

Journey Through Acts
“More About Jesus”
Acts 18:24 - 19:7

Introduction:

1. As We Continue Our ***Journey Through Acts*** Tonight:
 - Let's Turn Back:
 - To Where We Left The Apostle Paul:
 - In Acts 18 - At The Conclusion:
 - Of His Second Missionary Journey:
 - And At The Beginning:
 - Of His Third!
 - In Acts 18:23:
 - We Are Told That Paul:
 - “Went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples!”
 - This Would Have Taken Him:
 - To The Same Cities Where, On His First Missionary Journey, He Had Been Persecuted & Even Stoned & Left For Dead!
 - But - The Lord Was Gracious!
 - And There Was Fruit In Those Countries!
 - And So - He Kept On:
 - “Strengthening All The Disciples!”
2. Well - When We Come To:
 - Acts 18:24 - There Is A Bit Of An Intermission:
 - From The Ministry Of Paul:
 - And Luke Turns To The Very Beginning:
 - Of The Ministry Of A Man Named:
 - Apollos!
 - Who Is Described For Us Here:
 - As - “A certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures!”
 - And - He - “Came to Ephesus!”
 - Ephesus Was A Very Large & Prosperous City In Ancient Roman Times!
 - And Would Eventually Become An Important Center For Christianity As Well!
 - But - Up Until This Time - **As Seen On This Map:**
 - Paul Had Only Briefly Visited Ephesus:
 - At The Tail End Of His Second Missionary Journey:
 - On His Way To Jerusalem!
 - But - In Ephesus - He Had Left:
 - Two Of His Closest Friends & Colleagues:
 - Priscilla & Aquila!
 - And It Was To This City:
 - Apollos Went - With All Of The Natural Gifts And Abilities He Had As A Faithful Jew!
3. The Ruins Of Ephesus Today:
 - Are Impressive And Well Preserved!
 - Not Too Far From The Modern City Of Izmir, Turkey:
 - It Was Known For Several Important Structures!
 - Like - **Its Roman Amphitheater:**
 - Which Took 60 Years To Complete, And Became The Largest Theater In All Of Asia Minor! With Seating For 25,000 Spectators!
 - It Was Also Known:
 - **For Its Famous Library Of Celcus:**
 - Which Was One Of The Most Impressive Buildings In The Roman Empire And Was Built To Store Over 12,000 Scrolls!
 - Although It Was Built After This Time In Acts - Its Facade Became The Symbol Of Ephesus For Nearly 2,000 Years!
 - But The Primary Structure:
 - Ephesus Was Known For Was:

- **Its Temple To The Goddess Artemis Or Dianna!**

- Which Are The Greek & Roman Names For The Same Goddess Of Hunting!

- This Is What It Might Have Looked Like - Which Caused The Temple To Have Long Been Considered One Of The Seven Wonders Of The Ancient World!

- And - It Had Been Standing For Around 500 Years Already:

- When Paul & Apollos Arrived There!

- But - Today - **This Is All That Is Left!**

4. But - It Wouldn't Have Been To Far:

- From This Location - Where Apollos Went!

- And As We Continue Reading In 18:25 - This Is What Happened Next:

- "This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John!"

- So - Apollos Knew Something About Jesus:

- But Not All That Much - Just What He Had Heard:

- From Someone Who Was Acquainted With The Ministry & Message Of John The Baptist!

- Perhaps His Parents!

- But - The "Way Of The Lord" Mentioned In This Verse:

- Is Something That We Hear In The Words Of John The Baptist As Well!

- In Matthew 3:1-3 - Part Of His Message Is Recorded For Us - "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, / And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. / For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!"

- And Later - When Jesus Himself Came To His Cousin John:

- To Be Baptized - John Pointed To Jesus And Proclaimed;

- "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

- So - John The Baptist Proclaimed Jesus As The Promised Messiah!

- And Many Who Heard This Message Were Baptized & Believed!

- And This Is What Apollos Had Done Himself!

- He Believed That Jesus Was The Messiah!

- And Probably Knew Something About The Identity Of Jesus, As Well As His Life & Doctrine & Perhaps Even Some Of His Miracles!

- He Had Even Been Baptized With The Baptism Of Repentance!

- But The "Rest Of The Story" Of Jesus - He Had Not Yet Heard!

- About His Death & His Burial:

- His Resurrection & His Ascension!

