

## **PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (3)**

### **Acts 18**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. Corinth is one of the best known New Testament churches.**
  - a. Two of Paul's epistles were written to this congregation.**
  - b. The beginning of the Corinthian church is recorded in Acts 18.**
- 2. Corinth was also one of the best taught New Testament churches.**
  - a. Paul spent at least 18 months there (18:11).**
  - b. Apollos preached in Corinth after Paul (18:27; 1 Cor. 3:5,6).**
  - c. Peter (Cephas) may also have visited Corinth (1:12).**
  - d. Timothy and Titus visited there (1 Cor. 4:17; 2 Cor. 8:16,17).**
  - e. They were richly endowed with gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 1:4-7).**
- 3. Despite its advantages, Corinth was a troubled church.**
- 4. The pagan background and surroundings of the Corinthian Christians contributed to the troubles in the church.**
  - a. The very religion of Corinth was degraded; the temple of Aphrodite was served by 1,000 cultic prostitutes.**
  - b. Society was so immoral in Corinth that "to Corinthianize" was to commit the grossest, most degraded acts.**

#### **Discussion:**

- I. CORINTH PROVIDED THE IDEAL LOCATION FOR EVANGELISM.**
  - A. It was the largest and most influential city in Greece.**
    - 1. It was an ancient city going back to 3,000 B.C.**
    - 2. It had been destroyed and rebuilt by the Romans.**
    - 3. It was the Roman capital of Achaia.**
    - 4. It had a mixed population of 600,000.**
  - B. It was strategically located.**
    - 1. Corinth was built on a narrow neck of land that connected Macedonia and Achaia.**
    - 2. It was only nine miles wide where Corinth was located.**
    - 3. On the east was the Aegean Sea; on the west, the Adriatic Sea.**
    - 4. All travel, north and south, went through Corinth.**
    - 5. A "railroad" was built across the narrow neck of land to convey ships from one sea to the other.**
  - C. There was a large synagogue of the Jews in Corinth.**
    - 1. This was Paul's customary starting place for evangelism.**
    - 2. Remains of the synagogue have been found in the ruins.**

## **II. PAUL ARRIVED IN CORINTH ALONE (1-8).**

### **A. His labors in Athens had not been very fruitful.**

- 1. He was discouraged.**
- 2. He may have been in financial straits as well.**

### **B. Paul met Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth.**

- 1. They had been forced to leave Rome by Claudius' decree.**
- 2. Since he was of the same trade, Paul lived and worked with them making tents.**
- 3. They became close friends of Paul and risked their lives for his sake (Rom. 16:3-5).**

### **C. Paul preached in the synagogue and worked to support himself.**

- 1. When Silas and Timothy arrived, he became bolder in his teaching that Jesus is the Christ.**
- 2. When the Jews rejected the message, he left.**
- 3. He began preaching in the house of Titus Justus next door.**
- 4. Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, and his family were converted (cf. 1 Cor. 1:14).**
- 5. "Many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized" (cf. Mark 16:15,16).**

## **III. THE LORD ENCOURAGED PAUL IN A VISION (9-17).**

### **A. The Lord told him not to be afraid, but speak "for I am with you."**

- 1. He said, "I have many people in this city."**
- 2. There were many in Corinth who would be receptive to the Gospel; they were the Lord's people in prospect.**

### **B. The Jews brought charges against Paul when Gallio became governor.**

- 1. Archaeology has confirmed Gallio was governor in AD 52.**
- 2. The Jews charged Paul with "persuading men to worship contrary to the Law."**
- 3. Gallio considered it had to do with the Jews' law and refused to hear the charges.**
- 4. Sosthenes, ruler of the synagogue, was beaten in front of the judgment seat, but Gallio paid no attention.**
  - a. Was he beaten by the Greeks who took advantage of Gallio's indifference?**
  - b. Was he beaten by his fellow Jews because he was sympathetic to the teaching of Paul?**
  - c. Was he the same Sosthenes who joined with Paul in writing the First Corinthian letter (1 Cor. 1:1)?**

## **IV. PAUL CONCLUDED HIS SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (18-23).**

- A. He sailed for Syria along with Priscilla and Aquila.**
  - 1. He stopped briefly at Ephesus.
  - 2. He preached in the synagogue of the Jews.
  - 3. He was probably awaiting passage on a ship.
  - 4. He promised to come again if it was God's will.
  - 5. Priscilla and Aquila remained in Ephesus.
  
- B. Paul landed at Caesarea and greeted the church.**
  - 1. He went to Antioch of Syria, his "sponsoring" church.
  - 2. After a time, he departed on his third missionary journey.
  - 3. He began this journey like the last, by visiting churches he had earlier established.

**V. APOLLOS CAME TO EPHESUS WHILE PRISCILLA AND AQUILA WERE THERE (24-28).**

- A. He is described in detail by Luke.**
  - 1. He was from Alexandria in Egypt, a great center of learning.
  - 2. He was eloquent in his speaking.
  - 3. He was "mighty in the Scriptures."
  - 4. He was "fervent in spirit."
  - 5. He had been "instructed in the way of the Lord."
  
- B. Apollos was defective in his knowledge.**
  - 1. What he taught was accurate, but he did not know "the rest of the story."
  - 2. He knew only the baptism of John.
    - a. He was not aware of the coming of the Spirit.
    - b. He was not aware of the beginning of the church.
    - c. He was not aware of the baptism of Christ.
  
- C. Aquila and Priscilla "took him aside, and explained to him the way of God more accurately."**
  - 1. They did not confront him in public but taught him privately.
  - 2. They both taught him; therefore, a woman can teach a man privately.
  - 3. Apollos became a faithful preacher of the Gospel.

**Conclusion:**

- 1. When the Corinthians heard the Gospel, they believed and were baptized (Acts 18:8; Mark 16:15, 16).
- 2. The same message will save us today if received in the same way.

