

A photograph of a winter forest. The scene is filled with trees covered in a thick layer of snow. In the foreground, several evergreen trees are heavily laden with snow, their branches drooping under the weight. Behind them, taller, thinner trees with bare branches stand against a bright, overcast sky. The ground is a smooth, white expanse of snow. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

Acts *of the apostles*

PART EIGHT

WOMEN'S *Bible* STUDY
— CALVARY CHAPEL SOUTHEAST —

But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

Welcome!

Welcome back ladies!

After a long break, I am looking forward to diving back into Acts again with you all. As we head into the last half of our study, we get to look at Paul's 3rd missionary journey and wrap up the book of Acts. Paul is the key character in these stories, but as we've seen throughout the book, the Holy Spirit leads him through and through. How else could Paul be sustained and continue on, but with the encouragement and help of the Holy Spirit?

I am amazed at how Paul endures through discouragement, opposition and rejection. Over and over we have seen little glimpses of what Paul receives from the Lord to encourage him to keep going. God did not have to give Paul encouragement, but He knew what Paul needed in those moments.

God has not changed. He is much like this with us. We may feel discouraged, beat down or rejected by people or the struggles of our life. God is faithful in the people He places around us, and in His Word- to bring us the encouragement we need, right when He knows we need it. We find this encouragement when we seek Him for it.

As we walk through these stories, let us seek the Lord in our own life. May our prayer be like the Psalmist,

"I have called upon You, for You will answer me, O God;
Incline Your ear to me, hear my speech.
Wondrously show your lovingkindness,
O Savior of those who rise up against them."
Psalm 17:6-7a

My prayer is we will find Him faithful to meet us just as we will see Him meet Paul.

In Christ, Angela Brown



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Using This Packet

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BIBLE STUDY

As you go through this Bible Study packet, it is the heart of CCSE Women's Ministry that the focus and purpose of study is to really understand and engage with the Word of God. We believe that 2 Timothy 3:16 is true, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness." This packet it is a tool to help you dig deeper and internalize scripture, so we can look more and more like Jesus every day.

Acts is a narrative book, it is the retelling of history through stories. So the way we study it is going to look a bit different. Our goal is to find the spiritual truths in each story and discover how they apply to our lives in a personal way.

Here are some steps to get the most out of this Bible Study:

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal His truth to you through the Word.
2. Read through the full week's passage, more than once. The more familiar you are with your passages, the more you will glean from the week's study.
3. Engage with the scripture, take notes in this packet or even in your physical bible. Underline or circle the things that capture your attention or cause you to ask more questions.
4. Write down any questions you have about the verses. You can bring these questions to discuss with your Bible study group.
5. Answer the questions in the packet to share with your group.

What to Expect

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY MORNING 9:45AM—12:00PM

Fellowship
Worship
Teaching
Small Group Discussion

THURSDAY EVENING 6:30—8:30PM

Fellowship
Teaching
Small Group Discussion

January 18
January 25
February 1
February 8
February 15

ACTS 18:1-22
ACTS 18:23-19:10
ACTS 19:11-41
ACTS 20:1-38
BREAK

Discussion Guidelines

Here are some things to keep in mind as we gather in groups:

- Your participation is an encouragement to others
- Be in prayer for others and your studies
- Try to share-
 - Respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit
- Be others minded-
 - Don't monopolize the conversations, share time
- Confidential-
 - What is shared in the group stays with those in the group
- Keep your focus-
 - Build conversations around the study and teachings
- Please be on time-
 - Start and finish promptly, think of others serving
- Enjoy sweet fellowship





Teaching Notes | Week 1



1 After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, 3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. 4 And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

5 But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. 6 But when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” 7 Then he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God, whose house was next to the synagogue. 8 Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. 9 And the Lord said to Paul in the night by a vision, “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.” 11 And he settled there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

12 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.

Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Day 01

Get to know the passage

01 Read the passage several times.

02 Who is in this passage and where are they?

03 Look for any words in the passage that you would like to clarify or understand on a deeper level. Use a dictionary or concordance and write the words and their definitions below.

04 List any repeated words and ideas.

05 If you were going to give this passage a title, what would it be?



WEEK 01 Psalm 103 Memorization

Each week during this year's Bible study, we want to memorize a verse from Psalm 103, adding a verse each week and culminating with the whole Psalm by the end of the year.

