

“VOICE OF PAUL-x-LUKE” SERIES

This series shows how the writings of the apostle Paul and his traveling-&-writing assistant Luke, all tie in together to construct “the basic frame of the entire New Testament” from 16 of its books. Under Paul’s unique influence, all these writings emphasize *God forging His People into a new kind of Followership whose “growth policy” involves embodying every kind of people & heritage.* It is within the framework of this people-building endeavor that (1) the Forgiving-&-Restoring Power of Jesus especially gets to be displayed, and where (2) its best participants are those whose lives have God’s Presence “pouring forth” within them.

study #21: Corinth & Ephesus: Paul Gets his Second Wind & MJ#3

— covering Acts 18:2 – 19:7 —

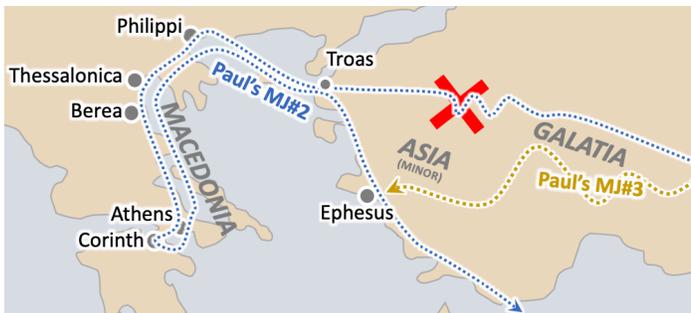
ACTION #1. Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey had been an especially rough one for him in very personal ways. Now it had brought him to Corinth, which was about to become one of Paul’s most important places of ministry. Read **Acts 18:1-11** and then discuss:

- before reaching Corinth, what things do you think had proven personally *discouraging* for Paul
- now in Corinth, how many personally *encouraging* experiences of Paul’s can you identify?
- did you notice that with the arrival of Silas & Timothy, there was a major shift in Paul’s daily routine?
- what kind of sentimental feelings for Corinth do you imagine might stick with Paul for a long time?

ACTION #2. After nearly 2 years devoting himself to building churches in Corinth, Paul and his new partners **PRISCILLA & AQUILA** relocated back across the sea—this time, to Ephesus. However while Paul temporarily ran off to finish some other business, in **Acts 18:24-28** read what happened while he was away; then discuss:

- re-say in your own words what happened in these verses and what stands out to you as interesting
- try to list out *all* of the unique qualities this man named **APOLLOS** seemed to possess
- based on earlier experiences of people first becoming followers of Jesus (**Acts 1:5** and **8:14-17**), what do you think was “missing” from Apollos’ initial teaching about Jesus?

ACTION #3. Remember at the start of Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey when God’s Spirit “prevented” Paul from going into Asia Minor, but instead redirected him into Macedonia? Now, starting his 3rd Missionary Journey, Paul returns to where he dropped off Aquila-&-Priscilla in Ephesus and there he begins a long stay. Paul barely misses Apollos on his return to Ephesus, however, since just before Paul’s arrival, Apollos sails off to do business in Corinth. Read **Acts 19:1 – 19:7** and then discuss:



- try to re-describe all the back-&-forth travels and near-misses surrounding this story
- describe what happened in the verses above and what stands out to you as interesting
- these “disciples” Paul ran into... who do you imagine might have originally taught them?
- what was the difference in these 12 men’s faith *after* they met Paul (how was it different than *before* he discipled them)?

EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:

GOLD CHALLENGE ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Acts 19:8-41**

PENGUIN CHALLENGE ... (=daily reading + cover full NT+Psalms during series): read **GC** plus **Psalms 111-120**