

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Paul's Missionary Journeys: End of the 2nd and Start of the 3rd
Acts 18:12-28

Last time...concluding the 2nd letter to the church at Thessalonica, a strong exhortation to work
In working, we serve the Lord our God and we serve others
Work is a manifestation of the "Cliff Notes" of the Bible (Matt 22:36-40)

This time...going back to Acts 18 and Paul in Corinth, we find Paul working
In Corinth, in Ephesus, in Jerusalem, in Antioch, and in the regions of Galatia and
Phrygia

Paul's 2nd Missionary journey will end
Paul's 3rd Missionary journey will start

Shifting our minds from Thessalonica back to Corinth...Acts 18:1-11

v12-13 the Jews made insurrection:

Here in Corinth, the Apostle Paul is...working
he is teaching the Word of God,
he is preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles,
he is minding his own business making tents
But...trouble is brewing (as always)

The Roman deputy/proconsul/judge in the Roman province of Achaia,
the primary city being Corinth, is Gallio

The Jews to whom first Paul went and who rejected the Gospel,
opposing themselves and blaspheming,
rise up against Paul, rushing upon him and dragging him into court before Gallio

Their charge against Paul: He is teaching people to worship the OTL God,
the God of AI&J, contrary to the Law of Moses
i.e. righteousness with God is by grace thru faith, not by works

btw...A false accusation, a willingly ignorant charge

Gen 6:8

Gen 15:6

Hab 2:4

Matt 5:17

John 5:39

Rom 10:4

Paul is an observant Jew, as we shall see

v14-16 words and names...your law...drive them:

After the Jews made their charge and just as Paul was about to address the Court,
the judge preempts him by addressing the Jews

If this were a matter of wrong or a hurtful crime...

an issue of Roman Law and the safety of Roman citizens...

I would hear this case.

But, this is an internal Jewish debate about

- words...He said, she said about religious words
- names...YHWH, Moses, Jesus (You lost me with these names)
- law...Jewish Law, not Roman law

So you have the wrong jurisdiction.

Take care of this yourself.

Case dismissed.

Court adjourned.

Gallio makes a correct judgment – the State has no business in Church affairs,
a proper separation of Church and State

v17 the Greeks took Sosthenes:

Gallio's ruling

- either did not sit well with the Greek-speaking Jews
- or stirred the heathen Greeks to lash out against the Jews

because a riled up mob grabbed Sosthenes...

now the chief ruler of the synagogue due to the “disqualification” of
Crispus (v8)...

and beat him (“thumped with fists”) right in front of Gallio,
who showed no interest or concern for Sosthenes;
his “rights” did not matter to the judge

Either because it was a “family matter”

Or because it was just a trouble-making Jew

(anti-Semitism is as old as Cain's murder of Abel in Gen 4)

In any event, the script of the Jews against Paul got flipped!

v18-19 tarried...took his leave...came to Ephesus:

The rush to judgment by the Jews against him over, Paul...gets back to work
Resistance to his work did not stop the work!

His work did not stop until his time there was up (v11) and Spirit moved him on

At which point he bids his adieu to the church in Corinth to go to Antioch in
Syria, his sending church

Priscilla and Aquilla accompany him in his departure from Corinth

In Cenchrea [map] Paul, still observing the Law contrary to popular opinion by
the Jews that oppose themselves, takes a Nazarite vow (Num 6),
separating himself unto the Lord, a vow which begins and ends with the
shaving of one's head

Then the 3 tent makers sail to Ephesus

Paul leaves Priscilla and Aquila in town, while he goes to make a travel
connection to another ship to continue his trip home

But, apparently he has a layover in Ephesus, so Paul...gets to work

Paul goes to the synagogue in town to reason in the Scriptures with the Jews
about the Lord Jesus Christ

This is interesting, in that it speaks to Whose itinerary Paul is following

Earlier in this 2nd Missionary Journey [map] in Acts 16:6-9,

the Holy Spirit prohibited Paul from going to Ephesus

The Lord had an appointment in Philippi and many after that in
Thessalonica, Berea, and Corinth

v20-21 desired him to tarry longer:

But now is God's timing for Paul to speak with the Jews in Ephesus...
as evidenced by...

The Holy Spirit has been softening hearts in Ephesus in preparation for the
preacher He was going to send to them

The softened hearts have a favorable response to the Gospel of Grace by the Cross
of Jesus Christ

They want to hear more Good News, they want Paul to stay longer with them

But he will not stay any longer

Paul, having made a vow, is determined to keep "this" feast in Jerusalem

Some say it is the Feast of Pentecost,

others say it is the Feast of Tabernacles

Which feast is unknown but what is known is Deut 16:16-17 and

Paul is an observant Jew

He has been "on the road" for 3 years, missing all the feasts in Jerusalem;

He will be in Jerusalem and the Temple for "this" feast

Paul does however say (vs promise) he will return to them...if God wills
Paul's itinerary is managed by...God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Then Paul catches his ship out of Ephesus

v22 Caesarea...church...Antioch:
[map]

Paul disembarked at the man-made harbor built by Herod the Great,
built to capitalize on the spice trade with the Nabateans

From there Paul goes up...to Jerusalem and the church there, pastored by James,
of which nothing is recorded

Then to home base in Antioch, after 3 years absence, via the Road to Damascus

Thus ends the 2nd Missionary Journey of Paul

v23 some time...departed...Galatia and Phrygia:

After an unspecified period of time

- enjoying the fellowship of believers in Antioch, his sending church
- ministering and being ministered to
- being refreshed in body, soul, and spirit...those who work in the ministry get tired in the ministry and at times tired of the ministry

Paul...gets back to work

And so starts his 3rd Missionary Journey
[map]

He is being led of the Spirit back to Ephesus...but by the land route in order to
strengthen the disciples of Jesus Christ in churches he planted and has
visited (1st and 2nd Missionary Journeys)

While Paul is away from Ephesus (after Acts 18:21 and before Acts 19:1)...

v24 Apollos:

Enter into the work of the Gospel in Ephesus – Apollos

- a Jew – like Paul
- born at Alexandria, Egypt
 - center of learning
 - site of a great library
 - home base for Gnosticism (knowledge of the elite) that did and still does plague Christianity
- an eloquent man – quite an orator, unlike Paul
- mighty/powerful in the Scriptures – had a great working knowledge of Scripture, like Paul

Does Apollos come here now because of v20, the softened hearts hungry for the Good News?

