

ACTS 18



CONTEXT

PAUL IS IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS SECOND MISSIONARY VOYAGE. HE AND SILAS LEFT SYRIAN ANTIOCH AND TRAVELED BY FOOT NORTH AND WEST THROUGH CENTRAL MODERN-DAY TURKEY. IN LYSTRA, THEY MET TIMOTHY; PAUL SAW TIMOTHY HAD THE POTENTIAL TO BE A LEADER IN THE CHURCH AND BROUGHT HIM ALONG. THE HOLY SPIRIT FORBADE THEM TO SPREAD JESUS' MESSAGE IN THE LARGE SOUTHWESTERN PROVINCE OF ASIA OR THE NORTHERN PROVINCE OF BITHYNIA. INSTEAD, THE TEAM TRAVELED TO THE PORT TOWN OF TROAS WHERE THEY PICKED UP LUKE AND SAILED ACROSS THE AEGEAN SEA TO MACEDONIA. THEY HAD GREAT SUCCESS IN PHILIPPI, THOUGH PAUL AND SILAS WERE BEATEN AND IMPRISONED OVERNIGHT. THEY MET STRONG RESISTANCE IN THESSALONICA, AND HONEST INTELLECTUALS IN BEREIA. WHEN JEWS FROM THESSALONICA CAME TO BEREIA TO THREATEN THEM, PAUL ESCAPED TO ATHENS WHERE HE DEBATED STOIC AND EPICUREAN PHILOSOPHERS TO MODEST EFFECT (ACTS 16–17).

ACTS 18 COVERS THE LAST HALF OF PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY AND THE FIRST PART OF THE THIRD. HE AND HIS TEAM HAVE TRAVELED DOWN THE EAST COAST OF MACEDONIA AND GREECE TO CORINTH (ACTS 17) WHERE THEY WILL SPEND EIGHTEEN MONTHS. PAUL WILL STOP BRIEFLY IN EPHESUS ON THEIR WAY BACK TO JUDEA BEFORE VISITING JERUSALEM AND SYRIAN ANTIOCH. FROM THERE, PAUL WILL RETURN TO GALATIA IN MODERN-DAY ASIA MINOR BEFORE RETURNING TO EPHESUS FOR AN EXTENDED STAY (ACTS 19). HE WILL REVISIT THE CHURCHES IN MACEDONIA AND GREECE BEFORE FACING ARREST IN JERUSALEM (ACTS 21).



MAIN POINTS

right direction = right places = right people = right life

WHEN YOU FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF GOD, HE GUIDES YOU TO WHERE YOU NEED TO BE AND HE PLACES YOU WITH WHO YOU NEED TO BE PLACED WITH.

WHEN WE'RE PLACED AROUND THE RIGHT PEOPLE..WE'RE MORE LIKELY TO BE LIVING THE RIGHT LIFE.

WE NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP US GROW CLOSER TO CHRIST, NOT FURTHER.

WE NEED PEOPLE WHO LOVE US ENOUGH TO SPEAK TRUTH IN OUR LIVES & GUIDE US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION POSITIONS YOU IN THE RIGHT PLACES..WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE.. LIVING THE RIGHT LIFE.



ACTS

ACTS 18:1-3 NLT

THEN PAUL LEFT ATHENS AND WENT TO CORINTH. [2] THERE HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH A JEW NAMED AQUILA, BORN IN PONTUS, WHO HAD RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM ITALY WITH HIS WIFE, PRISCILLA. THEY HAD LEFT ITALY WHEN CLAUDIUS CAESAR DEPORTED ALL JEWS FROM ROME. [3] PAUL LIVED AND WORKED WITH THEM, FOR THEY WERE TENTMAKERS JUST AS HE WAS.



WHEN YOU FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF GOD, HE GUIDES YOU TO WHERE YOU NEED TO BE AND HE PLACES YOU WITH WHO YOU NEED TO BE PLACED WITH.

FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION PLACES YOU IN THE RIGHT PLACES WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

Side note:

Notice in this chapter alone what following God's direction leads to.

Paul meets people he would've never met and goes to places he would've never went.

Check out the relationships and friendships that were built and the results of those connections. (Paul meeting Priscilla & Aquila led to meeting Apollos which led to them seeing his potential but needed guidance which led to him growing spiritually & being sent to spread the gospel)



ACTS 18:4-6 NLT

EACH SABBATH FOUND PAUL AT THE SYNAGOGUE, TRYING TO CONVINCe THE JEWS AND GREEKS ALIKE. [5] AND AFTER SILAS AND TIMOTHY CAME DOWN FROM MACEDONIA, PAUL SPENT ALL HIS TIME PREACHING THE WORD. HE TESTIFIED TO THE JEWS THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH. [6] BUT WHEN THEY OPPOSED AND INSULTED HIM, PAUL SHOOK THE DUST FROM HIS CLOTHES AND SAID, "YOUR BLOOD IS UPON YOUR OWN HEADS-I AM INNOCENT. FROM NOW ON I WILL GO PREACH TO THE GENTILES."



