



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 42 – Acts 18

People — Who is involved?

Paul - preaching the gospel in Corinth
Aquila and Priscilla – tentmakers from Rome
Silas and Timothy – come from Macedonia
Justus – lived next door to the synagogue
Crispus – ruler of synagogue
Apollos – Alexandrian at Ephesus

Places — Where does it happen?

Corinth – in Achaia, Greece
Ephesus – Paul on return trip to Antioch left
Aquila and Priscilla there.
Galatia, Phrygia and Ephesus – places where
Paul preached on 3rd journey.

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

Vs 1 – Corinth is located about forty miles west of Athens.

A synagogue has been excavated near the agora in Corinth. The city was fairly new (about 44 BC)
Population was about 200,000 at this time. The Isthmian games were held near Corinth.

Vs 2 – Although Jewish, Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers (perhaps leatherworkers) from Rome.

The decree to banish Jews from Rome appears to have been made by Claudius in AD 49.

Aquila came from Pontus, near the Black Sea. Priscilla is also called Prisca.

Vs 7 – Justus is identified in NU as Titius Justus. He was a God-fearing Greek, the last mentioned in Acts.

Vs 8 – Crispus is noted in 1 Cor. 1:14 as one whom Paul baptized.

Vs 10 – Notice three promises: I am with you; no one will hurt you, I have many people in this city.

Vs 11 – Paul remained at Corinth a year and a half.

Vs 12 – Gallio was proconsul. He was a son of the orator Seneca the Elder and brother of the Stoic philosopher Seneca the Younger. He was known to be anti-Jewish.

Vs 14 – The verdict is essentially that there is no wrong-doing or vicious or fraudulent crime.

Vs 15 - Gallio saw this as a dispute about the Jewish law including words and names.

Vs 17 – This Sosthenes may or may not be the same as in 1 Cor. 1:1. If he is the same person, he could have later obeyed the gospel because here he is simply “the ruler of the synagogue.” Some, however, think this is another name for Crispus (vs. 8) and that this is one person.

Vs 18 – Cenchrea was the Corinthian seaport seven miles to the southeast.

This vow may be Nazarite (Num. 6:1-21) or some other personal vow.

Vs 25 – Apollos’ teaching is incomplete and thus inadequate until he listens to Aquila and Priscilla.

Vs 26 - Notice the kind way in which they instruct Apollos, taking him aside.

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

1. There is a time to leave hostile critics and move on in the work of the Lord to others who listen.
2. There will also be those who are indifferent and do not wish to have anything to do with God’s people to help them.
3. The Gospel can be taught to honest hearts in a gentle and kind manner.