

Notes on Paul's Third Missionary Journey **Acts 18:22-19:41**

Acts 18:23 – The Third Missionary Journey – a return to strengthen churches already established

Revisiting churches of Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe

He established them on his first visit (13-14) and consolidated during his second (16:6)

Acts 18:24-28 – Apollos in Ephesus (18:24-28) while Paul returned to Antioch (18:21; 19:1)

Apollos from Alexandria (Egypt)

Learned/eloquent man, with thorough knowledge of the Scriptures (likely LXX)

He was instructed in the way of the Lord (i.e. Jesus)

He spoke with great fervor

He must have known about his death and resurrection??

He only knew the baptism of John

This is confusing – how did he know John's baptism without John's teaching?

He spoke boldly in the synagogue, but Priscilla and Aquila recognized that his understanding was defective and explained things more accurately to him

They helped him privately rather than embarrass him publicly?

Apollos wanted to go to Achaia (Greece - Corinth), so they encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him

He vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ

1 Cor 3:6 – I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow

Acts 19:1-41 – Paul in Ephesus (as he promised (18:21))

Acts 19:1b-7 – Paul and John the Baptist's followers

Paul finds disciples of John the Baptist, even less informed than Apollos: had not heard of the Holy Spirit, only received John's baptism

They were not yet Christians

He assumes that those who believe have received the Holy Spirit and those who have been baptized have received the Holy Spirit (cf. 2:38-39 repent and be baptized and you will receive the Holy Spirit)

Not that they hadn't heard of the Holy Spirit at all, since it's there in the OT, but that they hadn't yet heard if John's prophecies had been fulfilled

They were still living in the OT world, didn't know that a new age had been ushered in by Jesus. In this new age they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

They didn't know about Pentecost

So now they receive a mini-Pentecost, or Pentecost caught up on them, or they were caught up into it, its promised blessing became theirs

Acts 19:8-10 – Paul's ministry in both synagogue and lecture hall

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Went to the synagogue again (18:19) and spoke boldly for 3 months

Arguing persuasively

Jewish people rejected message, publicly maligned "the Way"

Went to a lecture hall and had discussions for two years

Dialogue evangelism

Acts 19:11-20 – Some power encounters

- Handkerchiefs and aprons from Paul brought to others and illnesses were cured and evil spirits left
 - These acts not magic like people were used to seeing
 - These are not miracles to copy, but prove Paul's credentials (2 Cor 12:12, Rom 15:19, cf. Luke 8:33-34)
 - Demon possession is distinguished from healing, thus exorcism is not the same as healing
- Jewish exorcists try to copy Paul, use the name of Jesus, but the evil spirits don't know these people!
 - The power of Jesus is not a mechanical power there for anyone to use
- Sorcerers brought their magic scrolls and burned them, worth about 50,000 drachmas (1 drachma = one day's wage)

Acts 19:21-22 – Paul's future plans

Paul decides to head to Jerusalem but VERY INDIRECTLY!! – passing through Macedonia and Achaia

Why? Heading back to these regions to pick up the offering for Jerusalem Acts 24:17, Rom. 15:25ff., 1 Cor. 16:1-8, 2 Cor. 8-9

But after Jerusalem, his sights are set on Rome

He sent ahead of him (to Macedonia) both Timothy and Erastus, while Paul stayed a little while longer in Ephesus

Acts 19:23-41 – Riots in Ephesus - A great disturbance about the Way

A silversmith named Demetrius – maker of silver shrines of Artemis – called together workmen in related trades

Paul's hurting our business \$\$

Demetrius didn't just play on their covetousness though, he inferred that their trade would lose its good name, the temple its prestige and their goddess her majesty

Most of the people didn't even know why they were there (19:32)!

The theater would hold at least 25,000 people

The Jews try to speak up – probably to distance themselves from Paul and company, but the people aren't interested in listening to a Jew!

Finally the city clerk is able to get things back under control: Nobody questions Artemis' greatness

If Demetrius has a problem, take it to court, don't start a mob