

Acts 18:18-28

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 9-6-17

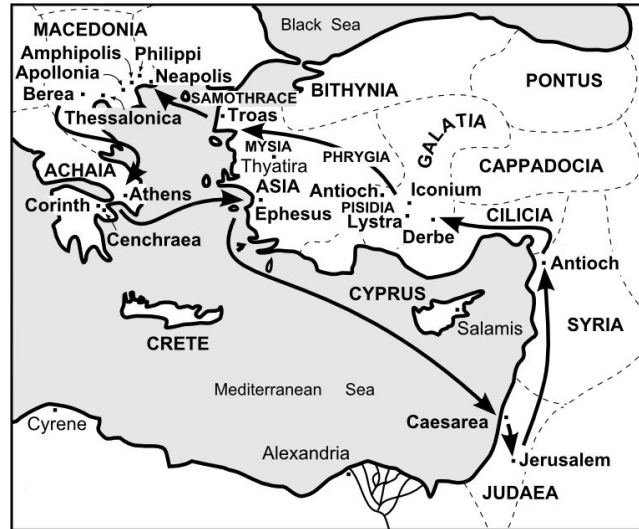
Context

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 in Transit (vv. 18-22)

- Begins his return trip to Syrian Antioch
- Condensed narrative:
 - Limited info? (Luke is in Philippi)
 - Eager to get him back to Asia (thematic)
- V. 18 - leaves for Syria
 - "he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow"
 - _____ VOW
(Numbers 6) - symbol of self-offering to God
 - Abstinance from drinking _____ and cutting _____
 - Thankfulness for past blessings or petition for future blessings.
 - Occasion for this vow?
 - Thanks for safekeeping in Corinth
 - Petition for safekeeping in Ephesus and beyond
 - Relating to the leaders in Jerusalem upon his return (cf. ch. 21)
- Vv. 19-21 - arrived in Ephesus, preaches to the Jews in the synagogues
- V. 22 - arrived in Caesarea, visits Jerusalem, then returns to Antioch (cir. summer of AD 52 into spring of AD 53)



Third Missionary Journey Begins

(v. 23)

- Follows the same initial route that his second journey took
- Galatian and Phrygian churches
 - Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe
 - Established in 1st journey, consolidated & refortified in 2nd
- "Strengthening the disciples"



Apollos in Ephesus (vv. 24-28)

- V. 24 - During the year or so since Paul departed Corinth
- 3 interesting things about Apollos
 - _____ - V. 24 - “an eloquent/learned man...mighty in the Scriptures”
 - Alexandria
 - Founded by Alexander the Great (331 BC)
 - Egypt, northern coast on the Mediterranean
 - Ancient center of Hellenism, intellectual and cultural center of the ancient world for some time
 - Home to the largest urban Jewish community in the world
 - LXX produced here 200 years prior to Christ
 - Philo the philosopher
 - Interpreted the OT _____ - it pointed symbolically to something to come
 - Tried to reconcile with Greek philosophy
 - Initially _____ - V. 25 - “had been instructed in the way of the Lord...speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus”
 - A Jewish Christian teacher
 - “fervent in spirit” (Rom. 12:11 - fervent in service to the Lord)
 - What he knew, he taught fervently and accurately
 - Needing _____ discipleship - V. 25 - “acquainted only with the baptism of John”
 - Knowledge of Christianity was _____
 - Did he know about the crucifixion/resurrection? What about his commission, ascension, exaltation, gift of the Spirit, etc.? We don’t know for sure.
- V. 26 - Aquila and Priscilla’s role
 - Beauty of _____ - “explain(ing)...the way of God more accurately”
 - Loving _____ of correction - “they took him aside”
 - F.F. Bruce: “How much better it is to give such private help to a preacher whose ministry is defective than to correct or denounce him publicly!”
 - Jesus’ principles in Matthew 18
 - Edification of _____ - v. 27 - “when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him”
 - Apollos not only benefitted from A/P’s ministry, but the whole church in Corinth!
 - “when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace”
 - I Cor. 1-4 - Paul spoke highly of Apollos as fellow worker in God’s field
- Our duties as the Body of Christ
 - Be _____ and _____ for the truth of God’s word and his honor
 - Be _____ in our relationships toward our brothers and sisters
 - Carefully follow the _____ from our Lord
 - Matthew 18; Ephesians 4:32; Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 7:1