

Big Tent, Small World

Session Fourteen

Athens is an intellectual center. Corinth is a _____ center, a world-famous emporium. Ephesus is best known as a _____ center, having three shrines dedicated to the imperial cult (worship of Roman emperors) and of course, the temple of Artemis (Diana), one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Paul spends about _____ years in Corinth (see Acts 18:11, 18).

Examine the geography of the Corinthian isthmus. What was to the north, south, east, west?

Corinth was a city of seafarers, of maritime merchants, and it is hardly surprising that Poseidon, the Greek god of the _____, whom the Romans called Neptune, was worshipped there” (294).

“Paul must have seen its strategic importance. If trade could radiate from Corinth in all directions, so could the gospel” (294).

Acts 18:1-18a

Why had the Roman Emperor Claudius (AD 41-54) ordered all Jews to leave Rome?

What is Aquila and Priscilla’s profession (v. 3)?

What success does Paul experience in his ministry (v. 7-8)?

“I have many people in this city” (v. 10). In the vision, what does Jesus tell Paul to do and what does He promise?

Can you think of an occasion when God gave you a special word or message of encouragement? Do share!

Gallio was proconsul of Achaia from AD 51-52. “Gallio is the brother of Seneca, the philosopher, who was the tutor of Nero” (CSSB, 1692). How would you describe his character based on his actions?

Acts 18:18b-27

The “Cenchrean Crew Cut”. “It was probably a temporary Nazirite vow (Numbers 6:1-21). Different vows were frequently taken to express thanks for deliverance from grave dangers. Shaving the head marked the _____ of a vow” (CSSB, 1694).

“If the vow was completed away from Jerusalem, the hair could still be brought there and burned” (301).

Paul leaves Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus. The people there had desired for Paul to stay longer, but he sails on to Caesarea, the chief port of Palestine. (The people get their wish. Paul will return to Ephesus on his third MJ and stay there for _____ years!)

“If it is God’s will...” Note how Paul lets God set the itinerary. Earlier, the spirit of Jesus had prevented Paul from going where he wanted to go (Mysia and Bythina, Acts 16:7).

Where is Paul going up to and down from in v. 22?

Acts 18:22 marks the end of Paul’s second missionary journey, AD 50-54. The third MJ (AD 54-58) begins in (Syrian) Antioch in 18:23 and concludes in 21:15).

From where does Apollos come? What do we know about him?

(Luther was the first to propose that Apollos was the author of _____.)

Alexandria (Egypt) was where the Septuagint (the Greek version of the Old Testament) was written 200 years before Christ. There was a large Jewish community there at the time.

Where does Apollos go? How does Paul express appreciation for his ministry? See 1 Cor. 3:6.

How does the efficacy of Apollos’ ministry speak to necessity for leaders to raise up other leaders—sometimes even indirectly? Are we doing a good job of leadership multiplication? How could it improve?

Thoughts, comments, questions...