



Acts - Chapter 18

Paul's second missionary journey

Corinth, Antioch

Background & Setting

Paul, Silas and Timothy had traveled together to Thessalonica. After some commotion caused by their teaching, they went on to Berea. The trouble-making Jews from Thessalonica followed them to Berea, still causing trouble, so Paul went on to Athens with his partners staying behind. In Athens, Paul made his powerful sermon in front of the Areopagus, converting a couple of prominent Athenians, Dionysius and Damaris, as well as others. After this tectonic presentation to the leading members of Athenian society, Paul continued on to Corinth where Silas and Timothy caught up to him. Chapter 18 picks up with the three of them together again in Corinth.

In Corinth, Paul met fellow tentmakers Priscilla and Aquila who had been commanded to leave Rome*. Paul was not well received by many Corinthian Jews during his teachings in the synagogue, so he left them and approached the Gentiles. Crispus, the head of the synagogue was converted along with his entire household. Paul's reception amongst the Gentiles was much more favorable, and he stayed 18 months continuing to teach. The Jews complained to Gallio, the Proconsul of Achaia, who refused to hear their pleas.

After a year and a half Paul left for Antioch Syria, accompanied by Aquila and Priscilla as far as Ephesus. Along the way, Paul cut his hair as part of a Nazarite Vow*. Paul continued on to Caesarea Maritima, then Antioch to greet his ordaining church, and then

Outline of the Passage

- A.** v.1-17 Paul in Corinth
- B.** v.18-23 Paul returns to Antioch via Ephesus, cutting his hair along the way
- C.** v.24-28 Apollos speaks boldly in Ephesus and Achaia

Vocabulary, Names & Cultural Influences

- 1. v2. "Reasoned" (διαλεγομαι)** – to engage in speech and argumentation in an exchange of opinions). Debate.
- 2. v2. "Scriptures" (γραφή)** – the Greek Septuagint, a translation into Greek of the original Hebrew text of the Hebrew 'Tanakh', which is the Christian OT.
- 3. Nazarite Vow** – A special pledge of separation and devotion to God, typically for a specified period of time. At the end, the man would shave his head and present his hair to the temple within 30 days. See **Numbers 6:2-5; 13-21**.

