

ACTS

THE TRIUMPHS OF CHRIST BY HIS SPIRIT THROUGH HIS CHURCH

Sunday Morning, May 8, 2022 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Christ Nourishes His Church

Message Text: Acts 18:18-28

Introduction:

The birth and building of a church, the body of Christ in a locality, in the midst of a wicked and perverse world is nothing short of a miracle—a triumph. Humanly, this is impossible and overwhelming! However, to Christ, it is just what He does. We should remember the promise of Christ, “Upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18) In the final stretch of Paul’s second missionary tour, the triumphs of Christ are witnessed as He nourishes His church through the ministry of Paul, Aquila, Priscilla and Apollos. It is a wonderful, reassuring record of the love and care of our Savior for His body. What is more encouraging is that He has not ceased to love and care for His body, even us.

SETTING: Paul left Corinth. He got a hair cut in the coastal city of Cenchrea after keeping a vow for a period of time. He embarked on a voyage toward home in Antioch of Syria. He had a short layover in Ephesus.

EPHESUS: A significant Roman city with a population of 250,000 people. It was made the capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor by Augustus (27 bc—ad 14). Roads from the city spread out in every direction along the coast and through the interior of the province. Ephesus was a major commercial port. While the main religion in the city was the worship of Artemis, evidence reveals that the citizens of Ephesus worshiped up to fifty different gods and goddesses. —The Lexham Bible Dictionary

1. The Birth of a Local _____ (18-23)

NOTE: Paul’s missions tours were focused on preaching Christ and establishing local churches.

A. The _____

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

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NOTE: As it had been for centuries¹, so too in the world of Jesus and the Gospel writers, *ekklesia* was used of any meeting or gathering², including of a political body, and a crowd or unruly gathering of people.³ —Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels

The word church described a called out assembling of saved and baptized individuals from the world to Jesus Christ Himself.

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

B. The _____ (18)

Missionaries — _____

Acts 18:18-19a And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow. 19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there...

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Psalms 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: And he delighteth in his way.

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

C. The _____ (19-23)

Acts 18:19-23 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. 20 When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not; 21 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.

DEFINITION—REASONED: to discourse; to consider or examine a topic in speech with others.

Acts 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

DEFINITION—DESIRED: requested

¹ (e.g., Thucydides, Pel. 1.87; Xenophon, Hell. 1.7.9; Aristotle, Ath. pol. 43.4)

² (e.g., 1 Macc 3:13)

³ (e.g., Josephus, Life 268; Ant. 12.164; 19.332; cf. Acts 19:32, 39–40)

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

2. The _____ of Local Churches (24-28)

A. Paul _____ (22-23)

Acts 18:22-23 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch. 23 And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM

THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH OF SYRIA

THE CHURCHES IN GALATIA AND PHRYGIA

DEFINITION—STRENGTHENING: to confirm; to make more marked by firm determination or resolution.

Ephesians 4:11–12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

B. Apollos _____ (24-26a)

Acts 18:24–26 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue...

APOLLOS' ABILITY (24-25A) — eloquent, mighty in the Scriptures

APOLLOS' SPIRIT (25B-26A) — fervent, taught diligently

APOLLOS' TRAINING (25a) — the way of John the Baptist

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Jude 20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

C. Aquila and Priscilla _____ (26)

Acts 18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

DEFINITION—EXPOUNDED: to elaborate; clarify the meaning of something through discourse.

DEFINITION—PERFECTLY: mindfully; in a careful and deliberate manner.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

John's Baptism	Believer's Baptism
Preparation	Identification
Sign of Repentance	Testimony of Salvation

D. The Church _____ (27-28)

Acts 18:27-28 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: 28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

Conclusion

Questions to Consider

Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior like those in Corinth and Ephesus?

Are you using your current knowledge of Christ to encourage others like Apollos?

When dealing with a person who needs to take a step of spiritual growth, do you handle it privately and graciously like Aquila and Priscilla?

Do you pass on encouragement to other believers such as a message or a spiritual lesson like the disciples at Ephesus did?