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
- 3 Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.
- 6 The Lord performs righteous deeds
And judgments for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known His ways to Moses,
His acts to the sons of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
- 9 He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.

Day 02

01 In verse 1, after what “things” is the passage referring to?

02 Who is Priscilla and Aquila and what do we know about them? (Feel free to use a concordance.) What do they have in common with Paul?

Day 02

03 What was Paul doing every Sabbath?

04 Why is Paul able to devote his time completely to the word now that Silas and Timothy are there? What can this mean in our own life when it comes to working with others in the church?

CORINTH: GREEK, ROMAN AND CHRISTIAN

Corinth was one of the great city states of ancient Greece. It had a powerful army and navy, and sent out many citizens who founded important colonies throughout the Mediterranean. Much of Corinthian power and influence was due to its geography. It is located just south of a narrow isthmus that is 20 miles long and 3 to 6 miles wide that divides central Greece from southern Greece. This isthmus also divides two bodies of water: the Saronic Gulf in the east from the Gulf of Corinth in the west. The Corinthians built two ports: one on the east of the isthmus called Cenchrea, which connected it to the eastern Mediterranean and one on the west called Lechaion, which connected it with the western Mediterranean. This meant that Corinth controlled all trade and land travel in Greece from north to south and all sea travel from east to west. The result was that Corinth became extremely wealthy and an important city in the Greek world.

In addition, Corinth was famous as a religious capital due its great cult center devoted to the worship of Aphrodites, the goddess of love and beauty. Her famous temple was situated on the Acro-Corinth, an 1,800-foot rock that overlooked the city. Here there were over 1,000 temple prostitutes who served the goddess, the city, and travelers thus giving the city a reputation for licentiousness.

Corinth was also famous as an athletic center. It had a great influence on two of the famous four Panhellenic games in Greece. The Isthmian games which were held 6 miles away every two years in honor of the god Poseidon, the god of the sea, and the Nemean games which were held 20 miles away every two years in honor of Zeus.

However, Corinth lost her independence due to a rebellion against the eastward expanding might of Rome in 146 BC. It was destroyed and leveled by the Roman general Mummius, and remained uninhabited for a hundred years until Julius Caesar consecrated it as a Roman colony in 46 BC. The Romans made Corinth the political capital of the new province of Achaea which included most of Greece, and thus it resumed its place of importance. It was this new Roman era for Corinth that served as backdrop to the Apostle Paul's establishment of Corinthian church in 50 AD on his second missionary journey.

Brandon Beaty



Day 03

01 Once again Paul is facing accusations being brought before the judgment seat. What was the charge and how did Gallio respond?

02 Who is Sosthenes and why did the crowd turn on him?

03 Paul departs Corinth in verse 18. Where did he go and who went with him?

Day 03

04 What is the significance of Paul's hair cut? (vs. 18) Why do you think this was mentioned? (Numbers 6)

05 Why do you think Paul left Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus? How is this an example of discipleship?

Day 04

01 In Acts we have seen a recurring theme of the importance of Christian fellowship. How do we see that reinforced in this week's passage? (vs.10-11)

02 What active role do you take in encouraging other believers?

Day 04

03 Is there something the Lord has called you to do that causes you fear?
How does this passage reassure you to walk where God has called you?

04 What stands out to you most in this week's passage? Why?



Devotion

Hardship upon hardship...stoned at Lystra, beaten with rods, jailed in Philippi, attacked by an unruly mob in Thessalonica, mocked in Athens, and reviled in Corinth. What's not to be afraid of in those situations?

It seems that at every corner Paul was either verbally or physically attacked, but it did not stop him. He kept preaching and teaching God's word and now his journey has taken him to Corinth. Paul to me seems unstoppable and unfazed by the persecution he faces in an almost superhuman response. But we see a glimpse of his inner man as Jesus visits him in a vision and tells him, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." Acts 18:9, 10

What? Unstoppable Paul, afraid? The implication behind the Lord's words is that Paul is indeed fearful of what is ahead of him. Not superhuman, but just a man who needed the encouragement of his God that he was not alone, and that he could endure what was before him. That vision empowered Paul to keep following the path before him with the promise that God has been giving his people long before he said it to Paul.

Do not fear.

I am with you.

What an awesome reminder. I can easily be driven by my fears of the known, the unknown and the what-ifs of life. While I will never face the hardships of Paul, God knows and sees me just the same, and He is with me just like He was with Paul. So, what is there to fear? It is time to press into Jesus and press on with His word.