ACTS 18:7-8 NLT

THEN HE LEFT AND WENT TO THE HOME OF TITIUS JUSTUS, A GENTILE WHO WORSHIPED GOD AND LIVED NEXT DOOR TO THE SYNAGOGUE. [8] CRISPUS, THE LEADER OF THE SYNAGOGUE, AND EVERYONE IN HIS HOUSEHOLD BELIEVED IN THE LORD. MANY OTHERS IN CORINTH ALSO HEARD PAUL, BECAME BELIEVERS, AND WERE BAPTIZED.



ACTS 18:9-11 NLT

ONE NIGHT THE LORD SPOKE TO PAUL IN A VISION AND TOLD HIM, "DON'T BE AFRAID! SPEAK OUT! DON'T BE SILENT! [10] FOR I AM WITH YOU, AND NO ONE WILL ATTACK AND HARM YOU, FOR MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY BELONG TO ME." [11] SO PAUL STAYED THERE FOR THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF, TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD.



ACTS 18:12-15 NLT

BUT WHEN GALLIO BECAME GOVERNOR OF ACHAIA, SOME JEWS ROSE UP TOGETHER AGAINST PAUL AND BROUGHT HIM BEFORE THE GOVERNOR FOR JUDGMENT. [13] THEY ACCUSED PAUL OF "PERSUADING PEOPLE TO WORSHIP GOD IN WAYS THAT ARE CONTRARY TO OUR LAW." [14] BUT JUST AS PAUL STARTED TO MAKE HIS DEFENSE, GALLIO TURNED TO PAUL'S ACCUSERS AND SAID, "LISTEN, YOU JEWS, IF THIS WERE A CASE INVOLVING SOME WRONGDOING OR A SERIOUS CRIME, I WOULD HAVE A REASON TO ACCEPT YOUR CASE.



ACTS 18:15-17 NLT

[15] BUT SINCE IT IS MERELY A QUESTION OF WORDS AND NAMES AND YOUR JEWISH LAW, TAKE CARE OF IT YOURSELVES. I REFUSE TO JUDGE SUCH MATTERS." [16] AND HE THREW THEM OUT OF THE COURTROOM. [17] THE CROWD THEN GRABBED SOSTHENES, THE LEADER OF THE SYNAGOGUE, AND BEAT HIM RIGHT THERE IN THE COURTROOM. BUT GALLIO PAID NO ATTENTION.



ACTS 18:18-20 NLT

PAUL STAYED IN CORINTH FOR SOME TIME AFTER THAT, THEN SAID GOOD-BYE TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND WENT TO NEARBY CENCHREA. THERE HE SHAVED HIS HEAD ACCORDING TO JEWISH CUSTOM, MARKING THE END OF A VOW. THEN HE SET SAIL FOR SYRIA, TAKING PRISCILLA AND AQUILA WITH HIM. [19] THEY STOPPED FIRST AT THE PORT OF EPHESUS, WHERE PAUL LEFT THE OTHERS BEHIND. WHILE HE WAS THERE, HE WENT TO THE SYNAGOGUE TO REASON WITH THE JEWS. [20] THEY ASKED HIM TO STAY LONGER, BUT HE DECLINED.



ACTS 18:21-23 NLT

[21] AS HE LEFT, HOWEVER, HE SAID, "I WILL COME BACK LATER, GOD WILLING." THEN HE SET SAIL FROM EPHESUS. [22] THE NEXT STOP WAS AT THE PORT OF CAESAREA. FROM THERE HE WENT UP AND VISITED THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM AND THEN WENT BACK TO ANTIOCH. [23] AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME IN ANTIOCH, PAUL WENT BACK THROUGH GALATIA AND PHRYGIA, VISITING AND STRENGTHENING ALL THE BELIEVERS.



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ACTS 18:24-25 NLT

MEANWHILE, A JEW NAMED APOLLOS, AN ELOQUENT SPEAKER WHO KNEW THE SCRIPTURES WELL, HAD ARRIVED IN EPHESUS FROM ALEXANDRIA IN EGYPT. [25] HE HAD BEEN TAUGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD, AND HE TAUGHT OTHERS ABOUT JESUS WITH AN ENTHUSIASTIC SPIRIT AND WITH ACCURACY. HOWEVER, HE KNEW ONLY ABOUT JOHN'S BAPTISM.

ACTS 18:26 NLT

WHEN PRISCILLA AND AQUILA HEARD HIM PREACHING BOLDLY IN THE SYNAGOGUE, THEY TOOK HIM ASIDE AND EXPLAINED THE WAY OF GOD EVEN MORE ACCURATELY.