Methinks

The Holy Spirit has sent Apollos, another faithful worker,
for His work with the Ephesians AND His work in him

v25 fervent...diligently...knowing only:

Apollos

- instructed in the way of the Lord – like Paul, but unlike Paul (Acts 9, Gal 1)
- fervent in the spirit – spirited, like Paul
- spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord – like Paul
- knowing only the baptism of John – had an incomplete knowledge of the things of the Lord, unlike Paul
 - John's baptism with water unto repentance, for the unbeliever
 - Matt 3:11a
 - 1 Thes 1:9

v26 Apollos...Aquila and Priscilla:

Apollos

- began to speak boldly – like Paul
- in the synagogue – to the Jew first, like Paul
- connected with Aquila and Priscilla – like Paul

Why did Paul leave Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus (v19a)?

By faith, because he did not know what God was doing

The Holy Spirit had Aquila and Priscilla stay in Ephesus...for Apollos,
to complete his knowledge of the things of the Lord –
the baptism of Jesus Christ

Matt 3:11b-12

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance:
but he that cometh after me is mightier than I,
whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall
baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire.
Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly
purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner;
but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable
fire.

Luke 24:46-49

Joel 2:28

And it shall come to pass afterward, *that* I will pour
out **my spirit upon** all flesh; and your sons and
your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall
dream dreams, your young men shall see visions

Acts 1:4-8

Holy Spirit upon

Acts 2:1-4

Holy Spirit upon

The Baptism of Jesus is the Baptism of God the Holy Spirit,
upon the believer/disciple

The ministry of the Holy Spirit: with, in, and upon

v27-28 into Achaia...receive him...helped them much:

The Holy Spirit sent a faithful worker in the Gospel named Apollos to Ephesus

- to do His work among those people
- to be worked on by more mature believers

Then, the Holy Spirit put it in Apollos' heart to go to Corinth...to work

The church at Ephesus sent a letter to the church at Corinth with him

- acknowledging what the Lord was doing in, with, and thru him
- encouraging them to welcome him into the fellowship and the
work in Corinth

They did, and he did!

Apollos helped the church at Corinth (those who believed the Gospel of Grace)
greatly with the work of evangelism to the Jews
(who did not believe the Gospel of Grace)

Now, baptized with the Holy Spirit, Apollos refuted the Jews mightily,
publicly opening up the Scriptures to them, showing in the inspired,
inerrant, and infallible Word of God that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the
Living God.

We end where we started – in Corinth
Bear in mind 1 Cor 3:1-9

Application/Lessons

1. Master of our itinerary

Who is the Master of your daily itinerary?

Look at your calendar

Consider the conversations you have...with whom, about what, words and tone

Am I Spirit-led or Self-directed?

Whose will is done?

Do I wait upon the Lord or do I expect Him to wait upon me?

2. Faithful workers

Every family has chores/errands that must be done to keep the family functioning
and everybody in a family has an important role to play to keep the family functioning
The same is true in every church

Every church has “chores/errands”...ministries...that must be done to keep the church
functioning and everybody in the church has an important role to play toward that end
Every church needs faithful workers...

Marys that become Marthas and Marthas that become Marys...Word and work
Just as every family is a “give and take” dynamic of related people, so is a church

Thank you to all the faithful workers that keep this church functioning!

You are the pillars upon which this family stands

But...like every church...this church needs more faithful workers

Too few are doing too much

Too many are doing too little

Children's Ministry

Security

Moving and Set-up/Tear-down

Evangelism/Getting the Word out

btw, evangelism is far more than something “that person” does, far more than a
ministry

Not event but a heart and mindset...the mind of Christ...we are all to have

A willingness to engage with people

listen to their story (everyone has one)

speak the Good News into that life/story

invite them to come to a place to hear more Good News

Over the years I have noticed many have come here,
unwilling to continue,
willing to take, but not willing to give
wanting to be served, but not willing to work
wanting something from the church, but not willing to invest themselves in that
something in this church (usually Children's Ministry or Worship or Singles)

I am sure that is true in every church in this consumer society
I'm sure every church has revolving doors for the shoppers

But we have not so learned Christ, the Servant of God who came not to be served but to serve

What applies in life applies in a church
Do you want love?
Love someone
It takes work
Do you want a friend?
Be a friend to someone
It takes work
Do you want something?
Do something
It takes work

Matt 16:18
and
1 Cor 3:9

The math is very simple
If 1 is willing to work, this church will get what one person can do
If 4 are willing to work (e.g. like in Ephesus), this church will get what 4 people can do
etc

The Lord is looking for faithful workers
Therefore...pray!
"What would you have me to do, Lord?"
"Anoint me to do it!"
"Not by might nor by strength, but by My Spirit," says the Lord

3. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
Am I a bold witness of Jesus Christ?
Am I a willing worker for Jesus Christ?

I need the power of His Spirit upon me.
We need this baptism in these times when we see the Finish Line!

Laying on of hands for the baptism of the Holy Spirit