

# The Third Missionary Journey.

## Part One

Acts 18:23-28;

**Aquila and Priscilla  
and Apollos.**



# BIBLE STUDY.

## Third Missionary Journey.

Acts 18:23 to 21:26;

Antioch in Syria

To Jerusalem.

Total 2,515 Miles

1,190 by Sea • 1,325 by Land.

Duration - 4 years





- 19. Assos (20:13)
- 20. Mitylene (20:14)
- 21. Trogyllium (20:15)
- 22. Miletus (20:15)
- 23. Coos (21:1)
- 24. Rhodes (21:1)
- 25. Patara (21:1)
- 26. Tyre (21:3)
- 27. Ptolemais (21:7)
- 28. Caesarea (21:8)
- 29. Jerusalem: End of third mission (Acts 21:15) -Arrested

**Paul's Third Great Missionary Journey**  
 (Follow corresponding numbers on map)

- 1. Antioch: Begins third mission (Acts 18:23)
- 2. Tarsus (18:23)
- 3. Derbe (18:23)
- 4. Lystra (18:23)
- 5. Iconium (18:23)
- 6. Antioch of Pisidia (18:23)
- 7. Galatia (18:23)
- 8. Phrygia (18:23)
- 9. Ephesus (19:1)
- 10. Philippi (20:1-2)
- 11. Thessalonica (20:1-2)
- 12. Berea (20:1-2)
- 13. Greece or Corinth (20:1-2)
- 14. Berea (20:3-4)
- 15. Thessalonica (20:3-4)
- 16. Philippi (20:3-6)
- 17. Neopolis (20:6)
- 18. Troas (20:6)

	<b>MILES</b>
<b>Antioch in Syria to Cilician Gates</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Cilician Gates to Derbe</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Derbe to Lystra</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Lystra to Iconium Iconium to</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Antioch in Pisidia</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Galatia and Phrygia</b>	<b>200+</b>
<b>Antioch in Pisidia to Ephesus</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>Ephesus to Troas</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Troas to Macedonia</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Macedonia to Greece</b>	<b>150+</b>
<b>Greece to Phillipi</b>	<b>150+</b>
<b>Philippi to Troas</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Troas to Assos</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Assos to Mitylene</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Mitylene to Chios</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Chios to Samon</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Samos to Miletus</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Miletus to Cos</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Cos to Rhodes</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Thodes to Patara</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Patara to Tyre</b>	<b>400+</b>
<b>Tyre to Ptolemais</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Ptolemais to Caesarea</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Caesarea to Jerusalem</b>	<b>65</b>
	<b>2,515</b>

**Acts 18:23;** “After he had spent some time in Antioch, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.”

After spending some days with the congregation  
In Antioch, Paul is now ready to start all over again.

This is what we know as  
**THE THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY.**

The journey starts in chapter 18:23;  
Let’s travel with the man of God and  
see what regions he will visit this time.

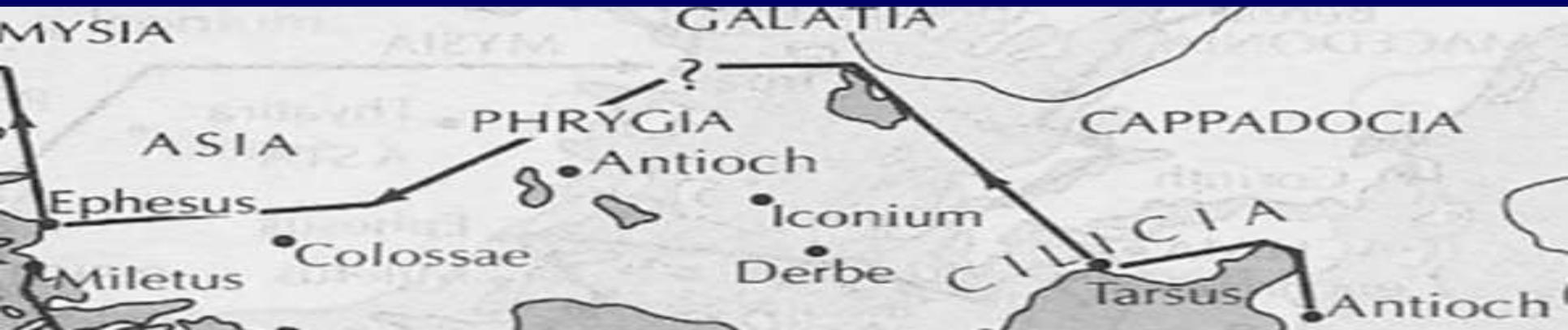
He is moving to the regions of Galatia and Phrygia.

