

Acts 1 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Six: Paul's Third Missionary Journey – Acts 18:23-21:16

Complete the map given to you in Lesson 4 by tracing Paul's third missionary journey throughout this lesson.

Read Acts 18:23-19:7.

- 1) What do you learn from the following verses about Paul's ministry of discipleship: Acts 15:41; 16:1-3; 18:23; 20:2, 4, 17, 37-38; 21:4a; 1 Thessalonians 2:11, 3:1-2 (also, see Paul's example being emulated by his own disciples in Acts 18:24-26)?

- 2) What specifically are you doing at the present to "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19) of Jesus?

- 3) Apollos and the disciples of John in Ephesus had a deficiency in their knowledge of Christianity. What do you learn from the example of Paul, Priscilla and Aquila that you can use to help someone whose knowledge of the Lord is incomplete?

Read Acts 19:1-22.

- 4) According to this passage, what special signs did God give to the early church as confirmation of the truth of Paul's teachings and the power of the Gospel?

- 5) Acts 19:20 says, "*In this way* the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power." How do the preceding verses (19:1-19) indicate that the Lord accomplished this?

- 6) Just as Luke recorded the activity of God, many believers have found it profitable to journal a record of what they see God doing. Record the variety of ways you have recently seen God at work in and around you, bringing Himself glory.

- 7) Church historians say that great awakenings to the Gospel have often begun with the fear of the Lord falling on a few individuals, making them acutely aware of sin. Acts 19:17-20 describes such an occasion. With which fellow believer or group might you partner in praying that your community, village, city, region, or nation will experience a profound fear of the Lord and consciousness of sin? If it is not already your habit, begin praying this way for yourself this week and write the impact to your own life below.

Read Acts 19:23-20:12.

- 8) What do you learn about the city of Ephesus from the riot that occurred?

- 9) What do you learn about Paul and his ministry...

a) from the riot in Ephesus?

b) from Acts 20:1-6?

c) from Acts 20:7-12?

- 10) In what specific way does Paul's ministry, as recorded in Acts 19:23-20:12, challenge you?

Read Acts 20:13-21:16.

- 11) Recall what you have already discovered in the *Acts 1* study about Paul's basis for self-defense. Why was Paul compelled to include a personal defense in his farewell to the Ephesian elders? See Acts 20:20-21, 26-27, 29-30, 33-34.

12) Compare Acts 21:4 with Acts 19:21; 20:22; 21:11-14; 23:1 and 11.

- a) What fact did the Spirit of God reveal to Paul and others?
- b) What difference existed in the way this revelation was interpreted?
- c) Have you been called to a task or role that others (perhaps even some believers) find difficult to understand and accept? If so, what is it and in what ways has the Lord stood near you and given you courage to obey (23:11)?

From Acts 18:23-21:16

13) According to Acts 19:10 and 20:31, roughly how long did Paul remain in Ephesus during his third missionary journey? Review Paul's intentions for further travel in his statement in Acts 19:21 and the partial fulfillment in Acts 20:1-3. Looking at your map, which of the key cities where Paul ministered were located in Macedonia and Achaia (or Greece)? Read 1 Corinthians 16:5-9 and tell what Paul was doing and where he was when he wrote the book of 1 Corinthians.

14) During what period of Paul's life did he write the book of Romans and where was he ministering when he wrote it (see Romans 15:19-26 and 16:23 [consider the city in which his host lived by inference from 1 Corinthians 1:14])?

15) Paul remained intent on assisting churches and individuals from whom he was separated, even while throwing tremendous energy into ministering at his present location. Which person from whom you are distanced could you encourage in some way today and how will you do it?