



Acts

Lesson 17, Chapter 18

In chapter 18, Paul and his companions move inland due west to the harbor city of Corinth. This city had been destroyed in 146 B.C., and after remaining in ruins for 100 years, it was rebuilt as a Roman colony by Caesar in 46 B.C. During this time of Paul's visit, Corinth was a leading city in the Roman Empire with a population of nearly three-quarters of a million people. It was also a great commercial center marked by major trade routes in all directions and boasting two ports. Corinth was also famed for its immorality and its acceptance and practice of everything sinful. "Behind the city, nearly 2,000 feet above sea level, rose the rocky eminence called the Acrocorinth. On its flats stood the temple of Aphrodite or Venus, or goddess of love. A thousand female slaves served her and roamed the city's streets by night as prostitutes. The sexual promiscuity of Corinth was proverbial, so that korinthiazomai meant to practice immorality, and korinthiastes was a synonym for a harlot. Corinth was the Vanity Fair of the Roman Empire." (John Stott Commentary on Acts) Here Paul meets up with Priscilla and Aquila, fellow believers and tentmakers from Italy. They had moved to Corinth after Claudius forced all Jews to leave

Rome because of accusations that they were causing disturbances there. Silas and Timothy also rejoin Paul in Corinth (18:5).

After reasoning with the Jews in the synagogue for some time and still meeting resistance, Paul determines to focus his ministry on the Gentiles. He moves his ministry base to the home of Tirtius Justus who lived next to the synagogue. Not long after, Crispus, a leader of the synagogue becomes a believer and many other Corinthians follow suit. Paul then receives a personal word of encouragement from the Lord to remain in the city, and he continues to preach in Corinth for a year and a half. As Paul ends his second missionary journey, he heads for his home base of Antioch. He leaves Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus where they meet Apollos, who will become an important part of the ministry team. Paul spends a short time in Antioch, and then begins his third missionary journey. On this trip he will again revisit many of the churches he had previously established.

READ CHAPTER 18

1. *Approximately how far is it from Athens to Corinth?*
2. *In 1 Corinthians 9:1-18, what does Paul say is his reason for continuing to work as a tentmaker even though he is an Apostle and a missionary?*

3. *In contrast to this, according to 2 Corinthians 11:7-12, who did Paul say he received support from while he was in Corinth? What does he say is his reason for doing this? (Silas and Timothy probably brought this when they met Paul in Corinth).*

4. *What took place that caused Paul to determine to go to the Gentiles with his message? Verses 5-6*

5. *Moving his base of ministry from the synagogue to a home was a statement of transfer of focus from the Jews to the Gentiles. What was the ironic outcome after this? Verses 7-8*

6. *Why did God give Paul the promise of protection at this point? See 18:9-13.*

7. *What accusations against Paul did the Jews make to Gallio, and what was his response? 18:12-17.*

8. *Paul's vow from vs. 18 was probably a temporary Nazarite vow. If so, what were the stipulations of a Nazarite vow? See Numbers 6:1-21.*

9. *Give some information about Apollos. 17:24-28; 1 Corinthians 1:12, 3:3-6, 4:6. How could he have the baptism of John and not the baptism of the Holy Spirit? What is the difference between them?*

10. *Several years after Paul's visit to Corinth he wrote the letter of 1 Corinthians to them in response to some questions they had and some problems they were facing. From 1 Corinthians 6-8, what were some of the issues he addressed for them? How would these things corrupt the Church?*
11. *If Paul was to write a letter to the Church today, what things do you think he would commend and what would he correct?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