**What is the purpose for this?**

To strengthen the brethren!

Do we have the same duty today? Are we  
commanded to take care of one another  
and make sure that all things are ok in our lives?

**Acts 18:23;** There is disagreement among scholars as to whether Paul went straight from **Antioch up North to Galatia without visiting the other congregations** between Tarsus and Antioch in Pisidia but it would make more sense for Paul to visit these if he was strengthening the congregations.



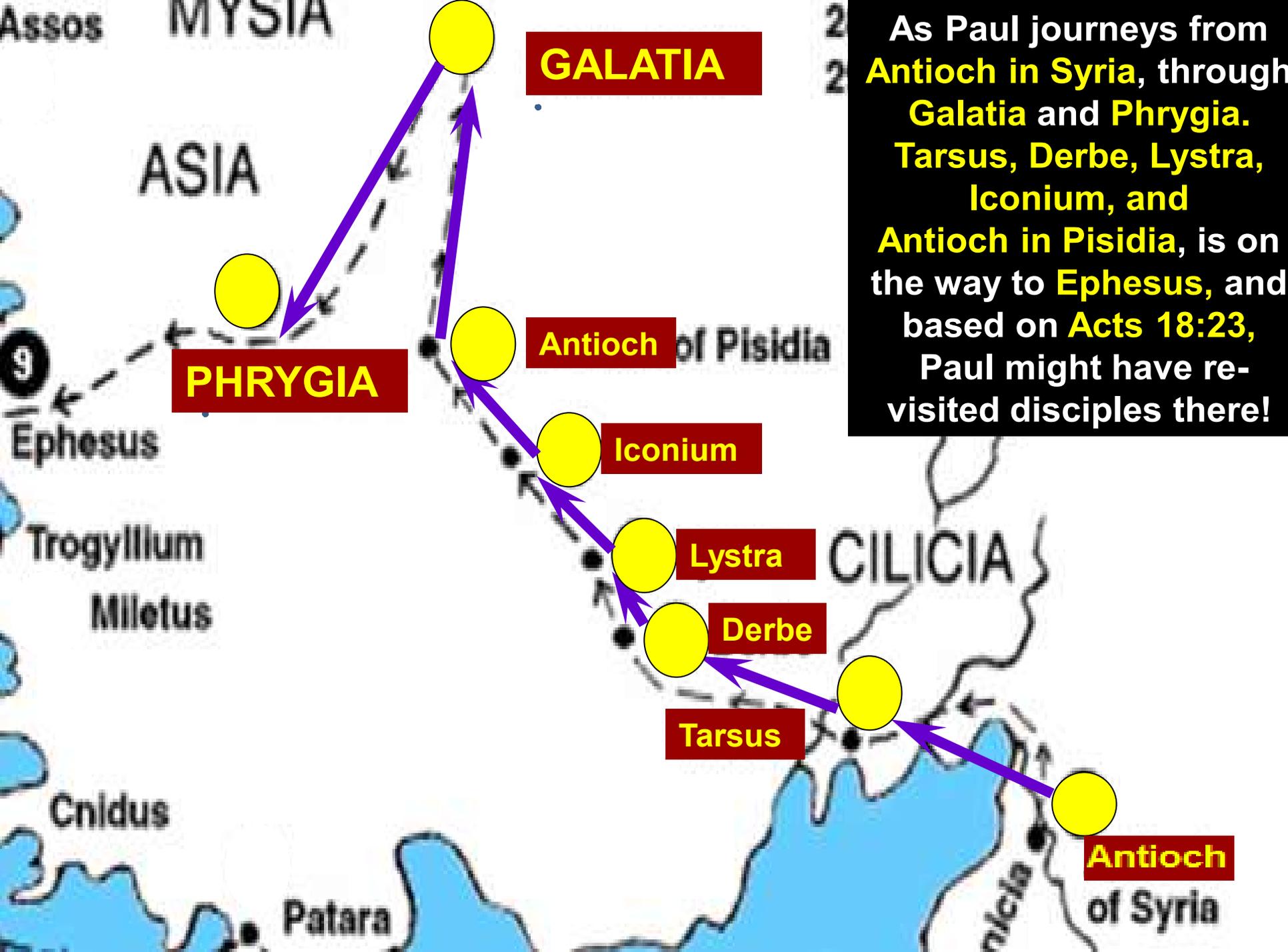
**Acts 18:23;** “After he had spent some time in Antioch, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.”

