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**Study of Acts:
Chapters 18-19**

We're glad you're here!

Paul's arrival in Corinth (18:1-4)

- **Corinth was the capital of the province of Achaia. It was a commercial center and seaport. However, it was also known as a place of sexual profligacy and many pagan religions.**
- **Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla here. This Christian couple had been forced from Rome because of the expulsion of Jews from this city by the emperor Claudius. Paul stays in their home since they, like Paul, were tent makers. (18:1-3)**
- **Paul argued in the synagogue, and successfully persuaded many Jews and Greeks as he preached Jesus as the Christ. (18:4)**

Paul's activity in Corinth (18:5-11)

- Once again Paul is opposed by Jews. He then declares, "Your blood be upon your heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." (18:5,6)**
- Paul stays in the home of Titus Justis, a worshiper of God. Among those who believed and were baptized was Crispus, a ruler of the synagogue. (18:7-10)**
- Paul receives a vision from the Lord that assures him to not be afraid, since he will not be harmed. (18:11)**
- Paul stays in Corinth for a year and a half. (18:11)**

Paul before Gallio (18:12-17)

- **The Jews attack Paul and bring him before Gallio, the proconsul of Achaia. They accuse him of "persuading men to worship God contrary to the law." (18:12,13)**
- **Gallio quickly dismisses the case. He realizes that this a squabble over the Jewish law, not a criminal matter. (18:14-16)**
- **After Paul's dismissal, the crowd turns on Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him. (18:17)**

Paul concludes this missionary journey (18:18-22)

- **He sets sail for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchrea, a nearby city to Corinth, Paul cuts his hair because of a vow. (18:18)**
- **Paul briefly lands in Ephesus, visits the church there, and goes into the synagogue to argue with the Jews. He then departs, but he assures them, "I will return to you if God wills." He leaves Priscilla and Aquila there to strengthen the church. (18:19-21)**
- **Paul lands in Caesarea, visits the church in Jerusalem, and returns to his home base of Antioch. (18:22)**

Paul begins the third missionary journey (18:23-28)

- Paul goes through the regions of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening the brethren. (18:23)**
- In the meantime, Apollos, a learned Jew from Alexandria, arrives in Ephesus. Priscilla and Aquila hear him speak in the synagogue and are impressed by his knowledge of Jesus. However, Apollos had only known the baptism, so Priscilla and Aquila "expounded to him the way of the Lord more accurately." (18:24-26)**



Paul begins the third missionary journey (18:23-28)

- **Apollos then desired to go to Corinth, so the disciples at Ephesus commended him to the church in Corinth. In Corinth Apollos successfully argued against the Jews, "showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus." (18:27,28)**

Paul's activities in Ephesus (19:1-20)

- **Ephesus was an important city, a seaport in Asia Minor. The temple of Artemis (Diana) in Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It is located in modern Turkey.**
- **Paul encounters twelve disciples of John's baptism. When asked if they had received the Holy Spirit, they admit they nothing of the Holy Spirit. Paul baptizes them in the name of Jesus. He then lays hands on them so that they could receive the Holy Spirit. (19:1-7)**

Paul's activities in Ephesus (19:1-20)

- **For three months, Paul spoke in the synagogue. After opposition arose, Paul left, taking disciples with him. He then used the school of Tyrannus for his base for two years. (19:8-10)**
- **To great effect, Paul used miracles of healing. Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish priest, practiced magic in Ephesus. They attempted to exorcise demons, using Jesus' name. The demonic spirit turned on them, leaving them wounded and naked. (19:18-20)**

The riot in Ephesus (19:21-41)

- **Demetrius, a silversmith, made his living by making shrines of the goddess Artemis. He gathered fellow silversmiths together to warn them against the preaching of Paul. Demetrius stated that Paul claimed that gods made by hands were not gods. This would lead a loss of business for their trade and denigrate the worship of Artemis. (19:21-27)**
- **Not only the silversmiths, but soon a mob was incited to intense anger. They began to shout, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians." (19:28)**

The riot in Ephesus (19:21-41)

- The crowd try to find Paul but were unsuccessful. However, they did drag Gaius and Aristarchus, two companions of Paul, into the theatre. Paul wanted to address the crowd, but his friends wisely dissuaded him. This crowd was confused and hostile, but the chant about Artemis went on for two hours. (19:29-34)**

The riot in Ephesus (19:21-41)

- **Fortunately, the town clerk of Ephesus arrived. He stated that the worship of Artemis and the existence of the temple could not be contradicted. Furthermore, he said that Demetrius and others had the option of taking this matter to the courts or the proconsul. He warned that the crowd could be charged with rioting with no justifiable cause. He then dismissed the crowd. (19:35-41)**

