

## **ACTS CHAPTER 18**

### ***Paul at Corinth (Acts 18:1-22)***

After these things Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus. Pontus is a historical Greek designation for a region on the southeast coast of the Black Sea, located in modern-day northeastern Turkey. Aquila had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius, Roman Emperor from AD 41 to 54, had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. And Paul was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.



Photo 29

Street in ancient  
Corinth

But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.

*Why did Paul moved into a home which the Jews would have shrunk from entering: the house of a Gentile “worshiper” named Titius Justus who, moreover, lived right next door to the synagogue? Paul did not take this action out of spite or for personal reasons. It was entirely a doctrinal matter. His choice of the home of a Gentile for a meeting place would moreover be apt to draw more Gentiles, and the new congregation would stand as a visible symbol of God’s purpose to send salvation to the Gentiles despite, yea, through, Israel’s unbelief.*

And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid [any longer], but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city."

How it must have stimulated Paul his zeal for his beloved Lord, to hear his voice, encouraging him to speak out boldly and assuring him not only of the fellowship of His presence, but also of physical protection and many souls! And Paul settled in Corinth a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



Photo 30

The Roman fountain of ancient Corinth

But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat.

There they said, "This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."

But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters."

And he drove them away from the judgment seat. And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and [began] beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.

Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow. They came to Ephesus, and Paul left them there.



Map 8  
Shows the location of Athens, Corinth, Pontus, Syria, Cenchrea and Ephesus

Ephesus was a leading commercial city of Asia Minor, the capital of provincial Asia and the location of the temple of Artemis, also known less precisely as the temple of Diana.

Now Paul himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus.



Photo 31 The open-air theater of Ephesus

When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church in Jerusalem, and went down to Syrian Antioch.

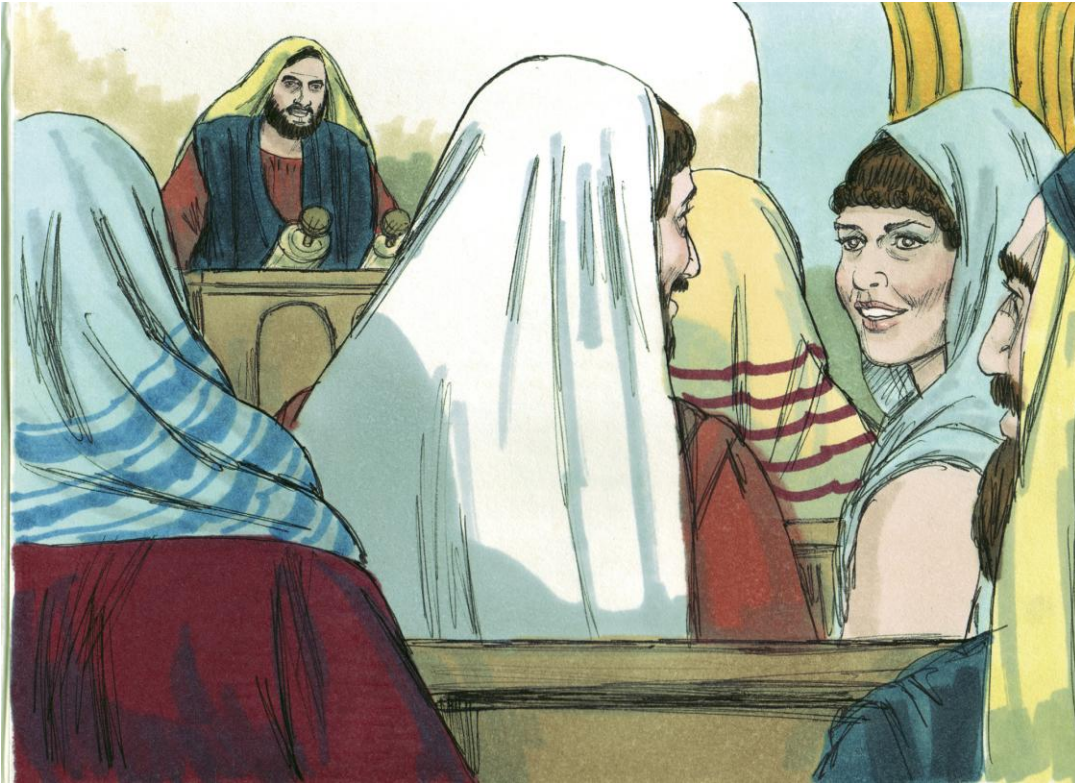
### ***Third Apostolic Journey (Acts 18:23-28)***

And having spent some time in Syrian Antioch, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.



Map 10. Shows the location of Syrian Antioch, Galatia and Phrygia

Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. So he was characterized by forceful and appropriate expression. Apollos had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.



*What had Apollos found in Aquila and Priscilla? A couple who could lead him further into the truth with the same exactness which he had himself exhibited. Whereas Apollos had been instructed in “the way of the Lord”, Aquila and Priscilla now led him further into “the way of God”. They could now tell Apollos the great basic truths of the mystery as they learned them from Paul in his “gospel of the grace of God.” They could show him the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension (of which he may have heard) in the light of that grace – all of it harmonizing perfectly with the Old Testament Scriptures, though not taught there.*

And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the Roman province with Corinth as capital, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. And when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

## **QUESTIONS OF ACTS CHAPTER 18**

ALL ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN THE TEXT OF CHAPTER 18

1. Why had Aquila recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla?

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2. Why did Paul stay with them in Corinth?

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3. When did Paul left the Jews and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue?

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4. When did many of the Corinthians believe and were baptized?

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5. What did the Jews say when they brought Paul before the judgment seat?

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6. What was the reaction of Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia?

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7. What couple travelled with Paul from Corinth to Ephesus?

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8. What did Paul say to the Jews in the synagogue of Ephesus?

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9. What did Priscilla and Aquila do when they heard Apollo speaking?

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10. How did Apollo help those who had believed through grace in Achaia?

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## **ACTS CHAPTER 18 (NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE)**

### ***Paul at Corinth***

**1**After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. **2**And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, **3**and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. **4**And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

**5**But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul *began* devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. **6**But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood *be* on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” **7**Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. **8**Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. **9**And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid *any longer*, but go on speaking and do not be silent; **10**for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.” **11**And he settled *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

**12**But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, **13**saying, “This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.” **14**But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; **15**but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.” **16**And he drove them away from the judgment seat. **17**And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and *began* beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.

**18**Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchræa he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow. **19**They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. **20**When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, **21**but taking leave of them and saying, “I will return to you again if God wills,” he set sail from Ephesus.

**22**When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

### ***Third Missionary Journey***

**23**And having spent some time *there*, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

**24**Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. **25**This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; **26**and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. **27**And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, **28**for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.



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Photo 32: The Theatre of Ephesus with harbour street. Due to ancient and subsequent deforestation, overgrazing (mostly by goat herds), erosion and soil degradation the Turkey coastline is now 3–4 km (2–2 mi) away from the ancient Greek site with sediments filling the plain and the Mediterranean Sea. In the background: muddy remains of the former harbour, bare hill ridges without rich soils and woods, a maquis shrubland remaining.