

## **COMPELLED BY THE SPIRIT**

### **Acts 18:23-21:16**

*What will they write on our tombstone?*

*Paul's farewell to the elders from Ephesus demonstrates what he wants to be remembered for.*

### **TESTIMONY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH 13-28**

First Missionary Journey 13-14

Council at Jerusalem 15:1-35

Second Missionary Journey 15:36-18:22

### **THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY 18:23-21:16**

Ministry in Galatia and Phrygia 18:23

Ministry in Ephesus 18:24-19:41

This trip focuses on the work in Ephesus (18:24-19:41).

#### **Instruction of Apollos 18:24-28**

He was eloquent and had a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord.

But he only knew John's message and baptism (18:24-28).

They preached that Messiah had come and that the people must repent of their sins because the kingdom is near.

They knew nothing about the church nor of the events which had occurred since Acts 2.

Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and explained to him the part of the story he still did not know.

He became a powerful spokesman for the church.

### **Instruction of John's disciples 19:1-7**

Apollos represents another group that needs to be incorporated into the new people of God, John's disciples.

They had a special function in the transition period.

When their work is completed, God brings them into the church.

They had not yet heard that the Holy Spirit had come.

They had been identified with John's group (19:3).

Paul explains the relationship between John's message and the message they have received (19:4).

John baptized for repentance and taught his followers to trust the Messiah, that is, Jesus.

When they hear this message, they identify themselves with Jesus and His new program (19:5-6).

God confirms this by the external demonstration of the Holy Spirit's coming on them.

### **Instruction in the synagogue 19:8-10**

After John's disciples had been dealt with, Paul turns his attention back to the synagogue (19:8-10).

When the Jews become obstinate and oppose Paul, he again turns his attention to the Gentiles.

He ministered there for two years.

Many Jews and Gentiles decided to trust Christ there.

### **A Lesson for imitators 19:11-20**

The mighty signs performed in Paul's ministry begin to attract attention 19:11-12

Some try to imitate his work. 13-14

*What's the result of the incident between the imitators and the demoniac (19:8-20)?*

*What lessons are taught by the incident?*

Negative lesson: 15-16

The sons of Sceva learn the hard way not to play with demons.

Positive influence: 17-20

Some who practiced sorcery recognize the superior power of God and burn their books.

### **Continuation of Persecution 19:21-41**

## Commitment to Jerusalem 21

Paul decides he ought to go to Jerusalem and begins to plan his trip (19:21-22).

*As Paul determines to go to Jerusalem, many warnings are received from the Holy Spirit about what would happen. How do you interpret these warnings?*

*Was Paul right to go? (See especially 20:22-24; 21:4, 11-14)*

*What's the motive behind the attack on Paul by Demetrius (19:23-41)?*

## Riot provoked by the idol makers 22-41

While he remains in Ephesus, some of the idol makers become aware of the threat Paul has become to their work.

If people believe him, they might be put out of work!

They stir up the people and start a riot.

## Ministry in Macedonia and Greece 20:1-5

Following his plan to visit Macedonia and Greece and then move on to Jerusalem, Paul leaves Ephesus to minister there (20:1-5).

He stays for about three months.

When he's ready to move on, he changes his plans and returns through Macedonia because of a Jewish plot against him.

## Ministry in Troas 20:6-12

As he travels, he ministers in Troas also (20:6-12).

Paul's long message extends until midnight.

One young man, seated in a window, becomes sleepy, falls out of the window and dies.

Paul demonstrates God's power in his ministry by raising the man from the dead.

### **Ministry in Miletus 20:13-38**

Paul's trip to Miletus 20:13-16

Anticipating the possibility that he might never return to Ephesus, Paul takes some time to encourage the elders while he's in Miletus

Paul's farewell address 17-38

*In Paul's farewell to the elders from Ephesus, what characteristics of church leadership are observed either in his ministry to them or in his exhortations to them (20:17-38)?*

*What are the implications of these elements for church leaders today?*

His ministry among them 17-21

His Spirit-directed compulsion 22-24

Everywhere Paul goes he hears testimony that he's going to be arrested in Jerusalem.

Yet Paul is compelled by the Spirit to go. God has revealed His plan to Paul and he is willing to follow it.

He has a stewardship to fulfill; the cost is unimportant.

His faithfulness 25-27; 33-35

His challenge to them 28-32

He urges them to faithfully care for the flock God has given to them and to protect them from the wolves who seek to harm them.

His farewell to them 36-38

### **Ministry in Tyre 21:1-6**

As he continues toward Jerusalem, Paul ministers in Tyre (21:1-6).

There also the Spirit speaks through people to warn Paul of what lies ahead. 4

*They* interpret the prophecy to mean he should not go to Jerusalem.

### **Ministry in Caesarea 21:7-16**

In Caesarea the prophecy is repeated.

He will be bound and handed over to the Gentiles. 9-11

Because of the prophecy of his arrest, his friends urge him not to go to Jerusalem. 12-14

Paul is determined to obey God, even if that obedience should cost him his life.

He has to go on to Jerusalem. 15-16

*State 2 or 3 lessons this section of Acts teaches which we ought to apply in our life.*

*Name one specific thing you could do this week to begin to apply what you have learned.*

### **LESSONS FOR US:**

What will they write on OUR tombstone?

Paul's farewell

His faithfulness to God

His concern for them

Are WE that concerned for the welfare of His people?

Are WE that committed to faithfulness?