

The following notes were provided by Rex Romeiser who led the IHOP Bible Study for this session.

## TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### IHOP BIBLE STUDY

# 15– Acts 18: 1 – 22, “Confirming the Gentile mission.” – study page

Acts 18: 1 – 17, “In Corinth;” Acts 18: 18 – 22, “Priscilla, Aquila. . .”

The purpose of the Book of Acts is to record the activity of the Holy Spirit in the Vision and Ministry of Peter and Paul. **Today’s study is the 15th of 20 lessons.**

#### A contextual statement:

Interestingly, *The Interpreter’s Bible* makes the following observation. In the book of Acts, “The Lord is not returned, but in the meantime the word of God is being carried on by the church. The Gentile mission is itself the eschatological action of God.” (*The Interpreter’s One-Volume Commentary on the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1971. p. 730.)

This I want to affirm as our perspective. **We will study this book from the perspective of the in-breaking of the Holy Spirit.** This puts us on the cusp of a deep and foreboding spiritual hole that is eternally deep. The Holy Spirit is that intuited presence within us that urges us to “Jump.” “Jump!” To take this leap of faith means to surrender ourselves to the eternal deeps. The discovery, to which I can personally testify, is that this deep, dark, mysterious hole is the place where God lives within us. As we lose control of everything— our-selves, our relationships to neighbor and to God— then we can discover that God really does sustain us. But the experience is like falling, and it is not entirely comfortable. But it works.

**According to our Study Chart** we are studying “Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey to the Greek Lands,” (15:36 to 18:21). We’ll review this section during three individual studies. In general this section covers Paul’s vision from Macedonia, his sermon on an Un-known God, and the confirmation of the Gentile mission.

#### Read the assignment in one reading.

##### I. Vs. 2a, Research Priscilla and Aquila.

**REX:** The following information was gleaned from a web reference at “Tarot Canada.)  
*“They furnish the most beautiful example known to us in the apostolic age of the power for good that could be exerted by a husband and wife working in unison for the advancement of the Gospel.” [from, “A History of Christianity in the Apostolic age,” A.C. Giffert.]*

It was in Ephesus that Priscilla and Aquila met the intelligent and well spoken Apollos preaching in the synagogue. Apollos had heard and believed the baptism of repentance of John. He was promoting his belief with eloquent preaching and exhortation and he had a thorough command of the Hebrew scriptures. Aquila and Priscilla became friends and mentors to Apollos, instructing him in the baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. They are credited with explaining the Gospel to him on a deeper, more spiritual level which helped Apollos become one of the most effective speakers of Christianity of his time.

It is generally felt that Aquila was very laid back - quiet, genuine and gentle - and that Priscilla was the more spiritually advanced and naturally gifted. He provided stability

and she provided spiritual force which moved them forward. Aquila and Priscilla were respected because they never held themselves in a position of superiority over anyone. They led with the light of their example of a loving a devoted couple with a very real capacity for soul. Their relationship was built on mutual respect and love and found its foundation in the birth of Christianity. They were not blessed with children. (Info downloaded April 24, 2002.)

**II. Vs. 2b, Research the cause of the Roman (Claudius) exile of the Jews. (See vs. 6b.)**

**REX:** Claudius banned all Jews from Rome, probably for preaching about Christ as the Messiah.

**III. Vss. 5 – 6, two concerns:**

**A. What happened to make Paul come to such a life-changing decision?**

**REX:** The Jews opposed him and probably refused to listen to his arguments.

**B. Vs. 5b, As a Gut Trip Analyst, if you were preaching that Jesus is the Christ, what would you be preaching?**

**REX:** That he was the Messiah expected by the Jewish prophets. Christ was killed by the Jewish leaders and rose from the dead.

**IV. Vss. 7 – 11, Because of Paul's decision to "go to the Gentiles," Paul makes friends the "next door neighbors." What is the significance of what happens here?**

**REX:** Being next door to the synagogue some of the Jews and many Gentiles had easy access to Paul's message. The Gospel process of conversion: 1) Word is preached; 2) Faith comes by hearing the Word; 3) Confession; 4) Baptism.

**V. Vss. 12 – 17, There is an episode with Gallio that gives us an insight into the political temper at the time. Describe in your own words what this temperament is.**

**REX:** As long as Paul wasn't preaching insurrection against the gov't they didn't care about it. Jews charge was that Paul sought to persuade men to worship contrary to the Roman law; that is he preached a new and unlawful religion. Beside the state religion, Rome recognized various others, among them Judaism. The Jews attempted to show that Paul's gospel was not Judaism. Gallio's rebuke shows that he ignorantly regarded Christianity as a kind of Judaism, and thought that the enmity of the Jews was due to the rivalry of sects. This shows that at the time the Romans were indifferent to religion at this period.

**VI. Vs. 18b, See what you can find out about:**

**A. The "vow he had taken."**

**REX:** Why he took the vow, for how long, and what the shaving of the head had to do with it are matters of conjecture. It is probable that he complied with some Jewish customs to aid him in reaching his own people (Jews) with the Gospel.