

“Paul Takes A Vow & Makes A Promise!”

Acts 18:18-23

So, Paul still remained a good while (1,5 years in **Corinth**). Then **He** took leave of the **Brethren (Corinthian Church)** and sailed with **Priscilla** and **Aquila**, who accompanied **Him** for **Syria** [By Way of **Ephesus**, **Caesarea (Philippi)**], and onto **Antioch (On the Orontes)**]. **He (Paul)** had his hair cut off at **Cenchreae**, for **He Had Taken a Vow (in Corinth)**. And **He (Paul)** came to **Ephesus**, and left **Them (Aquila & Priscilla) There (City of Ephesus)**; but **He himself** entered the **Synagogue** and Reasoned with the **Jews**. When **They (Jews)** asked **Him** to stay a longer time with **Them**, **He** did not consent, but took leave of **Them**, saying, [*“I must by all means keep this coming Feast in Jerusalem; but”*]¹ *I will return again to you, God willing.*”² And **He (Paul)** sailed from **Ephesus**. And when he had landed at **Caesarea (Philippi)**, and had gone up and **Greeted** the **Church (in Jerusalem)**, **He** then went down to **Antioch (On the Orontes)**. After **He** had spent some time **There (in Antioch)**, **He** departed and went over to the **Regions of Galatia** and **Phrygia** in order to **Strengthen** (Report, Encourage, Edify, & Ordain) All the **Disciples (There)**. **Acts 18:18-23 (NKJV)**

Q

“How Long & When Was Paul In Corinth?”

A

18 Months – 1.5 Years

From the Mid-Summer 51 A.D. till the End of 52 A.D.

Q

“What Does Paul Start When He Leaves Ephesus in the Late Winter of 52-53 A.D.?”

A

The Beginning of Paul’s 3rd Missionary Journey

Which Will Last Until Coming Again To Jerusalem in the Spring of 57 A.D.

So, Paul still remained a good while (1,5 years in **Corinth**). Then **He** took leave of the **Brethren (Corinthian Church)** and sailed with **Priscilla** and **Aquila**, who accompanied **Him** for **Syria** [By Way of **Ephesus**, **Caesarea (Philippi)**], and onto **Antioch (On the Orontes)**] ... **Acts 18:18abc**

Q

***“What Kind Of Vow Had Paul Taken In Corinth,
Which Required Him To Now Have His Hair Shorn Off?”***

A

A Temporary Nazirite Vow

He (Paul) had his hair cut off at **Cenchreae**, for **He Had Taken a Vow (in Corinth)** ... **Acts 18:18d**

Q

“Why Does One End A Special Temporary Vow Like This?”

A

Because God Has Answered The Request Or Set The Individual Free!

Pastor Scott’s Answer

***“Most Likely In Thanksgiving To God,
Because He Had Kept His Promise For 1.5 Years,
To Keep Paul And His Companions Safe & Free From Opposition,
While He Set Up A Strong Church In Corinth!”***

Q

“What Two Things Does Paul Do Immediately Upon Entering The City Of Ephesus?”

A1

**He Gets Aquilla And Priscilla To Start A Ministry & The Formation Of The Church At Ephesus,
While Maintaining Their Business Of Tent Making,**

Here In The New City Of Ephesus, Like They Did In Corinth!

And He (Paul) came to **Ephesus**, and left **Them (Aquila & Priscilla) There (City of Ephesus)**. **Acts 18:19a**

A2

Paul Immediately Does What He Always Does In Every New City,
He Enters The Synagogue And Looks For An Opportunity To Preach & Teach!
But **He himself** entered the **Synagogue** and Reasoned with the **Jews ... Acts 18:19b**

Q

“What Does Paul Do Next With The Jews Of The Synagogue?”

A

Because Paul Does Not Have A Lot Of Time In This Part Of The Trip,
He Instead Makes A Godly Promise To Return

And Preach To Them Some More On His Return Visit To Ephesus!

When **They (Jews)** asked **Him** to stay a longer time with **Them**, **He** did not consent, but took leave of **Them**, saying, [*“I must by all means keep this coming Feast in Jerusalem; but]¹ I will return again to you, God willing.”²* **Acts 18:20-21a**

Q

“Why Does Paul Seem To Have No Time To Spend With The Jews Now?”

A1

Because The Pressing Business Is To Make The Passover Feast
Of The Spring Of 53 A.D. In Jerusalem According To The **Other Text.**¹
Or Because He Has Unspecified Pressing Business Elsewhere According To **Another Text.**²

A2

In Both Cases, The Harbor At Ephesus Has Terrible Weather Conditions,
After March 15th, Each Year

So, He Is Pressed To Leave Now, Or Not At All Until Later In The Summer!