The word tells us that the presence of God chases fear away, for when He is near, so is His love, and "perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:18
Remember sisters, do not fear. God is with you.

Jackie Sena





Prayer

This is a page where you have an opportunity to write a prayer. It could be about what stood out to you this week, and/or how you want the Lord to help you apply this week's lessons to your life. This is confidential and between you and the Lord.





Teaching Notes | Week 2



23 And having spent some time there (in Antioch), 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.

19 It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. 7 There were in all about twelve men.

8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. 10 This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

WEEK 02

Acts 18:23-19:10

Day 01

Get to know the passage

01 Read the passage several times.

02 Who is in this passage and where are they?

03 Look for any words in the passage that you would like to clarify or understand on a deeper level. Use a dictionary or concordance and write the words and their definitions below.

04 List any repeated words and ideas.

05 If you were going to give this passage a title, what would it be?

WEEK 02 Psalm 103 Memorization

Each week during this year's Bible study, we want to memorize a verse from Psalm 103, adding a verse each week and culminating with the whole Psalm by the end of the year.

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And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
- 3 Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.
- 6 The Lord performs righteous deeds
And judgments for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known His ways to Moses,
His acts to the sons of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
- 9 He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Day 02

01 Who is Apollos, and what do we know about him?

02 What would Apollos have taught knowing only the baptism of John? What truths do you think Priscilla and Aquila explained to him and how did that impact his ministry?

Day 02

03 Apollos shared his desire to go to Achaia (the region of Corinth). How did the believers respond? In Achais, who did Apollos greatly help and how?

04 What did Apollo use when explaining that Jesus was the Christ? (vs. 28) When you have opportunities to tell others about Jesus, why would it be important to use the Bible in your conversation?

APOLLOS: MIGHTY IN THE SCRIPTURES

Luke, in Acts 18, introduces us to an Alexandrian Jew with the Greek name, Apollos, who was “mighty in the Scriptures.” KJV

Apollos was from Alexandria, a Hellenistic city, on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt, founded by Alexander the Great, in 331 BC. It grew to become a chief city of the Greco/Roman world second only to Rome, and the leading intellectual center due to its hundreds of classical scholars, immense library and famous museum.

There was a very large number of Hellenized Jews in Alexandria who had migrated from Israel in the 3rd century BC. They became very powerful and influential, and were responsible for translating the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek in the 3rd century BC. It became known as the Septuagint, which is Latin for 70. The name comes from the tradition that 70 Jewish rabbis went into separate rooms translated the Bible into Greek, and all came out with the exact same translation. This is the Bible that the early Christian church read, as Greek had become the international language of the Mediterranean world. So, it was in this Hellenistic Jewish setting that Apollos would have learned the Scriptures.

Luke doesn't tell us how and when Apollos became a follower of Jesus but he does say Apollos had traveled to Ephesus, preaching only the baptism of John the Baptist, and there he meets Priscilla and Aquila, Paul's fellow missionaries. They then took him aside and explained the teaching of Jesus more fully. After that instruction, he became a fervent and eloquent apologist, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the promised Messiah.

After teaching in Ephesus, he traveled to Corinth where he was of great help to the disciples there, so much so that Paul says in I Corinthians 3:6: “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.” Apollos is again mentioned by Paul in Titus 3:13, ministering on the island of Crete with Zenas the Lawyer.

As we study the book of Acts, we should become mindful of desiring the reputation of this astounding teacher, who was known for being “mighty in the Scriptures.”

Brandon Beaty



Day 03

01 When Paul asked the disciples at Ephesus whether or not they had received the Holy Spirit, what was their answer?

02 Is there salvation in the baptism of John ? Why or why not?

03 What did Paul tell the disciples at Ephesus about John's baptism? In whom did Paul tell the disciples at Ephesus that they should believe in, and what did they believe?

Day 03

04 After the disciples believed in Jesus, Paul laid hands on them and what happened to them? Why?

05 What are things God uses in your life to encourage you when you experience opposition to your faith?

WEEK 02

Day 04

Acts 18:23-19:10

Challenge yourself

01 Where else in Acts have we seen tongues being spoken?

02 Is speaking in tongues proof of salvation? Explain

WEEK 02

Day 04

Acts 18:23-19:10

Challenge yourself

03 What is the difference in the baptism of John versus the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Compare John's baptism with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why was it necessary for the believers that Paul met in Ephesus to be baptized with the Holy Spirit?

