



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## ACTS 18:1-4, 18-21, 24-28

### LESSON: PRISCILLA, AQUILA, AND APOLLOS—February 23, 2025

#### INTRODUCTION:

**ACTS CHAPTER 17:28-34** At this point, Paul tells the Athenians that God causes us to live. It is in Him we live, and move, and have our being. Even their own poets have said, "*For we are also his offspring*" (17:28). We are God's children; His workmanship. He is not our workmanship for He is a Spirit (John 4:24). He is the designer of us. If He designed us, then we can't design any image from metal or stone; gold or silver or wood, for we know not how the designer looks. Again, God is a Spirit. We worship Him in Spirit and in Truth! <sup>1</sup>What ignorance God may have overlooked in the past, such is no longer the case. He now commands all men everywhere to repent. **Why?** - Because of the coming Judgment, in which God will judge the world in their unrighteousness. God will judge the world through Jesus Christ (17:29-31). Paul in mentioning the resurrection provoked a response (17:32). Some mocked because many at that time, the idea of a bodily resurrection was foolishness to them. Others were more cordial, offering to listen again at another time. As Paul left, some joined him and believed. Specifically mentioned are Dionysius the Areopagite and Damaris, a woman. And some others believed Paul (17:33-34).

#### LESSON: I. PARTNERS IN TRADE ACTS 18:1-4

**18:1** After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;— Paul finds himself at a low point in his grueling ministry. His second missionary journey had been arduous (tough). After travelling through Asia Minor strengthening the churches (Acts 15:41), he crossed the Aegean Sea to the Greek mainland. His healing of a demon-possessed girl in Philippi sparked a riot, and he and Silas had been beaten and thrown into prison. After being released following a devastating earthquake, he was forced to leave the city (16:39-40). From there he went to Thessalonica, where his ministry enjoyed great success (17:4). Persecution forced him to flee to Berea (17:10), where many did respond to his preaching and teaching (17:12), however, when persecution followed him from Thessalonica to Berea, Paul was again forced to escape danger (17:14). He arrived alone in the great city of Athens, where his brilliant speech in defense of Christianity had largely been ignored (17:19-32). Paul then left Athens and travelled to Corinth (a fifty-three mile walk). The decision was by choice. No doubt he stayed in Athens long enough. Apparently, Paul felt his time could be spent more profitably in Corinth.

**18:2** And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome;) and came unto them. Wherever Paul went, he looked for people who either needed Christ or needed to grow in Christ. With Silas and Timothy still in Macedonia, he had to bear it alone, and God knew Paul needed someone else to help him shoulder any difficulty. At this point he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus and his wife Priscilla. Priscilla and Aquila were originally residents of Rome, but the Roman

<sup>1</sup> [http://executableoutlines.com/acts\\_so/ac17\\_16.htm](http://executableoutlines.com/acts_so/ac17_16.htm)  
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emperor, Claudius had the Jews banished from Rome in A.D. 52. So Aquila and Priscilla moved to Corinth.

**18:3** And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. Paul, no doubt looked for work to support himself, and found that Aquila and Priscilla were of the same craft; of the same occupation — tentmakers, so they opened their home to Paul, and he stayed with the couple as they went into the tent-making business together; even eventually risking their lives for him (**Rom. 16:3-4**). They later travelled with Paul to Ephesus eventually settling there (**18:18**).

**18:4** And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. Every Sabbath Paul reasoned in the synagogue persuading Jews and Greeks. **Two points:**

1. Paul reasoned; presented sound, thoughtful, logical points; answered and settled questions in a reasonable way.
2. Paul persuaded; prevailed, urged, induced, pleaded, begged, sought to move and bring about a change of heart and mind.

His goal was to persuade the Jews, and God-fearing Greeks (*Gentiles who had abandoned their pagan religion in favor of worshipping Jehovah God*) that Jesus Christ was Israel's Lord, Messiah, and Savior from sin and hell.

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## II. PARTNERS IN TRAVEL ACTS 18:18-21

**18:18** And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and called thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow. After all this, Paul still stayed in Corinth ministering a considerable number of days, for he didn't really have to leave Corinth because...

- He was protected by Gallio's ruling.
- He was having phenomenal results.
- He was loved by many of the believers.
- He was in a strategic city of commerce and trade which would assure the spread of the gospel far and wide.

The city evidently had a strong church, for Paul highly praised Phoebe, a deaconess of the church. At some point, he said good-bye to the Christian brothers and set sail to Syria, taking with him Priscilla and Aquila to continue spreading the gospel. Paul was not called to be the minister of a local church. He was called to carry the gospel forth as an evangelist, and a missionary. As Christian believers who are the called to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ, we deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Christ no matter where it takes us. On the occasion of some circumstance unknown to us,—perhaps under some distress, in view of eventual deliverance, Paul had vowed to let his hair grow for a certain time. Having kept the vow, he then shaved his hair, for the vow had now been fulfilled and completed as he reached Cenchrea, the eastern part of Corinth.

The "*Nazarite vow*" (covered in Numbers 6 [especially verse 18]) had to be carried out at the door of the tabernacle in Jerusalem with the shaving of the head, and the hair burned on the fire of the sacrifice at the temple, which differed from this vow.

