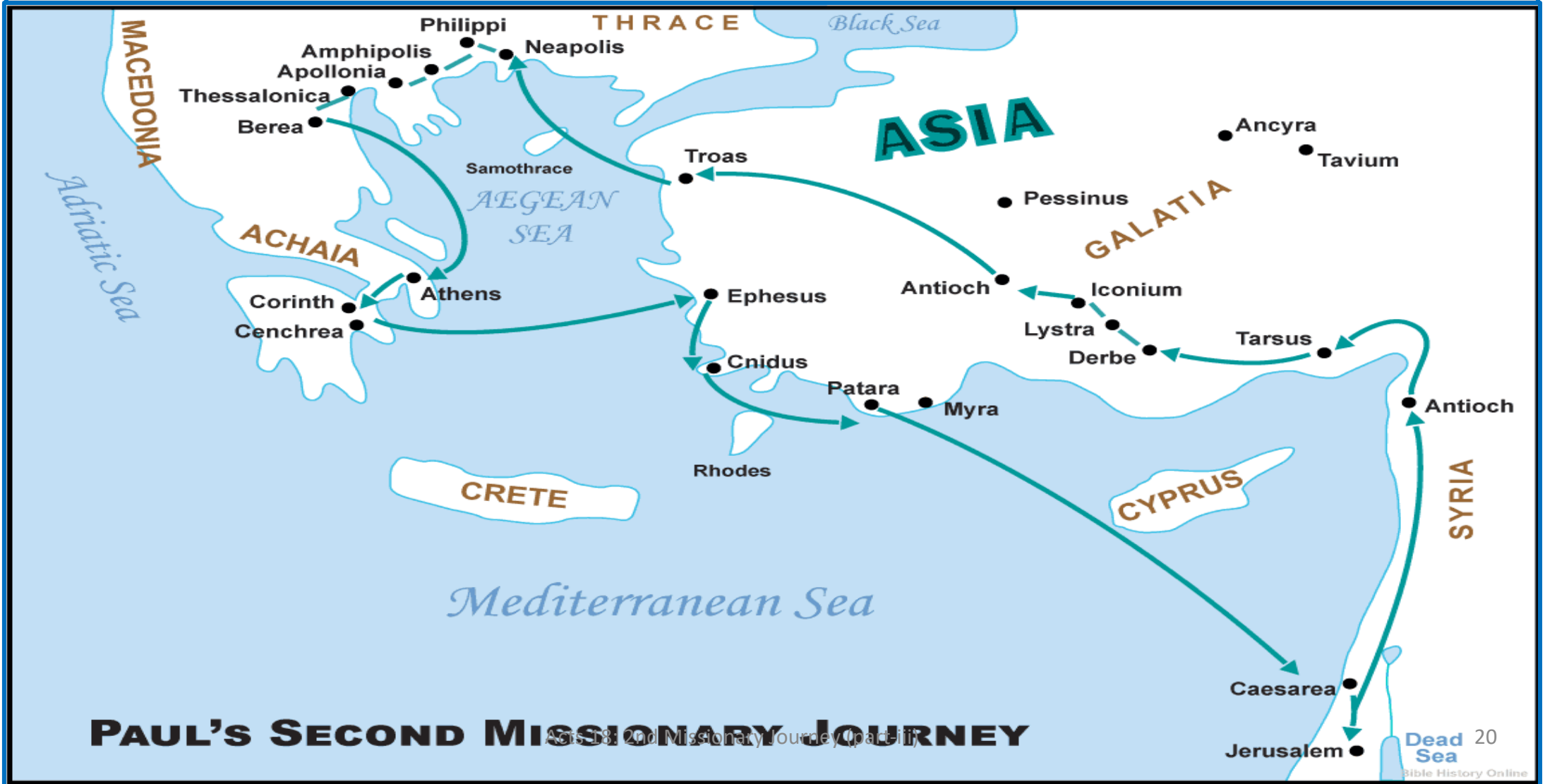
- Wanted to reach Jerusalem on time for the feast (21)
 - Reaches Jerusalem by sailing from Ephesus, via Caesarea
 - Aquila and Priscilla join him on the return trip
 - Paul had shaved his head (18) and wanted to sacrifice his hair in Jerusalem to keep the vow (Numbers 6:9, Nazarene vow)
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- Why may have Paul taken this vow? Is there any spiritual significance to Paul's vow?



SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY ENDS IN ANTIOCH SYRIA

(verse 22)

Antioch → Philippi, Macedonia → Thessalonica → Berea → Athens → Corinth → Ephesus → Antioch



Personal Reflection: *Paul seemed to have had a good work-life balance ... work five days and focus on ministry during Sabbath ... **how is our work-life balance?***

“There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:” **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

WORK + LIFE + SPIRITUAL LIFE ... how to balance?



Paul's Third missionary Journey begins (18:23-21:26)

“went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia,
strengthening all the disciples”

Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Pisidian Antioch

Apollos, trained by Aquila and Priscilla

- Aquila and Priscilla stayed back at Ephesus when Paul returned (19)

APOLLOS Introduced:

- Eloquent, mighty in scriptures, instructed in the way of the Lord, fervent in spirit, spoke accurately of the things of the Lord
- Knew only the baptism of John (and maybe the teaching of John)
- Preached in synagogue with enthusiasm
 - Aquila & Priscilla minister to him and share the full truth
- Commended by brethren from Ephesus to continue the work (27)

Apollos, trained by Aquila and Priscilla

- Apollos continued the work of Paul (watered what Paul had planted, I Corinthians 3:5-7)
- Mightily convinced the Jews ... Preached, Jesus is Christ
- Some believe that maybe Apollos wrote Hebrews

Pass it on ... May not the Lord's work stop because of us!