04 Read 1 Corinthians 3:6. According to Paul, what was Apollos' ministry in Corinth? Do you find yourself planting seeds with people or watering them? Both? How does that look in your life?



Devotion

We need to be moldable and teachable. Have you ever met someone who was full of themselves? Someone who thought they knew everything? I know I speak for myself, but I do not like being around people who always have to be right, or never can learn from others. As a mom to a four-year-old, he is in the stage where he says "I know mom, I'm four," and believes he just knows it all. At his age, being so young, he is such a sponge learning new things every day. He is moldable and teachable, but he does need guidance and teaching, because though he says that he knows because he's four, he is still learning and being filled with new knowledge daily.

In this passage, we meet Apollos, a Jew from Alexandria, who knew the ways of Jesus and taught it. We see that he teaches these words to those who will listen. But what we also know and see is that he does not know beyond the Baptism of John, which means he hasn't heard yet about the Holy Spirit and doesn't have the Holy Spirit guiding his life. His knowledge was incomplete.

Priscilla and Aquila are quick to bring him aside and teach him, and the part that really spoke to me was that Apollos listened and took it to heart. He did not act like a prideful man who knew everything, but instead, he was a man who was teachable and was excited to hear more about Jesus Christ.

I pray that we all look at our hearts and see if we have anything that we are prideful about. Are we still teachable? Young and old, we can always learn more about Jesus and who He is. May we walk in the grace of Jesus and be molded more and more like Him.

Joey Dobbie





Prayer

This is a page where you have an opportunity to write a prayer. It could be about what stood out to you this week, and/or how you want the Lord to help you apply this week's lessons to your life. This is confidential and between you and the Lord.







Teaching Notes | Week 3



11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

13 But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, “I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.” 14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” 16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

17 This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified. 18 Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. 19 And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.

21 Now after these things were finished, Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem after he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, saying, “After I have been there, I must also see Rome.” 22 And having sent into Macedonia two of those who ministered to him, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

23 About that time there occurred no small disturbance concerning the Way. 24 For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, was bringing no little business to the craftsmen; 25 these he gathered together with the workmen of similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that our prosperity depends upon this business. 26 You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable number of people, saying that gods made with hands are no gods at all.

27 Not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be regarded as worthless and that she whom all of Asia and the world worship will even be dethroned from her magnificence.”

28 When they heard this and were filled with rage, they began crying out, saying, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 The city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed with one accord into the theater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia. 30 And when Paul wanted to go into the assembly, the disciples would not let him. 31 Also some of the Asiarchs who were friends of his sent to him and repeatedly urged him not to venture into the theater. 32 So then, some were shouting one thing and some another, for the assembly was in confusion and the majority did not know for what reason they had come together. 33 Some of the crowd concluded it was Alexander, since the Jews had put him forward; and having motioned with his hand, Alexander was intending to make a defense to the assembly. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, a single outcry arose from them all as they shouted for about two hours, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 35 After quieting the crowd, the town clerk said, “Men of Ephesus, what man is there after all who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of the image which fell down from heaven? 36 So, since these are undeniable facts, you ought to keep calm and to do nothing rash. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of our goddess. 38 So then, if Demetrius and the craftsmen who are with him have a complaint against any man, the courts are in session and proconsuls are available; let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you want anything beyond this, it shall be settled in the lawful assembly. 40 For indeed we are in danger of being accused of a riot in connection with today’s events, since there is no real cause for it, and in this connection we will be unable to account for this disorderly gathering.” 41 After saying this he dismissed the assembly.

01 Read the passage several times.

02 Who is in this passage and where are they?

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His acts to the sons of Israel.
8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
9 He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.



Day 02

01 What does “extraordinary miracles” mean? Is it redundant?

02 What was the purpose of God using miracles?

03 Whose faith brought healing? Paul’s, or the people who were healed?

Day 02

04 What does “adure” mean? (vs.13) By what authority were they exorcizing demons?

05 What significance does the name of Jesus have? What significance has the name of Jesus had in your own life?

ARTEMIS: THE DETHRONED GODDESS

In Greek mythology, Artemis, who is mentioned in Acts 19, was the goddess of the hunt and nature. She was the twin sister of the Greek god of prophecy and music Apollo, and they were born on the sacred Greek island of Delos in the Aegean Sea. She was the daughter of Zeus and the goddess Leto, one of his many consorts; a member of the twelve Greek Gods who ruled on Mt. Olympus. She was a virgin goddess portrayed with a bow and arrow and a deer by her side, and was the protectress of wild nature. Even though she was considered a virgin, she was also the goddess of childbirth and midwifery. Her statue is represented with multiple breasts and in essence, was a fertility cult with a strong sexual element.

