

## Paul—Acts 18:23—19:20

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey Begins; Ephesus

#### I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

**01. 18:24... Alexandria**—“ The ancient metropolis of Lower Egypt, so called from its founder, Alexander the Great (about 333 B.C.). It was for a long period the greatest of existing cities, for both Nineveh and Babylon had been destroyed, and Rome had not yet risen to greatness. It was the residence of the kings of Egypt for 200 years. It is not mentioned in the Old Testament, and only incidentally in the New. Apollos, eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures, was a native of this city ([Act 18:24](#))” [*Easton’s Bible Dictionary*].

**02. 19:2... We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost**—“These twelve men (v. 7) had been baptized into the baptism of John the Baptist, but they had never heard about the **Holy Spirit**. All they knew was that One mightier than John was to come. They did not know that Jesus the Messiah, the One mightier than John had already come. He had died for their sins, had been raised from the dead, had ascended to the Father, and had already sent the Holy Spirit. They needed to hear the rest of the gospel.” [*Nelson’s NKJV Study Bible*, p. 1856].

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Period of the Church.**

#### III. Summary.

At 18:23 we find the beginning of Paul’s third missionary journey. Paul visited the churches of Galatia for a third time, and settled in Ephesus for about three years. He traveled to Macedonia and Achaia for a long stay. On this third journey Paul wrote 1 Corinthians from Ephesus, 2 Corinthians from Macedonia, and Romans from Corinth. We meet Apollos in this reading. He was an eloquent preacher who needed further instruction which was provided by Aquila and Priscilla. Evidently, those Paul meets at Ephesus had been taught by Apollos, and Paul, seeing a defect in their understanding, makes correction and re-baptizes them. These twelve men were baptized of John’s baptism long after it was no longer valid. There was presented to Paul a great opportunity to preach in the synagogue at Ephesus and after that opportunity proved fruitless, he began teaching in the school of Tyrannus. This continued for a period of two years (19:10). Miracles performed by Paul resulted in many good things and the sons of Sceva sought to imitate them, but did not meet with the success they were wanting (19:13-17). Great results came from Paul’s work in Ephesus and a most remarkable proof of repentance is seen in the burning of books of sorcery.

#### IV. Outline.

1. Beginning of Paul’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23).
2. Aquila and Priscilla teach Apollos the way of God more perfectly (18:24-28).
3. Paul “rebaptizes” some at Ephesus who only knew John’s baptism (19:1-5).
4. Paul laid hands on these men (19:6-7).
5. Paul teaches in the synagogue, then in the school of Tyrannus (19:8-9).
6. All in Asia hear the gospel (19:10).
7. Special miracles were performed through Paul (19:11-12).

8. The seven sons of Sceva (19:13-17).
9. Burning of sorcerers' books (19:18-20).

## V. Questions.

### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_\_ Paul is described in this chapter as ELOQUENT and MIGHTY IN THE SCRIPTURES.
02. \_\_\_\_\_ About twelve men were rebaptized at Ephesus.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ It could be said that we have the equivalent of a "labor union" meeting in this reading.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ The sons of Sceva were effective exorcists.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Apollos was not a native of Ephesus.

### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ How did Apollos help the believers in Achaia: (a) by bringing funds from Corinth; (b) by convincing the Jews; (c) by praising and encouraging them.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ Alexandria is mentioned in this chapter as the birthplace of : (a) Timothy; (b) Aquila; (c) Apollos; (d) Paul.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ What happened to those men upon whom Paul laid hands: (a) they were healed; (b) they died; (c) the spake with tongues; (d) they prophesied; (e) a & b; (f) c & d.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ What position was held by Sceva: (a) chief of priests; (b) chief of police; (c) chief of the synagogue; (d) chief of sinners.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ What demonstration of true repentance is recorded in this reading: (a) washing stripes; (b) returning stolen goods; (c) burning books.

