

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles to the Uttermost

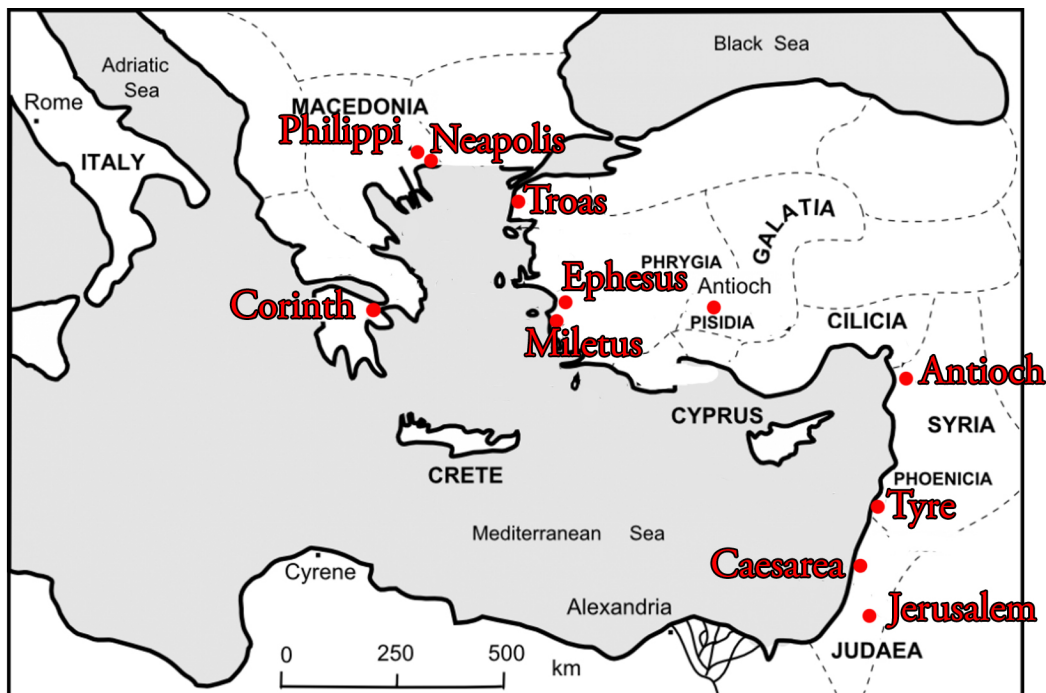
Paul's second missionary Journey

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Introduction: Acts chapter 17 has concluded and Athens is left on the dusty trail and now Paul continues forward and arrives in the city of Corinth. It is there that his companions will join him. Paul then travels to Ephesus (He will come back to Ephesus in Acts 19). From Ephesus Paul will go to Antioch and report to the church. Then after some time Paul will go all over Galatia and Phrygia "strengthening all the disciples" marking the start of his 3rd missionary journey. It is at this time that we are introduced to another fellow by the name of Apollos. This man will be used of God to "mightily convince the Jews" thus showing us that God always has a plan and always has a man.

Outline:

- I. The Gospel Given at Corinth v1-17
- II. The Gathering Gained at Ephesus v18-21
- III. The Guarded Going to Jerusalem and Antioch v22,23
- IV. The Greatness Garnered Through Humility v24-28



I. The Gospel Given at Corinth v1-17

“In Paul’s day Corinth was the political capital of Greece and the seat of a Roman proconsul.” (A Roman magistrate sent to govern a province with consular authority. The proconsuls were appointed from the body of the senate, and their authority expired at the end of a year from their appointment.) “For years Corinth had vied with Athens, its commercial and political rival.” “Corinth was the Vanity Fair of the Roman Empire, famous for licentious worship of Venus (the Aphrodite of the Greeks and the Ashtoreth of the Phoenicians).” (John Phillips Commentary) To “*act like a Corinthian*” was synonymous with practicing fornication.

A. Friends Found at Corinth v1-3

1. Paul departs from Athens and comes to Corinth.
2. Paul finds friends.
3. Aquila and Priscilla – both Jewish, come from Italy. It is thought that both are Christians. Perhaps they received Christ from the those who witnessed the events of Pentecost (**Acts 2:9**), however we are not told. It is evident that they were friends found according to Paul. (**Romans 16:3, II Timothy 4:19, I Corinthians 16:19**)
4. **Let this be never taken for granted that we are part of the family of God.**
5. **Let this also never be taken for granted the influence of one saved.**
6. The command of Claudius appears to be on the grounds of division between the Jews and Christian believing Jews. “This command is not mentioned by Josephus, but it is recorded by Suetonius, a Roman historian (“Life of Claudius,” chapter 25), who says that “he expelled the Jews from Rome, who were constantly exciting tumults under their leader, Chrestus.” Who this Chrestus was is not known.” – Albert Barnes
7. Paul is shown here not to be ashamed of work and further was industrious to help him get the Gospel out.
8. **II Corinthians 11:9 (Missions Support), I Thessalonians 2:9**