Pausanias, an ancient geographer and traveler, said that, “The cult was the most widely followed in the ancient world with some 33 places of worship sites from Spain to Syria.” Her attendants were priests, virgins, eunuchs and temple prostitutes. The temple precinct was made extremely rich from the sale of small silver shrines that were copies of her temple and her cult statue, and from the multitudes that visited it on pilgrimage.

Artemis’ temple at Ephesus was extremely large at 425 feet by 225 feet, with 127 columns at 60 feet high, four times larger than the Parthenon on the acropolis in Athens. Today, only one column remains. It was described by the 2nd century BC Greek writer and poet, Antipater of Sidon, in his famous list of the World’s Seven Wonders.

Paul's gospel message came into conflict with those whose living was derived from making shrines for the temple of Artemis/Diana. They were threatened because so many Ephesians were embracing the gospel and turning from the worship of their goddess. As a result, they rioted in the great theater in Ephesus due to Paul’s effective message. However, Paul declares, in First Corinthians 10:20, “...that what the pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God.” This reaction by the crowd is further evidence of the power of the gospel, and the spiritual warfare that ensues, wherever it is preached.

Brandon Beaty



Day 03

01 Look up Acts 3:6-8, 14:8-10, and 16:18. What is the difference between the authority that the apostles displayed, and the authority that the Jewish exorcists displayed?

02 With authority comes the choice of obedience or disobedience. John 14:15, “Jesus said, If you love me, you will obey me.” Where is your greatest struggle of obedience to the Lord, and how has the Holy Spirit enabled you to walk in obedience?

03 Vs. 20 says, “So the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.” What would it take to see the Word of God prevail in our culture?

Day 03

04 What does “purposed in the Spirit” mean in vs. 21?

05 What are the “gods” made by human hands, or ideas that are worshiped now?

WEEK 03

Acts 19:11-41

Day 04

Challenge Yourself

01 What were Demetrius' main concerns about what Paul was preaching?
(Vs 25-27)

02 In verse 19, how was Demetrius different from those who believed God?

03 Paul did not seek to come against the goddess Artemis directly. He just preached Jesus, yet the whole city was thrown into turmoil. What does that tell us about the power of the name of Jesus?

WEEK 03

Acts 19:11-41

Day 04

Challenge Yourself

04 Challenge: What are some names of God?

05 If we stand for the name of Jesus, what should our expectation be from those who refuse to recognize the power of His name?

06 Where is the balance between being healed in faith, and having faith and not being healed?





Devotion

DOES THE DEVIL KNOW YOUR NAME?

Acts 19:20 “So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”

In verse 15 the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” YES, the devil knows our name as followers of Jesus Christ.

The world today is much like what we read in our verses this week, where people live to satisfy the flesh, doing what's right in their own eyes, making idols for themselves or using our Lord Jesus for personal gain. When I think about the unbelieving brothers of Sceva doing the work of the devil, they are of no threat to the kingdom of God. Satan's main goal is to prevent people from hearing the good news about Jesus Christ.

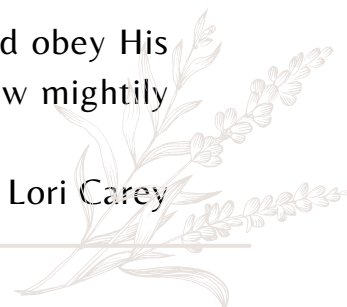
Telling the Gospel story was Paul's passion and mission in life. No matter the cost of discipleship, he was surrendered to spread the Word of the Lord wherever he went. When we live a life making Jesus known, we can be assured the devil will know our name. Although I have never suffered as Paul did for sharing Jesus, I have experienced trials in a different way. I have experienced this personally most when God's people come together to fulfill the great commission. The spiritual battle is real! I have found the biggest obstacle has been overcoming self. I can be very comfortable with my life and become complacent. I can allow fear of persecution to stop me from sharing Jesus. These are tactics the enemy uses because he knows our name.

