

SESSION 15:
ACTS CHAPTER 18 - 19

Comment: (CORINTH is now the home of **Aquila** and **Priscilla**. They have left Rome when Claudius expelled the Jews in 49 a.d.) This couple develop a strong relationship to Paul and support his ministry even traveling with him as he later proceeds to **Antioch via Ephesus**. In the beginning they are noted as being **Jews** and Having a profession in common tent Making.

NOTES ON AQUILA & PRISCILLA: (18v4) When Paul came to Corinth (probably in the year 50), he met Priscilla (or Prisca) and her husband Aquila, tentmakers by trade like Paul, Jewish, and just arrived from Rome, from which city the Emperor Claudius had recently expelled the Jewish community. (The Roman historian Suetonius tells us that Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome because they were rioting on account of someone named **Chrestus** -- presumably referring to disputes between Christian and non-Christian Jews.) It is not clear whether Aquila and Priscilla were already Christians before meeting Paul, or were converted by his preaching during the time of their association.

NOTES ON APOLLOS: After eighteen months IN CORINTH, Paul with Aquila and Priscilla travel to Ephesus. Priscilla and Aquila remain there while Paul continues to Antioch. **Soon after, a man named Apollos comes to Ephesus**, who had heard and believed (portions) of the Christian message, and was promoting that belief with eloquent preaching, based on a thorough knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures. Aquila and Priscilla befriended him and explained the Gospel to him more fully, after which he continued to preach with even greater effectiveness. (Apollos evidently was not filled with the Holy Spirit empowerment but was employing his natural mental and oratorical skills in presenting the gospel of the Messiah.

Comment 1: (18v6) Note how Paul's first negative reception by the Jews discourage him from ministering to Jews – Jesus intervenes in what Paul had resolved to do, i.e. not trying to persuade Jews

Question (18v9): How does the Lord Encourages Paul in a night vision? The Lord appears to assure Paul that he will have a time of favor with less resistance. **How** can the Spirit of Jesus promise Paul that the usual opposition will cease?

Question 3 (18v14): The Roman Pro-consul of Achaia, Gallio, holds the same attitude as Pilate concerning deciding any matter of Jewish law _____? Note similarities in Jesus' trial.

Question 4: What do you conclude from the description of Apollos? What were his strengths? Did he appear to have a deficit? (See note on Apollos above.)

Question 5: What can we conclude from that which Aquila and Priscilla counseled him?

Ministering at Corinth

18 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. **2** And he found a certain Jew named **Aquila**, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife **Priscilla** (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. **3** So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. **4** And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

5 When **Silas** and **Timothy** had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus is the Christ*. **C 1** **6** But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, "Your blood *be* upon your *own* heads; I *am* clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." **7** And he departed from there and

entered the house of a certain *man* named Justus, *one* who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. **8** Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; **Q2 10** for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." **11** And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

12 When Gallio was **proconsul of Achaia**, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, **13** saying, "This *fellow* persuades men to worship God contrary to the law."

Q3 14 And when Paul was about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. **15** But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to *it* yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such *matters*." **16** And he drove them from the judgment seat. **17** Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

Paul Returns to Antioch

18 So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and **Priscilla and Aquila** were with him. He had *his* hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. **19** And he came to Ephesus, and **left them there**; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. **20** When they asked *him* to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, **21** but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus. **22** And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. **23** After he had spent some time *there*, he departed and went over the region of **Galatia** and **Phrygia** in order, strengthening all the disciples.

The Ministry of Apollos

24 Now a certain Jew named **Apollos**, born at Alexandria, **Q 4** an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, **though he knew only the baptism of John**.

26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and **Q5 explained to him the way of God more accurately**. **27** And when he desired to cross to Achaia, (*ACHAI IS THE BODY OF LAND SOUTH OF ISTHMUS OF GREEK MAINLAND - CORINTH*) the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; **28** for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the (*MESSIAH*) Christ.

Chapter 19: Vs 1_5

The theological issue of believing disciples who are baptized with John's baptism:

These verses address the matter of Holy Spirit Baptism and empowerment as a second act of Grace subsequent to salvation:

Believers may repent and believe and even be baptized for the remission of sin without receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit (stated here as the Baptism into Christ.)

Matthew 3:11

JOHN THE BAPTIST SPEAKING SAYS: *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit and fire**."*

What are the understandings unique to being baptized into Christ?

1. The understanding of dying with Christ

(Romans 6:3 -- 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

2. Baptized into newness of life in the likeness of Christ's resurrection.

Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

3. The concept of Christ living in us and empowering us by His Spirit.

*Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, **but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

4. The notion that we are part of Christ's body with its many functions

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your[a] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead,[b] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

5. The idea of having dunamis Holy Spirit power working in our lives.

John 14: 16-1916 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

*17 Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **Luke 24:49:** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. **Acts 1:8** You shall receive power (dunamis power) after that the Holy Spirit has come and you shall be witnesses to me first in Jerusalem in Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the world.*

What is the evidence of the endowment of the Power of the Holy Spirit?

Chapter 19:1-7 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples **2** he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." **3** And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." **4** Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." **5** When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. **7** Now the men were about twelve in all.