

Tell Me About the Way!!!

Acts 18

In Corinth

18:1-17

Paul's activities in Corinth

- Met Aquila and Priscilla
- Lived with them and practiced his tent making trade.
- Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue.
- When members of team arrived, he devoted himself to preaching.
- Witnessed to Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and won him and his whole family to Christ.
- Reassured by God.
- Stayed in Corinth for 1.5 years, teaching the Word of God.
- Was brought before a Roman court but case was dismissed by Gallio, the proconsul.
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In the face of opposition, note the Lord's words to Paul, "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent...because I have many people in this city."

The cause of Paul's trouble – "This man...is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law." It was his testifying about Jesus being the Christ.

In Ephesus

- Paul reasoned with those in the synagogue. What is the benefit of this approach?
- Paul declined the invitation to stay longer.
- Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos in and explained to him the way of God more adequately. Apollos only knew the baptism of John. So what is the "way of God more adequately"?
- To know the fullness of God's indwelling Holy Spirit, read 1 & 2 Corinthians. (see attachments)

Paul continued onto Caesarea, Antioch, and place to place throughout Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Apollos went to Achaia and vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

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In Ephesus

Once again, we find some disciples who had not received the Holy Spirit. They, like Apollos, had only known the baptism of John. They and we need the fullness of God in the face of Jesus Christ – the baptism of the Holy Spirit. How do we know we have the Holy Spirit?

- ✚ We need to experience the Alpha and the Omega.
- ✚ Do we possess the Beattitudes? They are the work of the Holy Spirit; we cannot obtain the attitudes on our own.
- ✚ Are we seeing the Fruit of the Spirit? All nine, because “Fruit” is singular. The term is not “Fruits”.
- ✚ Are we growing in the virtues of Love, as listed in 1 Corinthians 13? Note the core of the passage, “...does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the TRUTH.”
- ✚ Is there a growing love for the Scriptures and a passion to live it out?
- ✚ Are we discovering the transformation of our identities through experiencing death to sin and resurrection in our spirits?

The Sons of Sceva

- ☛ Some sons of a Jewish priest were driving out evil spirits. They came across an evil spirit that saw through their façade. They were beaten badly as a result of not truly knowing Jesus.
- ☛ “Jesus I know. I know about Paul. But who are you?”
- ☛ Once again, see the importance of identity! To be real and for the spirit realm to recognize the reality of Christ in you, you must truly know Him, ie. baptized by the Holy Spirit.

The Awesome Result from Exposing the sons of Sceva

- ✚ “...all were seized with fear
- ✚ Name of the Lord Jesus held in high honor.
- ✚ Many who believed came forward and confessed their evil deeds.
- ✚ A number of those who practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together to burn publicly.
- ✚ In this way, the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Riot over the Way: The Drive behind Idolatry 19:23-41

- ☛ Lack of knowledge about the true and living Christ will result in falling for lies.
- ☛ Greed, envy, and coveting deceive us and make us vulnerable to more deception.
- ☛ It is the devil trying to fight God as men are driven by idols and lies.
- ☛ Many do not know / are not aware of what is driving them.
- ☛ When pressed or brought to the forefront, the Holy Spirit must be accepted or rejected. And rejecting the Holy Spirit is the unforgivable sin.
- ☛ When we turn to the light, it will always impact those in the darkness to react, usually negatively.
- ☛ If / when we see people ignorant of the Way, we must stand up and speak the truth so that there is the opportunity to hear the truth and see the light. We don't know the power of the Holy Spirit that is available to those who stand up for truth in the face of lies and confusion, demonstrating the fullness of the hope in the resurrection.

From the activities of the missionaries in each place, what were the specific things they spoke, taught, and preached? Why must those be the primary elements in all ministry, evangelism and discipleship?