**18:19** And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. Paul now arrives in Ephesus, the most important city in Asia Minor, where



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he leaves Priscilla and Aquila there. Whatever town he entered, he always went to the synagogue. He entered and reasoned with the Jews.

**18:20 When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not;**— As in Berea, he was well received in Ephesus, so much so that the Jews asked him so stay longer with them. They were open and hungry for the Word of God; however, he refused this great opportunity. This is why Priscilla and Aquila were left behind—to teach the people. Most of the time when you see their names, Priscilla's name comes before her husband Aquila which points to the fact that she was the stronger and more mature Christian of the two.

**18:21 But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.** He said farewell to the people in Ephesus, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem to keep the feast (probably the Passover Feast). He promised that if it was God's Will, he would return to them again. This was the end of Paul's second missionary journey.

## NOT APART OF THE LESSON: VERSES 22-23

**18:22 And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church. He went down to Antioch.** Paul used this time to go to Caesarea and gone up to Jerusalem about 52 miles away, and exchanged greetings; respect to the church. Then he went down to Antioch.

**18:23 And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.** Paul left again for Asia Minor visiting and encouraging the churches there. He is now beginning his third missionary journey. He covered the counties of Galatia and Phrygia where he strengthened all the disciples there. Paul was alone which is symbolic of his faithfulness and commitment to the Lord's call. His purpose in revisiting the churches was not to socialize or enjoy good Christian fellowship, although he had not seen them in many months, but was more specific: to strengthen the disciples in the Lord. He wanted them to grow in the Lord!

## BACK TO THE LESSON: III. PARTNERS IN TEACHING ACTS 18:24-28

**18:24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born by Alexandria, an eloquent man. And mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.** About this time a certain Jew named Apollos, born in Alexandria who was steeped in Jewish religion, tradition, and Scripture arrived in Ephesus on a preaching tour. He had learned the Old Testament Scriptures by memory, and spent hours meditating on them. He understood and believed the Scriptures, grasping the promises of the Messiah. He learned so well that he was an effective speaker, and an eloquent Bible teacher, able to present the Messiahship of Jesus, thereby proclaiming the Scriptures to the Jews.

**18:25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord and being fervent of the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the lord, knowing only the baptism of John.** Apollos had been instructed in the way of the Lord and was described as being fervent in the spirit; with burning zeal; with spiritual fervor; and with fiery enthusiasm as he taught. Somehow at some point Apollos came into contact with John the Baptist or with his message on the baptism of repentance and he began to diligently teach the things of the Lord.

**18:26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard**

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**they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.** Apollos began to speak boldly and fearlessly in the synagogue. Aquila and Priscilla heard him speak, and invited; took him to their home and talked to him in private. They took him aside to share the full message of the gospel with him, explaining more accurately to him some things he did not know of the Lord really meant. This shows that even in his boldness, he was willing to be taught; helped from any who would teach him, even by those of less learning; from two lowly tentmakers, and he understood.

**18:27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote exhorting the disciples to receive him who when he was come helped them much which had believed through grace:—**As soon as Apollos received what he needed he wanted to go into Achaia and share the gospel there. The Ephesian church encouraged him, even writing a letter of recommendation to the church at Corinth (in Achaia) for them to receive him. When he did come to them, he helped them a great deal for they had believed through grace.

**18:28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.** Apollos “mightily” used the Scriptures with power, straining earnestly to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the true Messiah. He “convinced” the Jews which meant he confronted, argued down, and refuted to the very last point publicly showing the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. he defended the faith against the Jews in public!

## SUMMARY:

<sup>2</sup>Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. He found Aquila and Priscilla. He stayed with them, as they were all of the same trade; tentmakers. Aquila and Priscilla had left Rome because of the command by Claudius. And during this time, Paul taught in the synagogue and “*persuaded both Jews and Greeks*” that Jesus Christ was Israel’s Lord, Messiah, and Savior from sin and hell (**18:1-4**).

Paul remained there a while longer. Next, Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila set sail for Syria. As they were departing, Paul had his hair cut off at Cenchrea as part of a vow. Paul left Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus, as they were traveling. Paul did not remain in Ephesus, as he wanted to keep the feast in Jerusalem (**18:18-21**).

**24** About this time a certain Jew named Apollos, born in Alexandria who was steeped in Jewish religion, tradition, and Scripture arrived in Ephesus on a preaching tour. **25** Apollos had been instructed in the way of the Lord and was described as being fervent in the spirit speaking and teaching diligently the things of the Lord. **26** Apollos began to speak boldly and fearlessly in the synagogue. Aquila and Priscilla heard him speak, and invited; took him to their home. They explained more accurately to him what the way of the Lord really meant. **27** Apollos wanted to go into Achaia and share the gospel and the brethren of Achaia wrote a letter exhorting the disciples to receive him. When he did come to them, he helped them a great deal for they had believed through grace. **28** Apollos “*mightily*” used the Scriptures with power as he “*confronted*” the Jews publicly, showing them Jews the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ (**18:24-28**).

<sup>2</sup>[http://executableoutlines.com/acts/acts\\_18.htm](http://executableoutlines.com/acts/acts_18.htm)  
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