

EMBRACING THE WHOLE TRUTH

Acts 18:18 – 19:7

I. Unpacking the Text

A. The Conclusion of Paul's Second Missionary Journey (18:18-22)

1. Paul's Destination: Syria (Antioch)
2. Paul's Companions: Priscilla and Aquila
3. Paul's Route: Corinth → Cenchreae → Ephesus → Caesarea → Jerusalem → Antioch.
4. Paul's Vow (at Cenchreae) – an act of devotion
5. Stopover in Ephesus
 - Initiated evangelistic outreach in the synagogue; promise to return “Lord willing.”
 - Left Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus (5 years)
6. Journey completed where it began: Antioch.

B. The Beginning of Paul's Third Missionary Journey (18:23, 19:1)

1. Paul revisited the churches established on the first missionary journey: strengthening
2. Paul returned to Ephesus (where he had previously been forbidden to preach by the Holy Spirit (16:6).

C. Transitional Issues: Getting Disciples from John to Jesus in Ephesus (18:24-19:7)

1. The “Completion” of Apollos

a. Description

1) Origin: A Jew from Alexandria

2) Positive Assets:

- a) An eloquent man
- b) Powerful in the Scriptures (OT)
- c) Instructed in the way of the Lord (Jesus?)
- d) Fervent in spirit (Spirit?)
- e) Taught accurately the things concerning Jesus

3) Limitation: Knew only the baptism of John

b. Ministry: Spoke boldly in the synagogue

c. Upgrade: Priscilla and Aquila gave him private instruction filling him in on what was missing in his message (atonement, resurrection, ascension, Pentecost).

d. Transfer: he was sent to Corinth where his “apologetics” ministry proved to be a “great help.”

2. The “Completion” of Twelve Ephesian Disciples (19:1-7)

- a. Paul encountered “disciples” of John the Baptist who had not heard that Jesus had come.
- b. Their “baptism of repentance” prepared them for “baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus.”
- c. Their “completed conversion” precipitated the final phase of Pentecost: Jews (Acts 2) → Samaritans (Acts 8) → Gentiles (Acts 10) → “Pre-Christians” (Acts 19).

II. Illustrations/Principles for Present-Day Disciples

A. **[Cenchreae]:** PostScript to “God’s Provisions for Emotional Exhaustion” – Paul gave _____ attention to his personal _____ with God through an appropriate _____.

B. **[Apollos]:** “What To Look for in a Pastor”

1. Knowledge of the _____
2. _____ in communication
3. _____ in spirit
4. _____

C. **[Priscilla and Aquila]:**

1. This lay-couple provides a NT model for a key component of God’s design for marriage: _____ in ministry.
2. In their ministry to Apollos, Priscilla and Aquila model _____ Christian ministry: Most effective evangelism happens as a result of the healthy functioning of the _____.
3. Alongside Apollos, Priscilla and Aquila model the teamwork in ministry Christ envisioned for _____ people and _____ people.

D. **[John’s Disciples]:** The journey to faith in Christ usually involves many _____. Not everyone is resistant to the gospel. Some people just need to hear _____.