**This is Syrian Antioch. We cannot tell how long he stayed with the congregation there;**

If he begins the third Missionary journey the same year he finished the second one, he did not stay long at Antioch, for in the following verses we will see Paul hurrying through several countries in order to take advantage of the travelling season in the highlands.

**This is the beginning of the third missionary journey.** It is now probably 54 A.D. As far as we know this was **Paul's last visit to Antioch.**

Even though **Antioch** was the centre of his apostolic work for so many years. Slowly, the Centre of world-wide evangelism moves westward toward **Ephesus** and **Rome.**



As Paul journeys from Antioch in Syria, through Galatia and Phrygia. Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia, is on the way to Ephesus, and based on Acts 18:23, Paul might have revisited disciples there!

**GALATIA**

**PHRYGIA**

**Antioch of Pisidia**

**Iconium**

**Lystra**

**Derbe**

**Tarsus**

**Antioch of Syria**

**9**  
**Ephesus**

**Trogyllium**  
**Miletus**

**Cnidus**

**Patara**

**CILICIA**

*Antiochia*

**Acts 18:23;** “After he had spent some time in Antioch, he departed and **passed through** the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order to, strengthen all the disciples.”

**Paul travels from Antioch to Ephesus.**

**Tarsus is on the way, and based on Acts 18:23;**

**Paul might have re-visited disciples there**

The verb **"passed through"** was used in Acts 13:6; to speak of a trip involving missionary activity.

So it means here.

The trip begins with Paul taking the overland route from Antioch, north to Tarsus, and from there by way of the Cilician Gates into the elevated tablelands of Lycaonia and Pisidia, **passing through** Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch.

**Acts 18:23;** “After he had spent some time in Antioch, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.”

**It is clear from the Epistle to the Galatians that on this visit he found few traces (or none at all) of the work of the Judaizers among these congregations.**

But soon after he passed through this area, the Judaizers came and disturbed the congregations; When news of their activities reaches Paul, he will write to them the letter we call Galatians.

**Galatians 1:6; shows that only recently the Galatians had begun deviating from the truth. Their defection had been sudden.**