### Fill in the Blanks

11. **Knowing \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_** was the serious flaw mentioned by Luke in his description of Apollos.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ mightily \_\_\_\_\_ the Jews.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ was in Corinth when Paul taught some men in Ephesus and baptized them in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Because of the confession of devils and their actions at Ephesus, the name of the Lord Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Apollos showed \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answers will be found on next week's handout*

**ANSWERS to Acts 17 Questions...** [(1) False Acts 18:24; (2) False, Acts 18:2; (3) True, Acts 18:9; (4) False, Acts 17:32; (5) True, Acts 17:14; (6) c, Acts 17:34; (7) b, Acts 17:28; (8) d, Acts 17:13; (9) b, Acts 17:25; (10) b, Acts 17:21; (11) Knowing, only, baptism, John, Acts 18:25; (12) south, west, Acts 18:1-2; (13) Apollos, convinced, publicly, scriptures, Acts 18:28; (14) blood, heads, Acts 18:6; (15) wrong, wicked, lewdness, Acts 18:14.]

## VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **AND AFTER HE HAD SPENT SOME TIME THERE, HE DEPARTED, AND WENT OVER ALL THE COUNTRY OF GALATIA AND PHRYGIA IN ORDER, STRENGTHENING ALL THE DISCIPLES** (Acts 18:23). Paul's preaching in Galatia and Phrygia was fruitful in that it strengthened the disciples. Today the preaching of the same message will do the same thing it did then.

2. **AND A CERTAIN JEW NAMED APOLLOS, BORN AT ALEXANDRIA, AN ELOQUENT MAN, AND MIGHTY IN THE SCRIPTURES, CAME TO EPHESUS** (Acts 18:24). If a preacher can receive deservedly the compliment, “he is mighty in the scriptures,” what more should he be striving to attain? Moreover, every locale desperately NEEDS preachers who are mighty in the Scriptures. It is the Scriptures which provide the power to save (Rom 1:16; James 1:21).
3. **AND FINDING CERTAIN DISCIPLES** (Acts 19:1). How do you learn about an individual’s REAL concern and his priorities? Paul’s REAL concern—his priority (Mt 6:33)—shines through in this text. It involved the brotherhood, the church. He made a search for them. Many move from place to place and have no such priority. Perhaps here is a fruitful opportunity for locating prospects. Many are unlike Paul and DO NOT search out their brethren when they move to a new place. If we make contact with them soon after they move into our area, we might be able to influence them to put the kingdom first.
4. **UNTO WHAT THEN WERE YE BAPTIZED?** (Acts 19:3). Paul’s communication with these people revealed that there was a real problem with their understanding of the doctrine of Christ. They had been improperly baptized of John’s baptism AFTER it ceased to be valid. Apollos had already been taught the way of the Lord more perfectly concerning John’s baptism (18:25-26). Since his name is mentioned in context of these disciples, likely he had been their teacher. Paul taught these twelve disciples the correct doctrine of Christ and they accepted and obeyed it. This incident should **emphasize** to us the importance of abiding in and not transgressing the doctrine of Christ. Further, it should emphasize our obligation to point out error when we come into contact with it.
5. **AND WHEN PAUL HAD LAID HIS HANDS ON THEM** (Acts 19:6). Miraculous gifts of prophesying and speaking in tongues were received ONLY by the laying on of apostles’ hands. Other than the instances of the apostles (Acts 2) and the household of Cornelius (Acts 10), the New Testament knows no other way than was here demonstrated to receive these gifts!
6. **DISPUTING AND PERSUADING THE THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD** (Acts 19:8). Who would be willing to accuse Paul of not preaching Christ. Preaching Christ and preaching the kingdom are the SAME. It is not that we should do the one and neglect the other or emphasize the one and de-emphasize the other, rather, they are so intertwined that you cannot do one without doing the other.
7. **HE DEPARTED FROM THEM, AND SEPARATED THE DISCIPLES, DISPUTING DAILY IN THE SCHOOL OF ONE TYRANNUS** (Acts 19:9). Here is another instance which tells us what we should do when we cross paths with stubborn, obstinate, and hard-hearted people who will not be moved by gospel truth—GO TEACH SOMEONE ELSE WHO WILL! Also, it seems to me that there is a point to be observed here that I’ve often heard faithful brethren who are also debaters make. Of this people it is said that they, **spake evil of that way before the multitude**. These people were not really interested in learning the truth, but only wanted an audience to propagate their error. Paul refused to give them the opportunity. Paul did not want the disciples to be deceived by the error of these hardened ones. We would do well to remember that Paul evidently considered it dangerous for disciples to be exposed to such teaching and he SEPARATED THEM. What does this say about those who have companions or friends caught up in error, and in a spirit of compromise, worship with the denominations one week and with the church the next?

