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## **Acts 18: Moving On**

Introductory Statement: We continue our study of the Actions of the Holy Spirit in and through the lives of the Apostles, as directed by Jesus, the Christ. The Apostle Paul continues to fulfill the Lord's mission for His life as he embarks upon a second and third missionary journey. These are trips in which he revisits cities where he has already shared the Gospel of the Lord Jesus, and His Kingdom, and makes entrances into other territories where he has not previously preached. The Apostle Paul encounters moments of favor in which he and his message is received, and occasions of rejection, where his message is denounced, and his life is threatened. In this chapter we are permitted to see the Apostle's commitment to and tenacity for the One who called him and the humanity whom He so dearly loves.

### Summary Points:

- What are the moments of favor that the Apostle Paul experienced?
- Who opposed Paul in this chapter?
- What can we learn from Paul's response(s) to opposition and acceptance?
- What can we ascertain from direct messages from God, by whatever the method He chooses to deliver them?
- What responsibility does those who are more 'mature' in their discipleship walk have toward those who are less mature?

*Objectives: As a result of our time of study today each Believer in JESUS will better grasp the intention of this scripture passage and understand ways to personally apply these truths in daily living.*



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## THE WADE

- **Background**
  - Geographic Locations/institutions
    - Region - Mediterranean Sea
    - Rome – governing world empire
    - Achaia – Roman province including areas in Greece; unique governor within the Roman governmental structure
    - Athens and Corinth (17 hours – 2 days walking)
      - Larger cities in Greece
      - Athens – Cultural, political, philosophical center of Greece “Altar to the unknown god”
      - Corinth – Metropolitan area (everything imaginable)
      - Cities become known by their unique cultures – promotions and prohibitions “Corinthian Lifestyle”
      - See previous Bible Studies on Corinthians
    - Antioch
      - Area where People of the Way were first called Christians
      - Eager recipients of the message of Jesus Christ
    - Synagogue
      - Locations for prayer, instruction, and community; school (vs. Temples – locations for worship/sacrifices; house the presence of God)
  - People
    - Paul



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- Apostle who was commissioned by the Lord to carry the Good News of Jesus, the Christ, and His Kingdom  
Acts 9:15
- Aquila and Priscilla
  - Jewish Husband & Wife Disciples
  - Recently deported from Rome (with all Jews)
  - Main occupation – Tentmakers (skilled leather workers)
  - Hosted the Apostle Paul upon his arrival to Corinth
  - Became companions of the Apostle Paul
- Silas and Timothy
  - Paul's traveling companions; son in the ministry
  - Silas – selected by Paul after his dispute with Barnabas
  - Timothy – young Jewish convert (Jewish mother; Greek father)
    - Became a leader in the Church
    - Paul wrote 2 letters of leadership instruction
- Claudius Caesar (Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Roman Emperor (1<sup>st</sup> born outside of Italy)
  - Expanded the Roman empire to Great Britain, parts of Africa, Middle East
  - Instigation of Chrestus – expulsion of Jews from Rome
- Titius – Gentile (non-Jewish) God worshipper who lived next door to the synagogue
- Crispus – leader of the synagogue; disciple of Jesus
- Gallio – Governor of Achaia (Roman province)



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- Dismissive of Jewish accusations
- Sosthenes – leader of the synagogue; beaten by Jewish leaders
- Apollos
  - Jewish believer in Jesus
  - Teacher/Preacher/Eloquent Speaker
  - Knowledgeable of Scriptures and John's Baptism
  - Possible writer of Hebrews
  - Endorsed by believers in Ephesus
  - Further educated by Aquilla & Priscilla

### THE SWIM

- **The Apostle Paul continues his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey in Corinth without his close companions Silas and Timothy**

Acts 18: 1-8

- God made provision and assistance for Paul through Aquila and Priscilla. He wasn't left alone.
  - Jesus intentionally sent the disciples in pairs
    - Luke 10: 1-3
  - The scriptures provide insight to the benefit of not being alone.
    - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
  - With the assignment to make introduce the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ and to lead individuals to being Born (Again) from Above, the Apostle Paul at times needed to use his



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natural skills to provide for physical needs.

- Paul used his skill as a tent (leather materials) maker and preached publicly when he wasn't working
- God opened the doors for him (made the right connections) for provisions to be made.
  - Paul was able to live with Aquila and Priscilla for a time.
- God, too, will make avenues of favor to provide for you and me when we are moving on to fulfill His plans and purposes.
- When his regular traveling ministry partners came to town, Paul was able to resume full time ministry.
- Paul was able to focus on those who were excited to receive the message of Jesus Christ and not become distracted by those who rejected and opposed it.
  - As Jesus instructed the disciples, Paul “shook off the dust” of those who opposed and insulted him

Mark 6:10-11

- By focusing on those whose hearts were ready, Paul was able to lead many others to become Believers in and Disciples of Jesus.

- God finds a way to prepare you and I for what we will face during our assignments.

Acts 18:9-17



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- God prepared Joshua for leading the Israelites into the promised land.  
Joshua 1:5-9
- God reminds his servants of His promises by imparting His words into our spirits, to be recalled as they are needed.
- Paul continued to move on to fulfill his assignment after solidifying the work there in Corinth.  
Acts 18:18-23
  - Paul's perspective on ministry was 'serving as God wills'.
    - His focus was on the will of God and not the apparent needs of men.
    - Every opportunity presented to him wasn't God's plan for him at that time
- God was raising up others to work alongside Paul in HIS ministry of reconciliation.  
Acts 18:24-28
  - Apollos was used by God in the same areas as Paul
  - Though sincere and gifted, Apollos needed more training and a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus
    - John's baptism was a baptism of repentance
    - The next element of relationship with the Father through Jesus, the Christ



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- Apollos also needed the baptism with the Holy Spirit

### **THE TREAD**

- Have you embarked upon your assignment from the Lord Jesus?
  - What has he called you to do? Do you know?
- Have you progressed in your relationship with God from repentance of sins to embracing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- What opposition have you experienced in fulfilling your assignment?
  - Rejection by people
  - Disrespect by people
  - Feelings of loneliness or isolation
  - Doubt and unbelief
- How has Favor manifested in your life while answering our Lord's calling?
- Who else around you is the Lord using to carry His Good News? Are you able to benefit them?
- If you're still outside of a covenant relationship with Jesus, would you like to enter into one NOW?