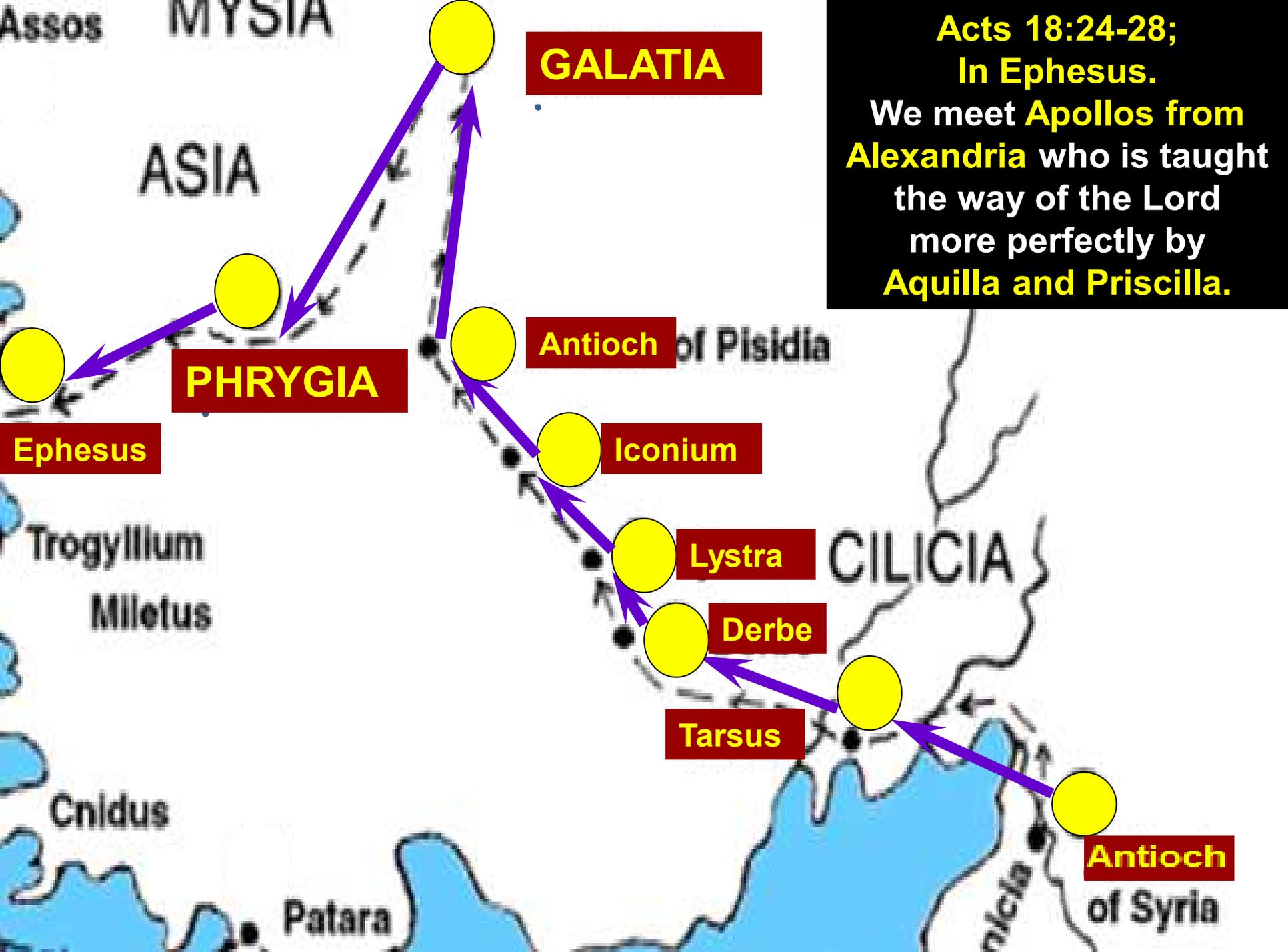
In that letter, he does make mention of some falling away from their first love, some relapse into old national vices which he may have noticed during this visit, and about these he writes a warning. (Galatians 5:21;)

**Acts 18:23;** “After he had spent some time in Antioch, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.”

**Paul was the one who gave this commandment many times, because he was worried about all of the congregations of the Lord.**

**He mentions it in 2 Cor 11:28; “besides the other things, what comes upon me daily:- my deep concern for all the congregations.”**

**Acts 14:22; Acts 15:32, 41;**



**GALATIA**

**PHRYGIA**

**Ephesus**

**Antioch of Pisidia**

**Iconium**

**Lystra**

**Derbe**

**Tarsus**

**Antioch of Syria**

**Acts 18:24-28;**  
**In Ephesus.**  
We meet **Apollos** from **Alexandria** who is taught the way of the Lord more perfectly by **Aquilla and Priscilla.**