8. **AND THIS CONTINUED BY THE SPACE OF TWO YEARS** (Acts 19:10). The secret of the phenomenal success that is mentioned in this verse lies in the word **CONTINUED** (cf., 1 Cor 15:58).
9. **THEN CERTAIN OF THE VAGABOND JEWS, EXORCISTS, TOOK UPON THEM TO CALL OVER THEM WHICH HAD EVIL SPIRITS THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS** (Acts 19:11-16). There were **FAKE** healers in the first century just as there are today. The purpose of those miraculous gifts was to confirm the word. Many, like Simon of Acts 8, **WANTED** the gifts for other purposes, but wanting them and having them are two different matters. There are **LOTS** today who try to make merchandise of holy things and, by trickery, are successful in developing a following and great riches for themselves, but some day they will stand before the Lord in judgment!
10. **AND THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS WAS MAGNIFIED** (Acts 19:17). What a marvelous result (cf., Mt 23:5; Lk 1:46, 58; Acts 5:13; 10:46; 2 Cor 10:15; Phil 1:20). Whenever we make Christ and His will clearer to those around us, we do the same thing.
11. **SO MIGHTILY GREW THE WORD OF GOD AND PREVAILED** (Acts 19:18-20). The result we read about here came out of error being confronted and convictions being produced in the hearts of men by the powerful word of God. 50,000 pieces of silver, in terms of our economy, would equal about 50,000 days' wages. They were paid about a drachma/shekel per day. When there are penitent hearts in which faith has been produced (Rom 10:17), you find the word of God prevailing.

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

A A W D F A Q U I L A H R I E J L C M B  
 V B H I X J U A I E L O Q U E N T S V S  
 H E I S M G V U L H M D W H U Z M X V A  
 D S D C A P D N M E N A P A U Q U S O F  
 R T R I P R P T O G X Y Q Z G R H C U M  
 A R M P O I W O R Y A A N O Y R I A S Z  
 E E S L L S U W E L T L N F D X U P W R  
 H N I E L C H H P N S C A D Q H W E H O  
 S G T S O I Y A E O U Y E T R E G E O M  
 A T P H S L L T R G S E P T I I T C B B  
 H H A C U L C T F N E U J P L A A D T M  
 C E B I V A I H E I H V D C B B F E R F  
 U N S O G J L E C W P V I I R R X D A I  
 M I N M H T B N T O E T O S K O P N I W  
 O N H R C M U K L N C B O R C X V U G R  
 S G O Y H S P T Y K M R E F Y J D O Y Z  
 H B J B A P T I S M O F J O H N C P R W  
 O S C R A D E P A R T E D I X N I X H L  
 X J J C O N V I N C E D M B W T E E P X  
 M D X K F U P C Q Y O I L F E R Z D R L

*[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]*

### Acts 18:23—19:20

departed, 18:23

Galatia, 18:23

Phrygia, 18:23

strengthening, 18:23

disciples, 18:23

Apollos, 18:24

Alexandria, 18:24

eloquent, 18:24

knowing only, 18:25

baptism of John, 18:25

Aquila, 18:26

Priscilla, 18:26

expounded, 18:26

more perfectly, 18:26

convinced, 18:28

publicly, 18:28

Ephesus, 19:1

so much as heard, 19:2

Unto what then, 19:3

John's baptism, 19:3