

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series*

Acts of the Apostles

### **"Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Accomplished"**

Acts 18:18-28

[18] So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. [19] And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. [20] When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, [21] but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus. [22] And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. [23] After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples. [24] Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. [25] This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. [26] So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. [27] And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; [28] for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Paul took Priscilla and Aquila with him. Why would he choose them? How do you choose your friends?
2. Paul made a vow and it was customary to not get a haircut until the vow has been completed (Numbers 6:1-8).
  - How serious were vows made?
  - Have you made any vows (promises/commitment) to the Lord, and how seriously do you take it? Do you fulfill them?
  - How do broken vows impact your relationships with the Lord and others it may involve?
  - Are there any vows you should not make?
3. Paul was finally able to preach in Ephesus which he previously desired two years ago (Acts 16:6). Although his desire was honoring and not sinful, he yielded to the Holy Spirit to not preach.
  - How important is God's timing in making decisions?
  - Have you ever wanted to do a "good" thing but did not discern the proper timing from the Lord and yielded to your desires instead? How did that work out?
  - What can help you discern His perfect timing?
4. Now that Paul finally was able to preach, why did he stay only for a short while?
5. What have you learned in the passages and how can you apply them to your life?