

Reasoning with Apollos

Acts 18

- 2nd Journey: 49-52AD
- Ch. 17 ends with Paul's powerful sermon on Mars Hill showing the true nature of God.
- This chapter both ends the 2nd journey and begins the 3rd.
- This journey has been highly successful for the Lord!

1. Corinth – v. 1-17

- 1. Corinth: 40mi W, commercial center of the world, stark contrast w/ Athens. People went to Corinth to "have a good time."
- 2: Aquilla: Jew; Priscilla: assumed Gentile; Pontius: Rom. Province in Asia Minor; Claudius [11:28] only Rom. Gov. mentioned 2x in NT, 49AD imperial banishment of Jews; P&A prob. got to town shortly before Paul
- 3: 1st mention of P's trade; tentmaker also means works in leather; worked so people didn't think he 'preached for the \$' [1 Cor. 9:11-12]
- 4: GKs: God fearers repulsed by ungodly city
- 5: team reunites, revitalizes Paul; last mention of Silas by name; 'absorbed in' spirit
- 6: Jews hostile; uses words from Ezek. 3:18, 33:8: warning to those who fail to heed
- 7: thought it is Titus, not likely, could be Gaius [1Cor. 1:14, Rm. 16:23] Rms had 3 names; irony: God provides Christian meeting place next to Jewish synagogue
- 8: Crispus led services in synagogue; baptized by P himself
- 9,10: P's work progressing but difficult; JC dismissed past, gave assurance for present, & made two promises for the future
- 11: assurance turned anxiety into anticipation; 18 months, writes 1 & 2 Thess.
- 12: Gallio: most important Rm. official P met; took office 51AD [helps date], Achaia = province; wrong kind of unity.
- 13: brought accusations against Rom. Law
- 14,15: enemies face to face w/ honest Rom. Official; didn't hesitate to throw case out
- 16: imagine Jewish shock

- 17: Sosthenes: fellow ruler w/ Crispus; Gallio indifferent, not influenced by Jewish actions; P unharmed & vindicated; God kept His promise! *Trad* brought 10yrs of peace>church

2. Paul Returns – v. 18-23

- 18-22 wrap up 2nd journey
- 18: planned to return to Antioch in Syria; apparently only took P&A; vow: 7x in NT, gen. refers to making a request to Deity. A serious thing; what kind? Not specified.
- 19: sailed from Cenchrea: port, later cong. there, Rm. 16:1; limited time in Ephesus
- 20,21: Jews didn't make this request often, he didn't consent. **Important:** he yielded his life to God's Will.
- 22: 1 month of sailing, lands at Caesarea, home of Philip & Cornelius; completed his vow then went to Antioch
- 23: prob. stayed Winter months, leaves for 3rd journey 53AD. Not mentioned companions
- 3rd journey would collect funds for poor in Jerusalem, Rom. 15:26

3. Apollos – v. 24-28

- 24: shortened form of Apollonius: born, reared in Alexandria, largest library in world [700,000 volumes], edu center of the world
- LXX [GK OT] was produced in Alexandria in 200s BC
- 25: mighty in OT Scriptures; only knew up to Matt. 3! John was killed [Mt. 14:1-12] before JC promised to build church [Mt. 16:19], ...
- and long before He died, rose, and gave great commission. [John prepared people for Christ – a fulfillment of prophecy.]
- 26: although he didn't know the whole story, Apollos spoke boldly; A&P took him aside [NIV *invited him to their home*], privately taught him "the rest of the story;" he was willing to change!
- 27: Apollos wanted to share the Gospel; Ephesus cong. sent a letter with Apollos; 1st helped the Christians
- 28: demonstrated Christ through the Scriptures

Lessons:

1. The church at Corinth had many problems they had to work through. The church is perfect comprised of imperfect people.
2. Paul knew the importance of guiding his life after God's Word. On this journey, God kept him out of certain areas and led him to others. We should always do things "if the Lord wills." (James 4:15)
3. Apollos is a perfect example of someone that needed to learn more. He was willing to change to conform to God's Word. We need both more like Apollos & A&P.

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