

Acts Chapter 18 Handout

Paul had sent word for Timothy and Silas, who he left in Berea, to join him in Athens. Paul was waiting for them, but during the wait Timothy went to Thessalonica and Silas went to Philippi. They finally met him in Corinth where Silas brought financial support from Philippi (II Cor. 11:8; Phil. 4:15) and Timothy brought a good report from church in Thessalonica (I Thes. 3:6).

v.1-3 – Paul leaves Athens and goes to Corinth where he meets Aquila, born in Pontus, and Priscilla, kicked out of Rome with Jews by Claudius in 49 or 50 a.d. There is no indication that they were believers already, although they might have been. Paul joined himself to them because they were tentmakers by profession, as he was.

v.4-7- Paul preached first in the synagogue, as was his custom. Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia. The Jews opposed him so he “shook the dust from his raiment.” It’s on you.

v.7-11 – He was allowed to continue ministry in the house of JUSTUS who lived next to synagogue. CRISPUS, chief ruler of the synagogue believed and many Corinthians (I Cor.1:14) God sent Paul a vision by night “Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace. For I am with thee and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. “ So he continued there at least a year and a half. This was God’s response to how he felt (ICor 2:3).

v.12-17 – Gallio was deputy of Achaia in year 52 a.d.. He was the brother of the Roman philosopher Seneca. Jews brought Paul to the Bema (judgement seat), accusing Paul of teaching a new religion which was against Roman law. Gallio saw this teaching as a subset of Judaism and not a new religion. Since Judaism was already approved by Roman government, disputes within that religion would have to be settled internally. He kicked them out; not a civil issue. They got angry and took and beat the new chief ruler of synagogue, Sosthenes.

v.18-22 – He left taking Priscilla and Aquila with him. In Cenchrea, near Corinth, he got a haircut because it had grown long because he had taken a vow. Probably a Nazarite vow: no cutting of hair, no drink from the vine, and no touching of dead things. Vow could be taken outside of Jerusalem if there was going to be a subsequent visit to Jerusalem. He then went briefly to Ephesus but continued on to Jerusalem and then back to Antioch. He left Aquilla and Priscilla in Ephesus.

v. 23 – This verse announces the third missionary journey of Paul

v.24-28 – In the meantime, a Jew named Apollos, born in Alexandria, (Northern Africa) mighty in scriptures came to Ephesus. He knew the way of the Lord but his knowledge was not complete. Probably did not know of the ministry and baptism of the Holy Spirit. Priscilla and Aquilla took him aside and taught him the way more completely. He was later inspired to go to Corinth. The brethren sent letters asking brothers there to receive him. His skill in the scriptures convinced the Jews publicly that Jesus was Christ. Probably, he defeated all their arguments. Maybe they believed and maybe they didn’t.