

ACTS 18:23-19:7 PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY: THE FOCUS, EPHESUS

Luke only summarizes the end of the second missionary journey of Paul and the beginning of the third. At the end of the second, Paul leaves Priscilla and Aquila and, most likely, Timothy in Ephesus (18:18-21). The beginning of the third journey is covered in one sentence despite the fact that its initiation covered _____ miles with stops at numerous churches (18:23). The emphasis of the third journey is Paul's stay in Ephesus which lasted three years.

18:24-28 Apollos to Ephesus (Precedes Paul)

In the next two paragraphs, Luke focuses on some men who had been baptized by John the Baptist. The first, Apollos, who had heard enough from John to be saved, then baptized; hence when hearing more of God's way did not have to be re-baptized. The second, twelve who did not hear enough from John to be saved; hence had to be re-baptized after they believed.

v. 24, 25 Apollos to Ephesus: his background

- a Jew, born in _____ (Egypt), the literary/educational rival of Athens. The LXX version of the Old Testament originated here.
- an "eloquent" man; *logios*, meaning "articulate," "polished," "learned"
- one "mighty" (*dunatos*) in the Scriptures; not superficial
- one "instructed in the way of the Lord;" not a neophyte
- one who taught diligently, **accurately** (*ακριβως* / *akribos*) what he knew of Jesus
- one who knew only the baptism of John; he needed instruction here

v. 26 Apollos still needed instruction

- _____ and _____ provided it
"They welcomed, warmly received him" (probably into their home)
"They explained, expounded more accurately" the way of God.
Note the play on the word "accurately" in vrs. 25 & 26.
- Priscilla and Aquila worked at synagogal communication (like Paul).
- Note that Apollos does not get re-baptized.

v. 27, 27 Apollos to Corinth

- "*Achaia*" = _____; he ministers in _____. I Cor. 1:12; 3:4-6.
- "*he helped them much which had believed.*" How? Verse 28 explains, Apollos reaffirmed what Paul had taught. He had a ministry of REAFFIRMATION. Maybe you do, too!

19:1-12 Paul to Ephesus: Clarifies the Gospel to John's Disciples

v. 1 EPHESUS

- greatest commercial center in Asia Minor at this time
- terminus of several trade routes: harbor to Aegean Sea
- capital of the Roman province of _____: a "free" city
- home of a very large Jewish population
- site of the Temple of _____ (Diana): wonder of ancient world
- became a center of evangelism under Paul (and a great church)

(OVER)

v. 2 “*Did you receive the Holy Spirit _____ you believed ?*” The aorist tenses (both the verb and the participle) demand that the actions be contemporaneous.

ANSWER: “**We have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.**”

PROBLEM: John the Baptist clearly taught about the Holy Spirit, Matthew 3:11.

SOLUTION: They had not heard enough, not all that John taught.

v. 3 “*Unto what were you baptized?*” That is, what was the object of your faith that prompted you to be baptized?

ANSWER: “Unto John’s baptism,” that is, the type of baptism John administered; most likely performed by a follower of John the Baptist. The question has now progressed from “when?” to “what?” they believed.

v. 4 Paul clarifies the issues:

- 1) John’s was a _____-type baptism
- 2) John more fully taught belief on _____ who would come after him (this was news to them).
- 3) Paul clarified the significance of belief in Jesus, the Messiah.

v. 5 Response to the clarified message: they are re-baptized. WHY? Because they now had heard and believed the Gospel.

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHERE SOMEONE IS RE-BAPTIZED.

v. 6 **NOTE:** The Holy Spirit came on (the preposition is *επι/επι*) them, not into them. He came into them the moment they believed the Gospel. Their speaking in tongues, etc., confirmed to all involved (ethnic Jews) that Paul’s message was from God.

v. 7 Their number was “_____:” small beginnings for a great church. Timothy will minister in Ephesus followed by the Apostle John.

PAUL SPENDS AT LEAST THREE YEARS IN EPHESUS SO THAT ALL IN THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF ASIA HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD JESUS! CHURCHES THAT YOU READ ABOUT IN REVELATION 2 & 3 ARE BEGUN AT THIS TIME (EPHESUS, SMRYNA, PERGAMOS, THYATIRA, SARDIS, PHILADELPHIA, LAODICEA). LOCAL CHURCHES ARE THE SPONTANEOUS OUTGROWTH OF TRUE EVANGELISM! THE LOCAL CHURCH IS THE ONLY INSTITUTION OF GOD DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR MAXIMUM GROWTH OF THE BELIEVER. GET WITH IT!