

Acts of the Apostles 18:18-19:10 __ Lesson 43

The Way of God More Perfectly

1. Acts 18:18-23 – Making Vows and Keeping Feasts

- a. He travels to Cenchrea, Syria, Ephesus, Caesarea, Antioch, Galatia, Phrygia
- b. His “journeys” are in relation to his trips out of Antioch, but who’s counting?
- c. What is his purpose? To strengthen disciples in grace 18:9, 23; and give 1 Cor 16:3
- d. The vow in Cenchrea: it is not clear who did it, what it was, or why?
 - i. (Nazarite vows required shaving afterward – Num 6:5,9)
- e. Paul wanted to keep feasts - 1 Cor 16:8, Acts 20:16, what was his motivation?
- f. For their sake – 1Co 6:12, 9:20, 10:23, 32-33, Acts 21:21, 22:3, 24:18, 25:8
- g. Why would a feast in Jerusalem annul God’s grace? Acts 18:27, 1 Cor 8:13, 10:23
- h. Judaism was not idolatry, but now they’re ignorant – 1Ti 1:13, 2Ti 1:3, Ro 1:18, 10:3

2. Acts 18:24-28 – Apollos: Eloquent and Ignorant

- a. “eloquent” – well spoken - ~def. Exo 4:10-14, Isa 3:3
 - i. Paul had a different “power” → 2Co 11:6, 1Co 2:1-5, 1Cor 3:4-10, 2Co 10:10
- b. “mighty in scriptures...” – what scriptures? Not Paul’s not Peter’s ... OT scriptures
- c. “instructed in the way of the Lord” by whom? Not Paul, not Peter, but John 1:23
- d. “knowing only...” – eloquent but ignorant, knowing only John’s water baptism
- e. “took him unto them” – Paul = bold and public, this couple = bold and private
- f. “way of God more perfectly” – This is progressive revelation, charitable ministry
- g. “helped them much ...” – see 1 Cor Jews who believed through grace/not law
- h. Apollos became a faithful steward of the mystery – 1 Cor 4:1, 6, 16:13, 19, Ti 3:13

3. Acts 19:1-7 – The Twelve Ignorant Disciples

- a. Paul in Ephesus finds 12 disciples who are ignorant – 19:1-7
- b. 19:2 → Paul sounds like the AoG, but he asks b/c what they believed differed
 - i. In Acts 2:4 & 8:14-15 they could believe and not receive the Holy Ghost
 - ii. But now, you cannot believe without receiving → Eph 1:13, 1Co 3:16, 12:13
- c. “not so much as heard” – Indeed, something got lost – Matt 3:3, 11, Rom 10:17
- d. “unto what?” – baptism functions to identify you with something... unto what?
- e. 19:4-5 is Paul explaining John’s message, and identifying who John named as Christ
- f. John’s message changed once he baptized Jesus → John 1:27-36, Matt 3:13-17
- g. “they were baptized” – Rebaptism was Jewish – this is not a 2nd water baptism
 - i. Andrew was water baptized only once in water → John 1:35-42
- h. The purpose is not (re)baptism but Paul’s authority – Acts 8:17, 2 Cor 11:3, 12:12
- i. These 12 expect the kingdom but end up confirming Paul’s apostleship w/power

4. Acts 19:8-10 – All in Asia

- a. Paul disputes with the Jews in Ephesus, but divers were hardened and spake evil
- b. Paul’s ministry for 2 years is such that all in Asia hear the word... but 2 Tim 1:15