(The gifts and the passion were there but he needed some godly guidance and direction)



**WHEN WE'RE PLACED
AROUND THE RIGHT
PEOPLE..WE'RE MORE
LIKELY TO BE LIVING
THE RIGHT LIFE.**

**WE NEED PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP US
GROW CLOSER TO CHRIST, NOT
FURTHER.**

**WE NEED PEOPLE WHO LOVE US
ENOUGH TO SPEAK TRUTH IN OUR
LIVES & GUIDE US IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION.**

**WE NEED PEOPLE WHO SEE WHAT
WE'RE CAPABLE OF & CHALLENGE US
TO GET THERE.**



**1 CORINTHIANS 15:33 CSB
DO NOT BE DECEIVED: "BAD COMPANY
CORRUPTS GOOD MORALS."**

**PROVERBS 13:14,20-21 CSB
A WISE PERSON'S INSTRUCTION IS A FOUNTAIN
OF LIFE, TURNING PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE
SNARES OF DEATH.**

**[20] THE ONE WHO WALKS WITH THE WISE WILL
BECOME WISE, BUT A COMPANION OF FOOLS
WILL SUFFER HARM. [21] DISASTER PURSUES
SINNERS, BUT GOOD REWARDS THE RIGHTEOUS.**

**PROVERBS 14:7-8 NLT
STAY AWAY FROM FOOLS, FOR YOU WON'T
FIND KNOWLEDGE ON THEIR LIPS. [8] THE
PRUDENT UNDERSTAND WHERE THEY ARE
GOING, BUT FOOLS DECEIVE THEMSELVES.**

**PROVERBS 12:26 NLT
THE GODLY GIVE GOOD ADVICE TO THEIR
FRIENDS; THE WICKED LEAD THEM ASTRAY.**



ACTS 18:27-28 NLT

APOLLOS HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT GOING TO ACHAIA, AND THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN EPHESUS ENCOURAGED HIM TO GO. THEY WROTE TO THE BELIEVERS IN ACHAIA, ASKING THEM TO WELCOME HIM. WHEN HE ARRIVED THERE, HE PROVED TO BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO THOSE WHO, BY GOD'S GRACE, HAD BELIEVED. [28] HE REFUTED THE JEWS WITH POWERFUL ARGUMENTS IN PUBLIC DEBATE. USING THE SCRIPTURES, HE EXPLAINED TO THEM THAT JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH.



**FOLLOWING GOD'S
DIRECTION POSITIONS
YOU IN THE RIGHT
PLACES..WITH THE RIGHT
PEOPLE.. LIVING THE
RIGHT LIFE.**



**WHERE ARE YOU POSITIONED AND WHO
ARE YOU POSITIONED WITH?**

**IS YOUR POSITIONING LEADING YOU CLOSER
TO JESUS OR FURTHER AWAY?**

ARE YOU FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION?

**NOT FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION?
HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?**



ACTS 18 DISCUSSION

Q. WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU, CHALLENGED YOU, OR CONVICTED YOU FROM THE MESSAGE OR PASSAGE?

Q. WHAT WAS THE MAIN AREA IN PAUL'S LIFE THAT LED HIM TO ALL OF THE PLACES HE WENT & THE PEOPLE HE MET? (HINT: THE WHOLE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR AREA)

Q. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE RESULTS OF FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION WE TALKED ABOUT IN ACTS 18? (HINT: THINK OF THE DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN ACTS 18 ALONE THAT WERE EFFECTED BY THOSE WHO FOLLOWED GOD'S DIRECTION)

Q. HOW WERE AQUILA AND PRISCILLA A MAJOR HELP IN THE LIFE OF APOLLOS? (HINT: THE GIFTS AND THE PASSION WERE THERE BUT HE NEEDED SOMEONE TO SEE THE POTENTIAL & TO GIVE HIM GODLY GUIDANCE)

Q. WHAT ALLOWED AQUILA & PRISCILLA TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK INTO APOLLOS & GUIDE HIM SPIRITUALLY? (18:26)

Q. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD & HIS DIRECTION IN OUR OWN LIVES?



PERSONAL DISCUSSION

Q. WHERE IS YOUR LIFE POSITIONED AND WHO ARE YOU POSITIONED WITH?

Q. IS YOUR POSITIONING LEADING YOU CLOSER TO JESUS OR FURTHER AWAY?

Q. ARE THE PEOPLE YOU'RE HANGING AROUND BRINGING YOU CLOSER TO JESUS OR FURTHER AWAY?

Q. ARE YOU FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION? HOW HAS FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION HELPED YOU IN YOUR LIFE?

Q. IF YOU'RE NOT FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTION...HOW'S THAT WORKING OUT FOR YOU?