- And Yet - During This Period Of Transition Between The Old & The New Testaments:

- I Believe That Apollos Was At This Time A Genuinely Saved Man!

- He Trusted In Jesus As His Savior According To The Light He Had Been Given!

- He Was Saved The Same Way The Old Testament Saints Were Saved!

- They Believed & Trusted In The Messiah To Come!

- As Melanthon Jacobus Once Wrote - "He Was Thus An Immature Disciple - A Sort Of Half-Way Christian - In Transition From The Old Covenant To The New!"

5. But - In Spite Of His Impressive Knowledge About Christ:

- His Knowledge Was Yet Incomplete!

- And So - As 18:26 Tells Us:

- "And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly!"

- And As The Light Of The Gospel Shined Into His Heart More Brightly:

- His Faith & His Fervency Grew!

- And He Wanted To Tell Even More About What He Had Just Learned Himself - From Those Married Tent-Makers, Priscilla & Aquila!

- And So - In 18:27-28 - We Read:

- "And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: / For he mightily convinced

the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ!"

- So - Apollos Heads Over To Achaia:

- And To The Chief City Of Corinth:

- About Where Paul Made This Familiar Statement - 1 Corinthians 3:6 - "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase!"

6. But - When We Come To Acts 19 - The Story Continues:

- With Paul - And **His** Return:

- To The Same City Of Ephesus!

- Beginning In 19:1-3 - " And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, / He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. / And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism!"

- So - Paul Finds A Group Of Men:

- Who Were In The Same State & Condition:

- As Apollos Was - When He Was Taken In:

- By Priscilla & Aquila!

- And It Seems As If They Too:

- Were Genuinely Saved Men!

- Because In 19:1 - They Are Referred Simply As "Disciples" - And In 19:2 - Paul Himself Describes Them As Having "Believed!"

7. But - In Spite Of Their Faith In Christ:

- Their Faith Was Also Incomplete!

- Because They Had Not Heard About:

- The Coming Of The Holy Spirit:

- Whom John The Baptist Had Said The Messiah, Jesus, Would Send!

- They Too Were Still In This Period Of Transition Between The Old & New Testaments!

- And So - As 19:4-7 Tells Us:

- "Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. / When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. / And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. / And all the men were about twelve!"

8. And So - Through The Ministries Of:

- Those Tent-Makers:

- Priscilla & Aquila & The Apostle Paul:

- Both The Knowledge:

- Of Apollos - And The Faith:

- Of Those Twelve:

- Were Made Complete!

- And They Were Able To Go On:

- To Serve The Lord:

- With Greater Effectiveness And Power!

9. But - Even Though:

- These Events Took Place:

- At A Time Of Transition That Is Quite Foreign To Us Today:

- I Think There Is Still Some Truth For Us To Glean From Them!

- Because - Even Though We Have Been Given:

- The Gospel In Its Entirety:

- And It Has Been Preserved For Us:

- In Scripture - We Are **Still** Living:

- In A Kind Of Transitional Period, Aren't We?

11. Like Apollos:

- There Is Still Something Lacking:

- In Our Knowledge Of Christ!

- It Is Still, More Or Less, Incomplete!

- Paul Put It This Way For Us In 1 Corinthians 13:12 - "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am

- God Was Able To Use Them More Effectively:
 - There In Ephesus!
- Are You Tender?
 - Do You Recognize That Your Own Faith In Christ:
 - Is Yet Incomplete?
- And Are You Humble Enough:
 - To Listen To & Learn From Anyone:
 - God Might Send Your Way?
 - **IE**: Some Friends Of Ours Have A Daughter With Down's Syndrome - Emmeline - Who We Have Prayed For On Many Occasions! But This Young Lady Has Such A Simple Yet Strong Faith In The Lord Than Many Christians Will Ever Have In Their Entire Lives! I Can't Tell You How Much My Own Faith Has Grown As I've Heard About Her Faith!

14. So - Tonight:
- Be Honest Enough & Humble Enough:
 - To Recognize That There Is Still Room:
 - For Your Knowledge Of Christ & Your Faith In Christ:
 - To Grow!
 - And Remain:
 - Teachable & Eager:
 - For The Word! As Well As:
 - Tender & Sensitive:
 - To The Spirit!
 - For Then - You Will Be Ready:
 - For God To Use:
 - In A Mighty & Effective Way!

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