Assos

MYSIA

ASIA

Trogyllium

Miletus

Cnidus

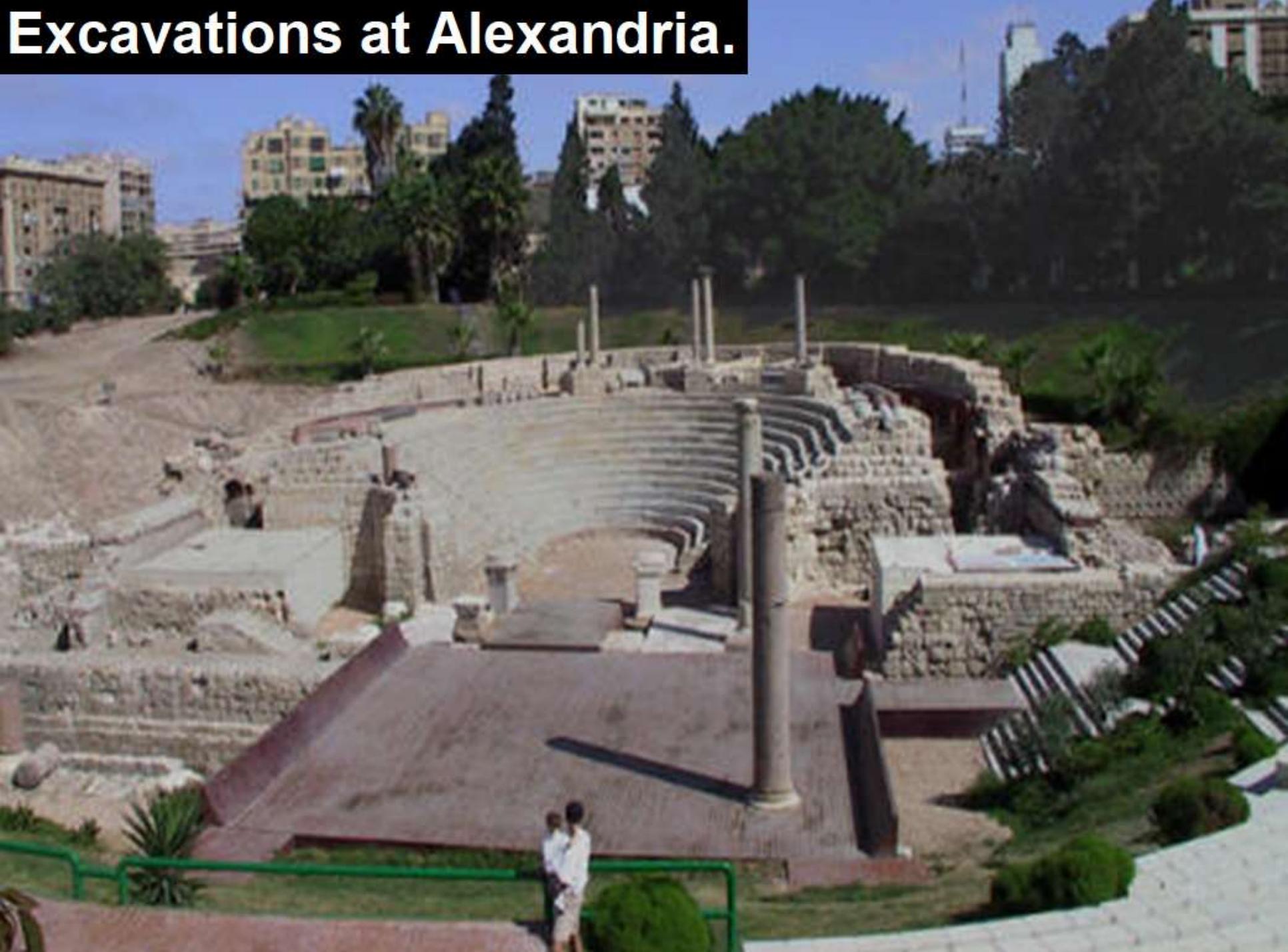
Patara

CILICIA

Antiochia

of Syria

# Excavations at Alexandria.



**Acts 18:24;** “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.”

Luke is introducing us to **Apollos**.  
**Who is this Apollos?**

This is a Jewish man  
born in Alexandria.

The idea here is that his ancestors  
were already living  
in Alexandria for a while.



Alexandria is a very important city of the seaport  
of Egypt, founded by Alexander the Great.  
**In his honour they named it:- Alexandria.**

# Pompey's Pillar – Ancient Alexandria, Egypt.



A

**Acts 18:24;** “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.”

This strong disciple was an eloquent man, **mighty in the Scriptures**. The term **"eloquent man"** (**anēr -logios**) can mean either learned or eloquent.

Apollos had learned the Old Testament Scriptures by memory and spent hours meditating on them.

**He understood and believed them, grasping the promises of the Messiah.**

Therefore, when **he saw or heard the proclamation of John the Baptist**, he was ready to receive the promises of the Saviour and to proclaim them.

**Acts 18:24;** “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.”

**"Work hard so God can say to you, ``Well done."'**

Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work.

**Know what His Word says and means." 2 Tim 2:15;**

**“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” 2 Tim 3:16-17;**

"the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and gladly listened to the message. **They searched the Scriptures** day by day to check up on Paul and Silas' statements to see if they were really so." **Acts 17:11;**

**“And now I entrust you to God and His care and to His wonderful words which are able to build your faith and give you the inheritance of those who are set apart for Himself.”**

**Acts 20:32;**

**Acts 18:24;** “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.”

**It would be good if we could be described in similar terms today!**

**Why don't more people have a thorough knowledge of the scriptures today?**

**What can we do to improve on this?**

**Acts 18:24;** “Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus.”

When you realize that this man was very eloquent and powerful in the scriptures, it is no wonder then, to hear of the congregation at Corinth taking sides and saying **“I am of Apollos”**. **1 Cor 1:12;**

**1 Cor 3:5-6;** Paul is trying to convince the Corinthians that we the “servants”, are nothing. **It is only God who gives the increase.**

**1 Cor 4:6;** Paul uses Apollos and himself to show we ought **not to go beyond what the Scriptures say.**

In **1 Cor 16:12;** Paul asked Apollos to come to Corinth but he didn't on that occasion.

