

#13 Barrier Breaking Faith The Whole Gospel Ch. 18-19

18:1-17 Highs & Lows and the blessing of God's Assurance

:1-3 New partners - Aquila & Priscilla. Refugees from persecution of Jews in Rome. They shared a vocation as tent makers. We find in 1 Cor. 16:19 that a church met in their house. We will hear more of their ministry, becoming teachers. Only here and in Corinthians is Aquila listed first. At other times Priscilla is listed first. Like in Luke 2:16 where it is not Joseph and Mary, but Mary and Joseph. Women are recognized for their leadership roles as seen last week with Lydia. See 1 Cor. 11:5; 12:18; Rom. 16:1; 1 Tim. 2:12

:4-6 A new low – reasoning and preaching the word led to rejection in the Synagogue. Paul – “From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

:7-8 A new high – leaving behind those who blasphemed, denial of the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Simply going next door led to many believers who were baptized. Look for the harvest. Jn. 4:35-36

:9-11 God's Assurance! Paul must have been afraid that the city may turn against him again, as in Lystra, Philippi & Thessalonica. God gives assurance and it led to a 1 ½ year ministry. See 23:11 for a second assurance.

:12-17 A cold blooded attack came against Paul led by the Jews. Ironically, the anger turned against Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue.

:18-23 God did protect Paul and he was able to sail away. He was accompanied by Priscilla & Aquilla, whom he left in Ephesus. He continued his mission of strengthening the disciples. Remember 2 Timothy 2:2, 15

:24-28 Apollos, an eloquent orator, is further taught the whole gospel by Priscilla & Aquilla. See a further teaching Col. 1:25-28. He learned well and used well all he had learned. :28 is the basis for the word Apologetics or the defense of the gospel. See Phil. 1:7; 1 Peter 3:15; Jude 1:3.

19:1-7 Twelve who hear the whole gospel & receive the Holy Spirit

Truth about God has its place, and it can lead a person to be very religious and very moral in their behavior. But that does not mean they are saved. These men were followers of the prophet John the Baptist. [See Lk. 1:13-17, 76-79; Mt. 3:1-3; 11:7-14 (*11,14); Jn. 3:28-30]

Jesus said to a Scribe in Mark 12:34 *“You are not very far from the kingdom.”* When Nicodemus came to Jesus in the night, Jesus told him, *“Truly I tell you, unless one is born again, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God”* John 3:3.

Though a person may say they are a Christian, the confirming sign is the Holy Spirit. A person without the Holy Spirit, is not a Christian. See John 3:5; *Rom. 8:9; *1 Cor. 12:3; Gal. 3:2; 1 Thess. 1:5f.; Titus 3:5; 1 Jn. 3:24; 4:13.

19:3-5 Baptism that identifies with Christ is different than baptism for repentance. See Romans 6:1-11 that teaches in Christian baptism we do not simply repent of sin but die to sin in likeness of Christ, and are resurrected to new life in the likeness of Christ.

19:6 In Acts to this point we have had the Holy Spirit fall upon believers at Pentecost, 2:4, & at Cornelius' house, 10:44. The Spirit is passed on by the laying on of hands [8:18; 19:6; 1 Tim. 4:14]. John 3:8 gives us a clue for understanding the different methods of receiving the Spirit. *The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.* The giving of the Holy Spirit and grace gifts (1 Cor. 12:4,18) is diverse.

19:8-10 A Three Month Stay becomes Two Years

19:8-9 Three months of focus on the synagogue. Hearts were not softened but hardened. "The Way" was not received, but rejected. See Romans 11:7-10, 25-29. The center of evangelism moved to a Greek school or lecture hall.

19:10 Asia finally hears the gospel! "For this gospel I was appointed a herald, apostle and teacher." 2 Tim. 1:11; "We do not give up" 2 Cor. 4:1,16

19:11-41 Ephesus – Losses and victories.

19: 11-12 The victory of extraordinary miracles. Diseases & Demons flee.

19:13-17 Don't deal with demons in your own strength or by yourself. It is not an area to try and show off. You will not fool them, :13 "I command you in the name of the Jesus Paul preaches." The NT sets a pattern. Teams of two were sent out, Mt. 10:8; Lk. 10:1-3, 17-20. It requires faith, Mt. 17:20 and prayer, Mk. 9:8,23. Ask "in Jesus' name" Jn. 14:13-14; 16:24, Acts 16:18. See James 4:7. As spiritual warfare pray, submit to God's will, prepare in faith by putting on the "armor of God" Eph. 6:10f, and have the right heart and spirit - James 3:13-18; 4:2-3, 7-10. Fight from victory (Col. in Jesus' name.

19:18-20 God used even the mistake of a Jewish high priest named Sceva and his sons, to show the power of Jesus name – :17 "held in high esteem". It also led to a reverence/fear, leading to confessions of sin and a burning of magic books. Magic words burned and "The word of the Lord flourished and prevailed."

19:21-40 A riot by idol craftsmen turns ugly but is calmed by authorities and false charges are dismissed. The authorities protected Paul and his companions :38-39. This and other incidents are behind Romans 13:1-7.