But then I remember Jesus is our Shepherd. He says even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we should fear no evil, for He is with us.

We are His! We must pray and read our Bible to know our Lord, and be prepared and armor up to be able to resist the devil's flaming arrows. (Eph 6).

God wants us to surrender our lives to His Will, to trust and obey His plan. It is when we do this that the Word of the Lord will grow mightily and prevail. Praise God!

Lori Carey





Prayer

This is a page where you have an opportunity to write a prayer. It could be about what stood out to you this week, and/or how you want the Lord to help you apply this week's lessons to your life. This is confidential and between you and the Lord.





Teaching Notes | Week 4





Paul's Third Missionary Journey



20 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia. 2 When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece. 3 And there he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. 4 And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. 5 But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. 6 We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.

7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. 9 And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. 10 But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." 11 When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. 12 They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

13 But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land. 14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. 15 Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them,

“You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. 24 But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

25 “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. 26 Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. 28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. 34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. 35 In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, 38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

Day 01

Get to know the passage

01 Read the passage several times.

02 Who is in this passage and where are they?

03 Look for any words in the passage that you would like to clarify or understand on a deeper level. Use a dictionary or concordance and write the words and their definitions below.

04 List any repeated words and ideas.

05 If you were going to give this passage a title, what would it be?

Each week during this year's Bible study, we want to memorize a verse from Psalm 103, adding a verse each week and culminating with the whole Psalm by the end of the year.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
3 Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
4 Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
5 Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle.
6 The Lord performs righteous deeds
And judgments for all who are oppressed.
7 He made known His ways to Moses,
His acts to the sons of Israel.
8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
9 He will not always strive with us,
Nor will He keep His anger forever.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.
12 As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Day 02

01 What prompted Paul to leave when he had been in Ephesus for two years?

02 Which disciples did Paul exhort in verse 1? Whom did Paul exhort “much” on his way to Greece? What purposes does exhortation serve? Describe when and how you have received such benefit.

03 What are some ways we can encourage or exhort other believers?

Day 02

04 Have you ever felt unwanted or unwelcome somewhere because of Jesus? If yes, what was that like and how did God meet you in that situation?

05 In verses 2-3, Paul had a plan of travel, but changed his plan due to the opposition of his message. Have you ever had plans that were suddenly changed, and then later understood it was by God's plan, not yours? If so, share your story.

EPHESUS: PAUL'S MISSIONARY CENTER

Ephesus, like Corinth, was a major center of Paul's missionary effort. He spent over three years there, preaching to both Jews and Gentiles, so much so that Luke says "all of Asia heard the word of God."

Ephesus was originally founded by settlers from mainland Greece in the 10th century BC. The whole western coast of Asia Minor, called Ionia, was colonized and became famous for Greek culture and philosophy. Ephesus was the principal city of Ionia, and like Corinth was in a perfect geographical place to prosper. It was a port on the Aegean Sea, at the mouth of the Cayster river. It was the starting point for all the roads going inland to the east. In addition, the great temple of the goddess Artemis was here, and all of the pilgrims that came to worship made it a very wealthy and influential city.

Eventually, like all Greek city states, Ephesus came under Roman domination in 129 BC. It became the third largest city in the world after Rome and Alexandria in the first century AD, during the time of the apostle Paul's ministry. However, Ephesus was not a dedicated Roman colony like Corinth, but rather a free city. In the Roman empire, there were two types of provinces: senatorial and imperial. A senatorial province, like Roman Asia was a province that was considered pacified, and as such didn't need a strong military presence. The provinces that were ruled directly by the emperor and his legates were ones that weren't as trusted, therefore Roman legions were stationed there. Ephesus and Corinth were provincial capitals of senatorial provinces, and therefore they both had a Roman proconsul appointed by the Senate of Rome as the head of the government, (for example, Gallio in Acts 18:12.)

The church at Ephesus was prominent in the history of early Christianity. It was pastored by Timothy, Paul's son in the faith, and it is believed that the Apostle John also lived in Ephesus, and wrote the gospel of John there. In addition, there is also a tradition that Mary, the mother of Jesus, lived in Ephesus. The Ephesian church was one of the seven churches of Revelation, and finally Paul addressed his famous epistle to the Ephesian church, while a captive in Rome.

Brandon Beaty



Day 03

01 Why was Paul so determined to speak so long to the believers at this time? (vs.7)

02 Paul preached all night only to be interrupted by the need to raise Eutychus from the dead. List all the reasons you can think of why the believers would have been encouraged when they left Paul in the morning?