In **Titus 3:13;** Paul is telling Titus to help Apollos in what ever he might need.

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

**Apollos has been instructed? Instructed by whom?**

**We don't know. What we know is that he was well instructed in the way of the Lord!**

**What is the way of the Lord in this context?**

**It is very clear that the way of the Lord is the Old Testament, the one that they know so far, because the New Testament is barely in progress.**

**Jesus says in John 5:39; “You search the scriptures” this is a reference to the Old Testament.**

**Isaiah 40:8; “The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”**

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

**This proclaims a loud message  
to all Christian parents and teachers,  
Christian children and students.**

**A believer must be instructed in the "way of the Lord" to become a strong disciple of the Lord.**

**"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32;**

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

**"These things command and teach. Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. Until I get there, read and explain the Scriptures; preach God's Word."**

**“Neglect not the gift that is in you, which was given you by Divine direction, (through Paul 2 Tim 1:16;) confirmed by the laying on of the hands of the elders. Care about these things. Stay with them, so that your progress will be clear to everyone.”**

**“Be conscientious about what you do and what you teach; persevere in this, and in this way you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.”**

**1 Tim 4:11-16;**

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

**“I also remember your sincere faith, a faith which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure dwells also in you.”**

**2 Tim 1:5;**

**“God's people must not be quarrelsome; they must be gentle, patient teachers of those who are wrong.” 2 Tim 2:24;**

**We must train ourselves in the way of the Lord. Otherwise, we will not be able to defend the truth from those who are teaching error.**

**The days are evil and we must learn the way of the Lord in all of its accuracy.**

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

I'm saying all of this because,  
in the next phrase, Luke says that Apollos  
taught accurately the things of The Lord.

**Can we do that? Apollos** taught the way of the Lord fervently,  
because he wanted people to get to know Jesus His Lord.

**Apollos** was another “**John the Baptist**”  
who came exactly like him, **full of fervour.**

We must have this love in all of us and if not, then we need  
to “**rekindle the love of God**” in us again, so that he can  
teach us to love His word as from the beginning.

Revelation 2:5; Romans 12:11; Col 1:28-29; 2 Tim 2:4;  
We have to appeal to every Christian  
to love God more and more...

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

**Apollos:- An eloquent man.**

**Mighty in the Scriptures.**

**Instructed in the way of the Lord.**

**Fervent in spirit.**

**Spoke and taught accurately**

**the things of the Lord**

**Except he knew only**

**the baptism of John (the Immerser).**

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

**“though!” “despite the fact that!”**

Even though the man was eloquent and very accurate, **there was a problem. What was that?**

**“Though he knew only the baptism of John.”**  
What is the problem? Isn't the Baptism of John the will of God for men before Jesus came?

**The baptism of John was good, but was not good enough to justify men before God.**

**Apollos was teaching what he knew, but he was missing what Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:18-20;**

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

**He had not learned that Peter in Acts 2:38; when talking about baptism, promised forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit as a gift to those who were obedient to God’s commandments.**

**The baptism of John was good, but just as an introduction to the new one, that would soon come. That, is the baptism of water and of the Spirit.**

**The baptism of John, that Apollos was teaching, was all he knew. Apollos was so eloquent that he even dared to go in the synagogues like Paul.**

**When we are not teaching right, is it embarrassing to recognize it and change?**

**Acts 18:25;** “This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

**Why didn't they oppose him** in the Synagogue  
as described in **1Tim 5:20;?**

“Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly,  
so that the others may take warning.” -

**Can we learn from them today?**

“Let your conversation be always full of  
grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may  
know how to answer everyone.” **Col 4:6;**

“**speaking the truth in love,** we will in all things  
**grow up into Him** who is the Head, that is, Christ.”  
Ephesians 4:15;

**Acts 18:26;** “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

**Remember, we don't know everything and in one way or another, we will miss something.**

**To change and recognize we are wrong are attributes of humble people.**

**“When Aquila and Priscilla!”**

**It is refreshing to know that there will be others willing to help us recognize when we are not accurate in our teaching.**

**Acts 18:26;** “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

**Let me make some comments here!**

**1) I don't see Aquila and Priscilla saying... Aha! We finally caught him! He made a mistake! Yahooooooo!**

**Do we have people like that in congregations today?**

**Sure we do.** They want to see the preacher fail, the congregation fail and everything that we do fail.

**2) I don't see Apollos saying: Well, this is the way I learned it, and I will never change.** The person that taught me is already dead / is not here / was well prepared!

