

# Survey of Acts - 08 (Acts 17-18)

## Paul's Second Journey Continues, Third Journey begins

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### INTRODUCTION

In **Acts 17:1** the narrative shifts from the first person to a third person account, “*when THEY had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica...*” This shows that Luke did not go with the group when they left Philippi. He will rejoin Paul later (**Acts 20:1-10**).

In Thessalonica, Paul reasoned with the Jews from Scripture, but his success made the Jews jealous. Forming a mob, they went to look for Paul at the house of a man named Jason. Not finding him, they took Jason and some others to the city leaders. Once a pledge (bond) was received, Jason and the other defendants were released.

Next, Paul went to Berea. In the synagogue he met Jews who “*...received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*” (**Acts 17:11**). As a result, many Jews along with prominent Greeks were converted. When Jews from Thessalonica came and began to cause problems, the brethren sent Paul away, with Timothy and Silas remaining behind.

Paul went to Athens and began reasoning with the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles in the synagogue as was his custom. He also taught in the market place. Paul’s new teaching brought him to the Areopagus <sup>(1)</sup> to present his ideas. Starting with the beliefs of the Athenians, Paul used the opportunity to present the Gospel message (**Acts 17:22-31**). A few believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris.

Paul moved on to Corinth and stayed for about 18 months (**Acts 18:11**). He met a couple named Priscilla and Aquila, Jews who had left Rome because of an edict by Claudius (**Acts 18:2**). F.F Bruce (pg. 298) <sup>(2)</sup> suggests that there is good evidence dating this expulsion of the Jews no later than AD 49. He also suggests that the rule of Gallio (**Acts 18:12**) began at or near AD 51. Other sources place it in AD 50, ending no later than about AD 54. This suggest Paul came to Corinth probably between AD 50-51. He worked as a tent-maker with Priscilla and Aquila and reasoned with the Jews every Sabbath in the synagogue. When the Jews began blaspheming and resisting, Paul went from the synagogue to the home of Titius Justus, who lived next to the synagogue. Among the converts was Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, along with his household.

The Jews brought Paul before the judgment seat of Gallio, Proconsul of Achaia, but he refused to hear their case. Sosthenes, the new leader of the synagogue (replacing Crispus), was beaten before the judgment seat. In **1 Corinthians 1:1**, Paul sent greetings from himself and “*Sosthenes our brother.*” The same man?

Paul left Corinth with Priscilla and Aquila, had his hair cut (as part of a vow) in Cenchrea, sailed to Ephesus, and then to Caesarea. From there, he “*went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.*” (**Acts 18:22**). “*Went up,*” implies he went to Jerusalem (**Matthew 20:17; John 7:8; 12:20**).

After spending some time in Antioch, Paul left on what would become his third missionary journey.

**Acts 18:24-28** introduces a man in Ephesus named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth. He was eloquent and mighty in the scriptures, but his knowledge was incomplete, knowing only the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and “*explained to him the way of God more accurately.*” (**Acts 18:26**). After this he went to Achaia. **Acts 19:1** tells us he spent time in Corinth.

(1) The Aeropagus, on Mars (Ares) Hill, was the place of the Athens city council. An Aeropagite was a member of the council.

(2) Bruce, F.F; *New Testament History*; Doubleday, NY, NY; 1969

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**QUESTIONS**

**1. At Thessalonica and Berea (Acts 17:1-15)**

- 1.1 What was Paul's custom when he came to a new city?
  
- 1.2 List three accusations made against Paul in Thessalonica?
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  
- 1.3 How were the Jews in Berea more noble-minded?
  
- 1.4 What was the difference between the results in Thessalonica and Berea?
  
- 1.5 Why did Paul have to leave Berea?

**2. At Athens (Acts 17:22-34)**

- 2.1 How did being in Athens affect Paul?
  
- 2.2 How does Paul's sermon in **Acts 17:22-31** differ from the one in **Acts 13:16-41**?
  
- 2.3 List six points Paul makes in his sermon at the Aeropagus.
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
  - 5)
  - 6)

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2.4 Why does God want all people to repent?

2.5 Through whom will God judge the world? How has He proven this?

1)

2)

### **3. At Corinth; Return to Antioch (Acts 18:1-22)**

3.1 Who did Paul meet when he came to Corinth? What did they have in common?

1)

2)

3.2 According to **Acts 18:8**, what was the result of Paul's preaching? What did the Corinthians do?

1)

2)

3.3 What does **Acts 18:9** tell us about Paul? About God?

1)

2)

3.4 How long did Paul stay in Corinth?

3.5 What accusation did the Jews bring against Paul? Why wouldn't Gallio listen to them?

1)

2)

3.6 Who was Sosthenes? What happened to him in **Acts 18:17**? What does **1 Corinthians 1:1** suggest?

1)

2)

3)

3.7 Who went with Paul when he left Corinth? Where did Paul leave them?

1)

2)

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3.8 Why did Paul cut his hair in Cenchrea?

3.9 List the cities Paul Passed through on his way back to Antioch

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

**4. The Third Journey begins; Apollos in Ephesus (Acts 18:23-28)**

4.1 As Paul began his third journey, what regions did he pass through?

- 1)
- 2)

4.2 What did he do in these regions?

4.3 List two things we learn about Apollos from **Acts 18:24**.

- 1)
- 2)

4.4 What area of Scripture was Apollos wrong about?

4.5 What did Priscilla and Aquila teach Apollos?

4.6 Where did Apollos go after he left Ephesus?

4.7 What can we learn from the account of Apollos in **Acts 18:24-26**?