9. "Paul was not above earning money to support himself and even his colleagues in the ministry."- John Phillips
10. You and I too, as Christians should be labouring for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God has a work for us to accomplish.
(Ephesians 2:10)
11. **Revelation 14:13** *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may **rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.**"*

B. Faithful Preaching at Corinth v4-11

1. v4 Paul 'reasoned' and 'persuaded'
2. **Isaiah 28:13,14** – There is a reason for learning 'line upon line.'
3. **Persuade-** 'peithō' (p-ee-th-AW) "to persuade, i.e. to induce one by words to believe"
4. v5 Paul was pressed in the spirit after Timothy and Silas arrive.
5. What did Paul do? He testified or witnessed.
6. What did He testify? That Jesus *was* Christ.
7. v6 Those who reject the Gospel really '*oppose themselves.*'
8. Paul declares I am free from blood guiltiness.
9. **Ezekiel 3: 16-21** 'The Watchmen'
10. v7 Justus and Crispus – notice the neighborly relationship.
11. v8 They Heard, they believed, and they were baptized.
12. v9,10 The invincible servant of God
13. The Lord says to Paul (1) Be not afraid (2) Speak (3) I am with thee (4) I will protect you (5) There are many yet to be saved.
14. What are the results of this encouragement and direction?
15. v11 *"he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."*
16. What a comfort and joy to know you are in God's Will and being obedient to Him.

C. Familiar Troubles at Corinth v12-17

1. v12 *“insurrection with one accord against Paul...”*
2. v13 Notice the charge – *“This fellow **persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law.**”*
3. v14,15 The foundationless charges are exposed.
4. v16 Gallio the proconsul dismissed them in an authoritative manner.
5. v17 The tide turned, Sosthenes, the new chief ruler and no doubt chief accuser was beaten by the Greeks. (There are some scholars that believe that Sosthenes was Paul’s spokesmen, but this strains the text a little bit.)
6. It could be that this Sosthenes also got saved as evidenced in **I Corinthians 1: 1,2**
7. **I Corinthians 1: 23,24** *“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”*

II. The Gathering Gained at Ephesus v18-21

A. Taking Leave of the Brethren v18

1. v18 There was a time when Paul had to move on.
2. Paul had taken a vow it seems and ‘*shorn*’ his head.
3. *“It was common for the Jews to make such vows to God, as an expression of gratitude or of devotedness to his service, when they had been raised up from sickness, or delivered from danger or calamity.” – Albert Barnes*

B. Taking Fellow Helpers for the Mission v19

1. In verse 18, we find Paul had with him Priscilla and Aquila.
2. v19 When he came to Ephesus he *“left them there...”*
3. *“There he left Aquila and Priscilla; not only because they would be but burdensome to him in his journey, but because they might be*

serviceable to the interests of the gospel at Ephesus. Paul intended shortly to settle there for some time” – Matthew Henry

C. Taking Heed While Leading v20-21

1. v20 *“When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;”* Why?
2. *“But bade them farewell, saying, **I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will.** And he sailed from Ephesus.”*
3. It seems that Paul was working on God’s timeline and not his own. While he intended on coming back *‘if God will’* he determined to go to Jerusalem.
4. **James 4:13,14** *“Go to now, ye that say, **To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**”*

III. The Guarded Going to Jerusalem and Antioch v22,23

A. Caesarea v22

1. From Joppa perhaps to Caesarea, he had *‘gone up’* to Jerusalem.
2. *“And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;”* – I Corinthians 9:20

B. Jerusalem v22

1. He *‘saluted’* the local church in Jerusalem.
2. The word used here to salute means – to enfold in arms, to welcome, to embrace.

C. Antioch v23

1. He *“spent time there”* – no doubt reporting all God had done.
2. He *“went over all the country” “strengthening all the disciples.”*

IV. The Greatness Garnered Through Humility v24-28

A. Apollos' Introduction v24,25

1. v24 *"an eloquent man..."*
2. *logios* – only placed used in the entire New Testament. Fluent and skilled in speech.
3. v24 *"...and mighty in the scriptures..."*
4. It is almost as if we are being told that these two qualities are normally exclusive.
5. **I Corinthians 1:26** *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*
6. **This man was gifted.**

B. Apollos' Exhortation v25,26

1. He was *"instructed in the way of the Lord..."* – Most believe already saved by faith though without great knowledge of Jesus Christ.
2. Notice also, he was *"fervent in the spirit..."*
3. Fervent means to boil over.
4. What did he do? *"...he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord."*
5. He had Salvation with no further teaching. The Bible tells us he knew *"only the baptism of John."*
6. Here is a man that used what light he had for the glory of God.

C. Apollos' Openness to Instruction v26

1. Here we have a classic example of discipleship.
2. They *"took him unto them..."*
3. One of the key principles in discipleship the teacher and the learner being together.
4. They *"expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."*

5. Another principle in discipleship is teaching the way of God. Moving the disciplee to the “next level.”
6. A third principle in discipleship is humility, acceptance and application of knowledge.
- 7.

D. Apollos’ Resulting Disposition v27-28

1. v27 *“when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:”*
2. Do you want to be helpful or harmful?
3. *“For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.”*