A3

In Either Case, Paul Plans To Return To Preach And Teach At Ephesus, As Soon As Possible,
After Visiting, Reporting, Strengthening, Encouraging, Edifying, & Ordaining
In The Churches Of The Regions Of Galatia & Phrygia!

Q

“What Does Paul Do Next Before The Stormy Season Starts?”

A

He Set Sail From Ephesus Going Back To The Holy Land!

And **He (Paul)** sailed from **Ephesus**. And when he had landed at **Caesarea (Philippi)**,
and had gone up and Greeted the **Church** (in **Jerusalem**). **Acts 18:21b-22ab**

Q

“What Does Paul Do Next After Coming To The Jerusalem Church?”

A

Paul Gives His Missionary Report & Spends Time With Them Celebrating The Passover Feast!

Q

“What Does Paul Do Next After Leaving The Jerusalem Church?”

A

Paul Travels Onward Reporting & Using His Familiar Method Of Strengthening,
Encouraging, Edifying, & Ordaining Back In The Church Of Antioch!

He then went down to **Antioch (On the Orontes)**. After **He** had spent some time **There (in Antioch)**. **Acts 18:22c-23a**

Q

“What Does Paul Do Next After Leaving The Antioch Church?”

A

Paul Travels Onward Reporting & Using His Familiar Method Of Strengthening,
Encouraging, Edifying, & Ordaining In All The Regions of Galatia & Phrygia!

He departed and went over to the **Regions of Galatia** and **Phrygia** in order to **Strengthen** (Report, Encourage, Edify, & Ordain) All the **Disciples (There)**.

Acts 18:23b

Review of Coming To A New Place Or Meeting Someone New

Believers/Followers Of Jesus Christ Are To **Be Bold In His Spirit**

& **Ready To Enact** An Initial 4-Fold Plan

1) Presentation, 2) Decision, 3) Judgement, & 4) Movement

Paul Always Uses A **4-Part Formula** When Sharing The **Gospel of Good News**

1) **OT Kerygma**

Central Story of Deliverance & Salvation of God's People According To God's Plan & Promise

2) **NT Kerygma**

Central Story of Deliverance & Salvation of God's People Fulfilled In Jesus Christ

3) **Support With Various Scriptures**

Use The Scriptures Read In The Synagogue / Church Meeting That Day

& / Or Use Supporting Scriptures From The Bible

4) **Exhort & Encourage**

The Audience To Go Further In Their Thinking & Understanding Of The Past & Their Lives

Review of Returning To An Established An Organized Church Group

Or Continuing the Process of Establishing New Believers In The Faith

Believers/Followers Of Jesus Christ Are To **Be Bold In His Spirit**

& **Ready To Enact** A Follow-Up 4-Fold Plan

1) Report / Present, 2) Encourage / Decision 3) Commission / Ordain, & 4) Equip / Mentor

These **Follow-Up Visits** Are To **Confirm The Believers Faith** Utilizing Paul's **5-Part Formula**

1) Edification, 2) Exhortation, 3) Strengthen, 4) Preach, & 5) Teach

"Let Us Like Paul, Who Came Before Us, Marked With The Sign Of Faith,

Make A Vow To God Alone, To Be Ready At All Times, In All Seasons, & In Every Situation,

To Be Ready To Present The Gospel Message Of Jesus Christ To Everyone We Meet!

Let Us Look For A Decision From Unbelievers,

Let Us Convict With The Judgment Of Christ That Is Coming Soon Upon The Whole Earth.

Let Us Be Ready To Move To The Next Assignment, When The Holy Spirit Calls Us,

Not Considering Our Comfort, Our Possessions, Or Our Lives!

Let Us Use The Fullness Of The Old Testament & New Testament Scriptures,

To Support Our Arguments, Truth Statements, & Invitations To Join The Faith.

Let Us Always Convict, Encourage, Exhort, & Reason With All Who We Meet.

Let Us Like Paul, Be Faithful To Make A Promise To One Another

To Be Bold In The Power Of The Holy Spirit.

Let Us Give Encouraging Reports & Testimonials To The Brothers & Sisters Of The Faith.

Let Us Commission & Ordain The Next Generation To Take Our Place As Christian Soldiers.

Let Us Equip, Edify, Exhort, Encourage, Mentor, & Strengthen The Body of Believers.

Let Us Preach & Teach The Life Transforming Gospel Of Jesus Christ Our Lord To All The World,

Until God The Father Calls Us Home, Or His Son Meets Us At The Last Trumpet Sound!

To God Be ALL The Glory, Forever And Ever!

And All God's People Said, Amen!"