

ACTS 18

Paul in Corinth and Apollos in Ephesus

Paul in Corinth

1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, 3 and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. 4 And he kept reasoning (διαλέγομαι, imperf.) in the synagogue every Sabbath and persuading (πείθω, imperf.) Jews and Greeks. 5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul kept being absorbed (συνέχω, imperf. pass.)¹ with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. 6 And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them,

Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.

7 And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed (πιστεύω, aor.) in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul were believing (πιστεύω, imperf.) and being baptized (imperf.). 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision,

Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.²

11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching (διδάσκω, pres.) the word of God among them.

Gallio Dismisses Paul's Case

12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal 13 saying,

This man keeps persuading (ἀναπείθω, pres.) people to worship (σέβω, pres.) God contrary to the law.

14 But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews,

¹“(6) [T]o occupy someone’s attention intensely, ...*I am occupied with* or *absorbed in someth.* ... (7) to provide impulse for some activity, *urge on, impel* (BDAG, 971).

² With his omniscience and foreknowledge, Jesus knows those in Corinth who will believe in him. God’s election is based on God’s foreknowledge.

If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. 15 But because it is a matter of questions about words, names, and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.³

16 And he drove them from the tribunal. 17 And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

Paul in Ephesus, Syria, Galatia, and Phrygia

18 After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. 19 And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned (διαλέγομαι, aor.) with the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined.⁴ 21 But on taking leave of them he said,

I will return to you if God desires (θέλω, pres.).

And he set sail from Ephesus.⁵ 22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. 23 After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Apollos in Ephesus and Corinth

24 Now a Jew named Apollos,⁶ a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent (λόγιος) man, competent (δυνατός) in the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly (παρρησιάζομαι, pres. inf.) in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained (ἐκτίθημι, aor.) to him the way of God more accurately.⁷ 27 And when he wished (βούλομαι, pres.) to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged (προτρέπω, aor.) him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed (πιστεύω, perf. act.), 28 for he was powerfully

³ Paul's case is dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. Luke hints Nero should do the same as Gallio. See *Church and State*.

⁴ Paul misses Ephesus a second time.

⁵ Paul's activity in Ephesus must be of major importance in Paul's trial.

⁶ Apollos is relevant in some way to Paul's trial. The Ephesian Jews have probably brought up Apollos in their case against Paul. One of Luke's points is that Apollos did not learn from Paul. His teaching and arguments are generally independent of Paul. Paul is not the only one out there convincing Jews and non-Jews that Jesus is the Messiah. Paul is not a renegade. He is doing what others are doing. Also, while there might be slight differences in what Paul and Apollos emphasize (see 1 Co), they are both teaching Jesus as the Messiah.

⁷ “[S]trict conformity to a standard or norm, with focus on careful attention, accurately, carefully, well” (*BDAG*, 39).

refuting (διακατελέγωμαι, imperf.) the Jews in public, showing (ἐπιδείκνυμι, pres.) by the Scriptures that the Messiah was Jesus.⁸

⁸ That Jesus is the Messiah is the primary message of Paul and Apollos for the Jews. Again and again it is hinted it is the Christians who rightly understand the Old Testament, not their Jewish opponents.

Biblical Worldview

- 1. The church needs men able to reason, persuade, testify, and refute in public about Jesus.**
 - a. **Ac 18:4-5** 4 [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks. 5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus.
 - b. **Ac 18:28** 28 [Apollos] powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Messiah was Jesus.

Notes