**3) When correcting somebody we need to use:-  
Love, understanding, and patience, considering yourself!**

**Proverbs 1:5; 9:9; 25:12; Matthew 18:3,4;**

**1 Cor 3:18; 8:2; 12:21; 2 Peter 3:18;**

**Acts 18:26;** “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

**Apollos, by the mouths of two Christians, learned the way of the Lord more “Accurately”.**

**1) Jesus is Saviour and His blood can redeem us from sin.**

**2) Jesus promised His Holy Spirit, and now, everyone who obeys can receive it.**

**3) We are NOT living under the Old Law but under the New because Jesus erased the Old with all of the rites and sacrifices, when He died on the Cross.**

**Col 2:14;**

**4) There is a New Promise for those who follow Jesus and are faithful until death.**

**Acts 18:26;** “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

**5) God will be worshipped in spirit and in truth by his people, on a new day, following the New Testament as our only rule of faith.**

**Apollos became one of the great teachers of the congregations of Ephesus, Corinth & many others.**

**He knew some things about Jesus but lacked some important information about Jesus teachings.**

**He knew about the baptism of John but not the baptism in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.**



**Acts 18:26;** “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

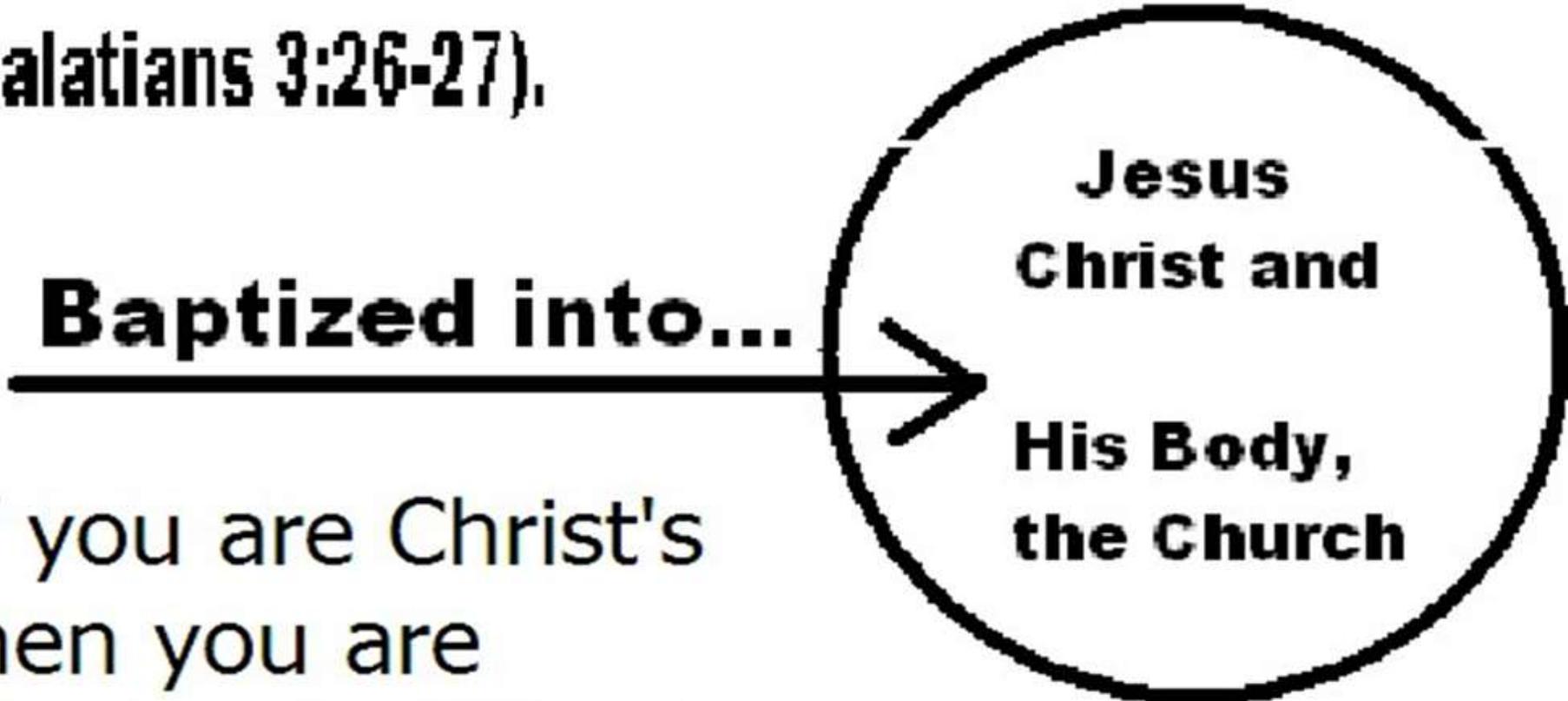
John had taught that his baptism was for a limited time, **ending with the death and resurrection of Jesus.**

