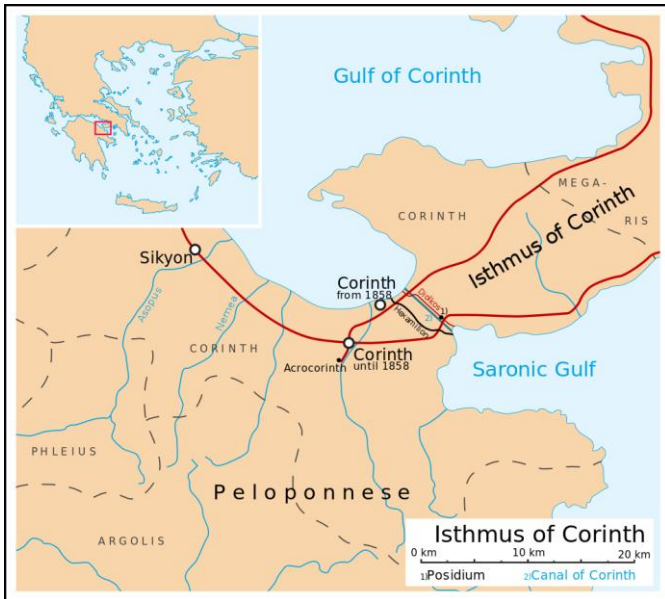


# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## LESSON 22: CHAPTER 18

30 October 2015



- Vss. 1-5**      **CORINTH** : Paul arrived in Corinth, met Aquila and his wife Priscilla and stayed in their house. (See Rom. 16:3, 1 Cor. 16:19, and 2 Tim. 4:19). Paul worked as a tentmaker to support himself on his missionary journey. Silas and Timothy arrived in Corinth. In the synagogue Paul **“testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.”** Every time Paul arrives in a new place, he begins with “the Jew first” (Rom. 1:16, Acts. 1:8, Heb. 4:6).
- Vs. 6**            The Jews “opposed themselves” when they rejected the Gospel. Paul shook his raiment (Mark 6:11, Luke 9:5) as a testimony against them.
- He said **“Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean.”** (See Ezekiel 3:18, 18:13, 33:2-6)
- Vss. 7-8**        Though most of the Jews in Corinth rejected the Gospel, there were some remarkable results from Paul’s preaching. **“Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, --and were baptized.”**
- Vss. 9-10**      Paul’s vision: the Lord comforted Paul and encouraged him to continue in Corinth. He promised that no man would hurt him there.
- Paul has been beaten in cities that were not as vile and immoral as Corinth. It is a miracle that he was not persecuted in Corinth.
- “I have much people in this city.”** These could be Christians visiting from other places or people that the Lord knew (by foreknowledge) would be saved in Corinth in the days ahead.
- Vs. 11**            Paul ministered in Corinth for 18 months. This should have been plenty of time to get them grounded in the truth. And yet, after Paul leaves, this church was plagued with many problems. There was some hard and thorny ground (hearts) to overcome in Corinth.

- Vss. 12-16** The Jews got together and brought Paul to Gallio, the deputy of Achaia, to be judged. They charged Paul with “persuading men to worship God contrary to the law.” Gallio refused to judge such matters (Jewish matters of law, etc) and quickly dismissed the case. This was another encouragement for Paul.
- Vs. 17** The Greeks beat Sosthenes before the judgment seat. Sosthenese replaced Crispus (vs. 8) as the “**chief ruler of the synagogue**” after Crispus became a Christian. In First Corinthians 1:1, Paul mentions “**Sosthenes our brother.**”
- Vs. 18** Since Paul was in no danger in Corinth, he was able to stay longer before sailing to the next stop on the missionary journey, which was Syria. Paul had his head shorn in connection with a vow. This may (or may not) be a Nazarite vow (Numbers 6:18). This may be part of Paul’s strategy to be a better witness to his kinsmen, the Jews (See Rom. 9:3 and 1 Cor. 9:20).
- Vss. 19-23** Paul arrived at Ephesus, witnessed to the Jews in the synagogue, and departed, leaving Aquila and Priscilla there. The Ephesians wanted Paul to stay longer, but he had to get to Jerusalem to “keep this feast.” He also had to burn his hair “under the sacrifice of the peace offerings” there (if he was keeping a Nazarite vow). Paul said, “Lord willing, I’ll be back” (vs. 21) (he returns in chapter 19).
- Paul’s ship landed at Caesarea (vs. 22) and he went up to Jerusalem to salute the church. Then he “went down” from Jerusalem to Antioch Syria and spent some time there before travelling over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia, following up with established churches there.

## APOLLOS

- Vss. 24-28** After Paul left Ephesus, Apollos (a Jew from Alexandra) came teaching “**the way of the Lord**” and “**John’s baptism.**” He was an eloquent man (he had a way with words) and was mighty in the scriptures, but he hadn’t heard about the Lord Jesus and Calvary yet.
- Aquila and Priscilla heard Apollos preach and realized that he hadn’t heard about Jesus, so they filled him in on the good news and “**expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**”
- Apollos travelled to Achaia with letters from the brethren instructing the disciples to receive him. He was a great help there to the believers. He even had great success in convincing the Jews while preaching in public and expounding the Scriptures concerning Jesus.

**FINAL NOTE:** Notice (in Acts 18:1-10) how Paul perfectly obeyed the great commission that the Lord gave the disciples in Matthew 28:19-20.

“Go ye,” Paul went to Corinth.

“Teach all,” ---Many heard and believed (vs. 8)

“Baptizing them,” they were baptized (vs. 8).

“Teaching them,” --“He continued there...teaching the word of God.” (vs. 11)

“Lo, I am with you.” --“For I am with thee.” (vs. 10).