03 Why did Paul feel as if he would be detained if he went to Ephesus? (See the end of last week's passage.)

Day 03

04 Three times in Chapter 20 Paul describes his “testifying” of God's Gospel. In your own words define “testifying”. How is testifying different than admonishing?

05 Paul sent for the leaders of the Ephesian church to encourage them for the work of ministry, and through the leaders the church would be also encouraged. How do you see this at play in modern times? How have you benefited from your leaders being encouraged in the Lord?

01 Read verses 17-35. List all the ways that Paul was an example of how to follow Jesus.

02 Paul had written his letter to the Roman church during his stays in Corinth. Read Romans Chapter 5 and identify the 5 instances he uses the term “grace.” In what specific ways has God's gospel of Grace changed your life story? How does that Grace still challenge you?

03 It has been estimated that Paul's Third Missionary Journey covered about 2700 miles. The Holy Spirit kept moving Paul-- to preach and to escape those who would end his preaching...both continuously. The obstacles in the Gentile world of that day were significant. How do they compare with the obstacles to God's Gospel in this day?

04 It appears that the Holy Spirit wanted Paul to return to Jerusalem in time for the Festival of Pentecost. How would Paul's return, with his accompanying Gentile believers effect that celebration?

05 What is an overseer of the flock? What flock do you oversee and what dangers are you aware of regarding them? (vs 28)



Devotion

In reading Acts 20, I see the Christians working together for the same purpose. They are sharing fellowship, offerings, and using their personal gifts. They protected Paul and were alert. When sent to different places by God's direction, they were obedient even when pushed beyond their comfort zones. I see the personal cost to serve Christ. Paul had a deep concern for their spiritual well-being and he warned them that deceivers would come. They had to be on their guard.

Paul's teachings are relevant for us today. The world would steal our souls. Guarding our hearts is an ongoing, deliberate action. We study God's Word and put it into practice. We cast out thoughts that would lead us astray. We confess our sins and receive His forgiveness. We trust His sovereign rule, timing, judgements, and His love. Sometimes for me it is an hourly process, but I am comforted. Over the years I am less burdened and less fearful, because I have experienced His divine power and intervention. He always meets my needs. The safest place to be is centered in Christ.

Let us stay anchored to Jesus. His Holy Spirit is vigorously at work within us right now. Praise God!

Roxanne Brinkerhoff





Prayer

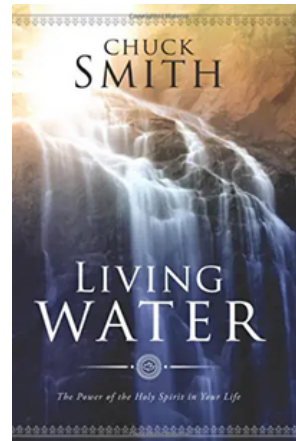
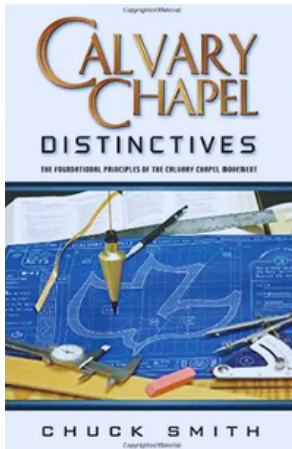
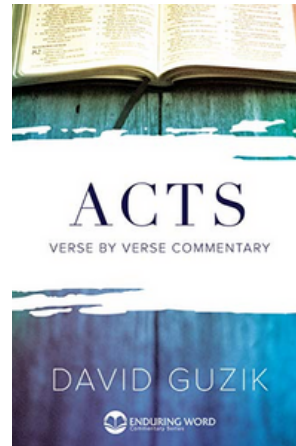
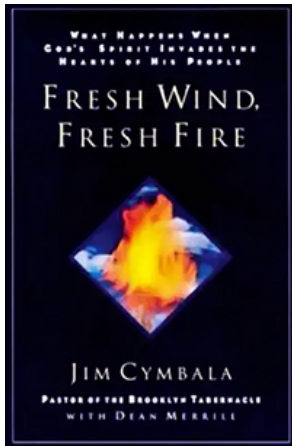
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Helpful Resources

Just point your smart phone camera at the QR code to link to the websites



And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Acts 20:32