It was **to prepare the Jews for their coming Messiah.**

Christian baptism is a **command of Jesus, an identification with the blood of Jesus and re-enactment of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.**

**You are all sons of God through faith, in Christ Jesus. Because all of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).**

**Baptized into...**



**Jesus  
Christ and  
His Body,  
the Church**

If you are Christ's  
then you are  
Abraham's Offspring.

**Acts 18:26;** “So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”

**Christian baptism is to put the alien sinner into the Body of Christ, through the Blood of Christ, to bring God’s forgiveness of sins to him & enable him to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.**

**Baptism into Christ in N.T. times even enabled the new disciple to receive the miraculous gifts of the Spirit if an Apostle laid his hands on him.**

**Many things like this Apollos did not know so Priscilla and Aquilla took him aside and “taught him the way of the Lord more adequately” or completely.**

**Acts 18:27;** “And when he desired to cross to Achaia, (Corinth) the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace.”



**Acts 18:27;** “And when he desired to cross to Achaia, (Corinth) the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace.”

**Apollos now that he understood the full gospel wanted to go to Corinth (Achaia) and share the gospel there.**

**Apparently he felt the Ephesians congregation was in excellent hands under the care of Priscilla and Aquila and he could be more useful elsewhere.**

**The Ephesian congregation encouraged him, even writing a letter of recommendation for him to the congregation at Corinth. (2 Cor 3:1;)**

**A letter from Priscilla and Aquila would open the door to Corinth for him and assure his being received. (Acts 18:1f;)**

**Acts 18:27;** “And when he desired to cross to Achaia, (Corinth) the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace.”

**What we know about Aquila and Priscilla is found in:-**

**Romans 16:3-4; / 1 Cor 16:19;  
2 Tim 4:19;**

**What we know about Apollos is found in:-**

**1 Cor (1:12; 3:4-6, 22; 4:6; 15:12) and in Titus 3:13;**

**“What I mean is this:- One of you says, “I follow Paul,”; another, “I follow Apollos,” another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”  
Is Christ divided? 1Cor 1:12-13;**

**Street in Ancient Ephesus. (excavated.)**



**Acts 18:27;** “And when he desired to cross to Achaia, (Corinth) the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace.”

**Ephesus will become the next centre for missionary work among the Gentiles.**

**It was traditionally the last residence of John the Apostle and Mary the mother of Jesus whose care had been entrusted to John.**

**John's tomb** and a small stone house said to be the home of **Jesus' mother** are **at Ephesus.**

**Acts 18:28;** “for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.”

**Apollos longed to reach out to the lost.**

The words used in this verse show how willing he was to preach the message of the Lord.

Apollos wanted everyone to know about God’s grace demonstrated in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus.

The word “**vigorously**” “**mightily**” (**eutonōs**) means that he used the Scriptures with power, straining earnestly to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the true Messiah.

The word “**convinced**” (**diakatēlegcheto**) means confronted, argued down, refuted to the very last point, defeated in argument. And he did it publicly.

# **The Third Journey Begins.**

**Part 1 = Acts 18:23-28;**  
**Paul in Antioch, Tarsus, Iconium**  
**Aquila and Priscilla and Apollos.**

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**Next in the series:- Part 2**  
**Acts 19:1:41; Paul at Ephesus.**