



“Life Lived
in & by
The Spirit”



Acts 18:18-28



THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL
 ACTS 15:36-18:32

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Via Egnatia
- ⌋ Pass
- ← Route of Paul and Silas

Jerusalem Conference, A.D. 49, (Acts 15:1-30; Gal 2:1-21)



“Life Lived in & by The Spirit” -Acts 18:18-28



I. In Our Plans & Travels – v.18-23a



“Life Lived in & by The Spirit” -Acts 18:18-28



I. In Our Plans & Travels – v.18-23a

1. It naturally involves people



“Life Lived in & by The Spirit” -Acts 18:18-28



I. In Our Plans & Travels – v.18-23a

1. It naturally involves people
2. It involves commitments to keep





Rome

Philippi

Athens
Corinth

Ephesus

Province
of Asia

Antioch

Mediterranean Sea

Caesarea
Jerusalem

“Life Lived in & by The Spirit” -Acts 18:18-28



I. In Our Plans & Travels – v.18-23a

1. It naturally involves people
2. It involves commitments to keep
3. It involves dependence on Sovereign God

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I. In Our Plans & Travels – v.18-23a

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II. In Growing to Be Mature & Useful – v.23b-28

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2. It involves commitments to keep
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II. In Growing to Be Mature & Useful – v.23b-28

1. We need to be strengthened

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II. In Growing to Be Mature & Useful – v.23b-28

1. We need to be strengthened
2. We need to be taught



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I. In Our Plans & Travels – v.18-23a

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II. In Growing to Be Mature & Useful – v.23b-28

1. We need to be strengthened
2. We need to be taught
3. We need to be useful – where we are

Glimpses of Life Lived In and By the Spirit

Acts 18:18-28, Sunday AM, September 25, 2022

Prelude – Scripture: Acts 18:12–28 But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat, ¹³ saying, “This man persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.” ¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me to put up with you; ¹⁵ but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.” ¹⁶ And he drove them away from the judgment seat. ¹⁷ And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and *began* beating him in front of the judgment seat. But Gallio was not concerned about any of these things. ¹⁸ Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow. ¹⁹ They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, ²¹ but taking leave of them and saying, “I will return to you again if God wills,” he set sail from Ephesus. ²² When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch. ²³ And having spent some time *there*, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. ²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; ²⁶ and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace, ²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Corinth. What a breath of fresh air to begin our time with Priscilla and Aquila and see true fellowship of the saints. When WE look for relationships, we often look for ones who enjoy what we enjoy and do what we do. Unfortunately, for many professing Christians, our joys and mission often lie outside the work of the kingdom. We are often tied by our entertainment choices, our food choices, our personalities, and our season in life. Yet Paul was tied with Priscilla and Aquila by holy sweat—tentmakers by trade and co-workers in the gospel. Having a shared identity in the gospel gave added grace for what we’ve come to expect from Paul giving the gospel—conflict. The Jews resisted and blasphemed the God of the gospel and Paul turned to the Gentiles, buoyed by the promise of security from God. **“Do not be afraid *any longer*, but go on speaking and do not be silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”** Paul stays for 18 months teaching the word of God, but last week, the Jews accusations led to Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue being beaten. While it seems that Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia didn’t side against Paul, it also sounded like he didn’t defend Sosthenes. Where is justice? Where is God’s protection? As we look today at life lived in the Spirit, notice the eternal nature of God’s kingdom and thus, an eternal aspect to God’s protection. Suffering and injustice are part of kingdom living here. Acknowledge the devastation of sin, hate it, but look farther for true righteousness. Paul’s gaze fixed on an eternal God gave him the ability to live in faithful service to God here on earth. Do you have this eternal gaze? As Paul Tripp noted quoting CS Lewis, “It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this one. Aim at heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’: aim at earth and you will get neither.” (Quest for More) To faithfully serve God here on earth, you must recognize the treasure of the gospel. Church, sing this old song celebrating the treasure of the gospel.

***Hymn #532: O Happy Day!**

Our passage continues with Paul living and giving the gospel. Would you expect any different? Don’t let the fact that Paul has long died and been with the Lord keep you from being encouraged by his faithfulness to the gospel. His faithfulness was refreshing because it did not come from him, but from a faithful God. From the decision to make and keep a vow that including cutting his hair to the individual care needed for the work of strengthening all the disciples, his work showed dependence on the strength and direction he received from the Lord. And so it must be for you and I. The strength and perseverance needed to be faithful amidst perplexing choices and infinite needs comes from a gaze fixed on a very present, but eternal God. God is faithful. Fix your hope on Him, and you too will be faithful.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): My Hope Rests Firm *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: There is No Other Name Scripture: Proverbs**

3:1–26 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; ² For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you. ³ Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man. ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him. And He will make your paths straight. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your body And refreshment to your bones. ⁹ Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; ¹⁰ So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine. ¹¹ My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof, ¹² For whom the LORD loves He reproves, Even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights. ¹³ How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding. ¹⁴ For her profit is better than the profit of silver And her gain better than fine gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her. ¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor. ¹⁷ Her ways are pleasant ways And all her paths are peace. ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who hold her fast. ¹⁹ The LORD by wisdom founded the earth, By understanding He established the heavens. ²⁰ By His knowledge the deeps were broken up And the skies drip with dew. ²¹ My son, let them not vanish from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion. ²² So they will be life to your soul And adornment to your neck. ²³ Then you will walk in your way securely And your foot will not stumble. ²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. ²⁵ Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; ²⁶ For the LORD will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught.

Offering: *Doxology:

We conclude our passage with Apollos—one easy to envy. He was instructed in the Scriptures, fervent in spirit, and one who accurately taught Christ, powerfully refuting the Jews in public. However, when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside to teach him the way of God more accurately. And here in Apollos, we see an example of a Proverbs 3 attitude—one welcoming correction and instruction. No matter how “successful” or content you are, you are always a sheep, always under, and always in need of accountability and instruction. Security in God’s transcendence and providence lead to a life of dependence, patient with God’s timing and will. Sing this truth based on Isaiah 40:31.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Teach Me Lord to Wait**

Teaching or being taught, quiet in prayer or publicly living and giving the gospel, all are lived with Christ our source, motive, glory, and hope (paraphrase of Tripp, Quest for More). What does this practically mean? You live constantly aware of your relationship with God and your responsibility to represent Him and find all you need to do this in Christ. Look for this perspective in both the sermon and this hymn. May it also be yours.

***Hymn #160 (Red): Channels Only**

Message: Glimpses of Life Lived in and by the Spirit Acts 18:18-28 *Hymn #295 (Red): He Leadeth Me Prayer