

PART 24: WORD-DRIVEN DISCIPLE MAKERS

ACTS 18:23--19:10

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SUMMARY

This section of Acts reinforces the importance of Word-driven disciple making and gives illustrations of what it looks like to teach and receive gospel-centered instruction.

I. PAUL: FOLLOWING UP WITH NEW CONGREGATIONS (18:23)

We don't know exactly how much time Paul spent back at his home congregation in Syrian Antioch. Luke wrote the account to give the sense of an immediate move on to Paul's next missionary journey.

Since Paul's first focus on this trip was strengthening all the disciples, he went back to the churches already founded on previous missionary works. This would include congregations in Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch.

II. AQUILA AND PRISCILLA: FILLING IN THE GAPS FOR APOLLOS (18:24-26)

As Paul did his work in Galatia and Phrygia, this man named Apollos came from Alexandria to Ephesus. By many measures, he was a remarkable man.

- He was an educated man.
- He knew the Scriptures.
- He had been instructed in the way of the Lord.
- He was fervent (bubbling over with enthusiasm).
- He spoke boldly about the things of the Lord.
- He was teachable.

It seems Apollos (like many in his day) was a missionary called by God alone, because we have no indication that he was sent or commissioned by any specific congregation or apostle.

Because Apollos knew of the work of John the Baptist, it is likely that he preached that the Messiah had come and we must repent and respond to Jesus, but he probably had little knowledge of the full person and work of Jesus Christ.

III. APOLLOS: HELPING BELIEVERS, REFUTING THE JEWS (18:27-28)

When Apollos went to the region of Achaia, it probably means he went to the city of Corinth in the region of Achaia.

IV. PAUL: EVANGELIZING THE EPHESIANS (19:1-10)

A. The Disciples of John (19:1-7)

Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus.

Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? Apparently, there was something about these disciples that prompted this question from Paul.

By their reply, these Ephesian disciples showed they didn't know much about God's nature as revealed in Jesus. They knew enough to be saved and to be students of Jesus (they were called disciples), but they didn't know much

about all Jesus did for us, especially in His promise to send the Holy Spirit when He ascended to heaven.

They could have received John's baptism from the hands of John himself; or perhaps from some of John's disciples who continued on in his ministry after John's death.

B. The synagogue (19:8-9a)

Paul went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months: Paul had an extended time of preaching in the synagogue, but eventually, the influence of the Jews who rejected the message drove him out.

C. The lecture hall of Tyrannus (19:9b-10)

He then resumed his teaching in the hall of a Gentile teacher named Tyrannus (reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus).

Paul did this daily, meaning every day. Considering his extended time in Ephesus, this meant many hundreds of hours of teaching. It is no wonder that the work in Ephesus was so broad and effective.

And this continued for two years: Paul carried this on for two years, and his effective teaching equipped believers, who got the word of God out to all who dwelt in Asia.

V. APPLICATION

In view of this passage, we need to ask ourselves...

- A. Like Paul did in the region of Galatia and Phrygia am I _____ fellow Christians with Jesus Christ?"
- B. Is my knowledge of God's Word sufficient for _____ of their need for Jesus Christ?
- C. Am I continuing to _____ of Jesus Christ?