

Acts 18:2-17

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 8-23-17

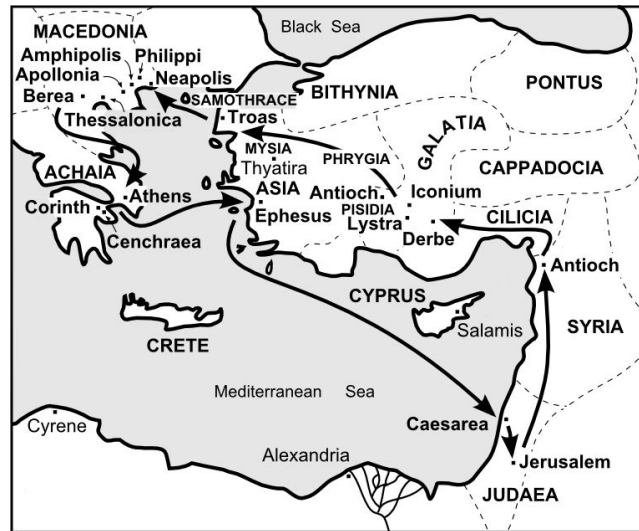
Context

IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)

- A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
- C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)
- D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)
- E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)**
- F. More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)

Paul Stays with Aquila and Priscilla (vv. 2-6)

- “Fellow workers in Christ Jesus” who had risked their lives for him (Rom. 16:3-4)
 - Origin
 - Aquila born in Pontus (southern shore of Black Sea), migrated to Italy
 - From Rome to Corinth due to Claudius’ edict
 - Already believers?
 - Later followed Paul to Ephesus
 - Vocation
 - “Tentmaker” - σκηνοποιός (skénopoios)
 - Possibly leatherworker, saddler, even cloth worker
 - Worked with leather or coarse fabrics made from thick goats hair - curtains, rugs, clothing, tents, etc. - skilled with his hands
 - Rabbis - required to learn a trade, urged young men to do the same
 - Paul’s right to be supported by his pupils (Gal. 6:6; I Cor. 9:4ff.), voluntarily renounced:
 - Not become a burden to the churches (I Thes. 2:9; II Thes. 3:8; II Cor. 12:13)
 - Not give critics room to accuse him of ulterior motives in preaching the gospel (I Cor. 9:15ff.; II Cor. 11:7ff.)
 - Tentmaker ministry = messengers of the gospel who support themselves financially by their own professional or business expertise.
 - V. 4 - On Sabbaths found in the _____
 - V. 5 - Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia a gift (cf. II Cor. 11:9) - began preaching full-time
 - V. 6 - the Jews’ reaction (just as in Pisidian Antioch) = “they resisted and blasphemed”
 - Paul “shook out his garments” - dramatic gesture
 - Said, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”



Paul Turns to the Gentiles (vv. 7-17)

- V. 7 - not just a geographical note, but focus on shift from:
 - Jews to _____
 - Public synagogue to private _____
- This shift was vindicated by God in 3 ways:
 - V. 8 - The conversion and baptism of many
 - Starting with “Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and everyone in his household” then “many others”
 - Vv. 9-10 - the _____ from “the Lord” Jesus (Luke’s usage, cf. v. 8)
 - OT language: “Do not be afraid” + “I will be with you”
 - λαός (laos, “people, crowd, many” - source of laity)
 - LXX - God’s people, now including Gentiles
 - Reminiscent of John 10:16
 - God’s prophetic foreknowledge
 - _____ Paul in his evangelism - God’s knowledge and power are greater than the world’s (and his own!)
 - Strength in numbers. “We’re in this together!”
 - Very different than in Athens
 - Encouragement - V. 11 - Strengthened by this, he stayed a ministered for 18 months, “teaching the word of God” = the divinely appointed means by which people come to put their trust in Christ and so identify themselves as his.
 - Cf. Rom. 10:14
 - Vv. 12ff. - _____ of the Roman authorities
 - V. 12 - the timing of Jewish opposition
 - Gallio, brother of Seneca (Nero), AD 51-2
 - V. 13 - accusation - which law?
 - Jewish or Roman?
 - Vv. 14-16 - Gallio’s verdict
 - V. 17 - anti-Semitic mob rule
 - God’s _____ care for Paul and the church.
 - Gallio’s decision was a critical event for the future of the gospel
 - Established a significant _____
 - Secured as imperial policy
 - Jesus promised to protect Paul, and he would do so even by means of Roman law