

# Acts Lesson 7 Questions: Chapters 18, 19, 20

## Chapter 18

### Read the Study Notes from Lesson 6

1. a) What did you learn from the notes that helped you understand the conflict between the Jewish converts and the Gentile converts?

b) What did you learn in the notes that gave you greater appreciation for the labors of Paul,?

### Read: Acts 18:1-17 The Ending of Paul's Second Mission

NOTE: ACTS 18 DETAILS THE LAST PART OF PAUL'S SECOND MISSION—A 1½ YEAR STAY IN THE GREEK CITY OF CORINTH.

2. What brought Paul, Aquilla and Priscilla together?

3. How did the Jews receive Paul's message?

4. What assurance did God give Paul as he started his missionary labors in Corinth?

5. Contrast his stay in the city of Corinth with the typical missionary experience he had in the cities of Asia Minor and Northern Greece on his first mission and the beginning of his second.

6. Historical records show that Gallio had been assigned to Corinth by Rome as the chief official of the city only months before the incident with the Jews in verses 12-16. How did he respond to the accusations against Paul?

7. When God works anonymously behind the scenes in our lives, it's called providence. Looking back over the chapter, how was God's providence seen through the people that "happened" to come to Corinth at the same time as Paul?

8. PERSONAL Can you think of an instance when you recognized God's hand working providentially through the details or circumstances of your life?

9. Sometime during his stay in Corinth Paul put himself under a Nazarite vow, possibly as a way of asking God's blessing on his missionary efforts. A person making such a vow must go to Jerusalem and offer certain sacrifices in the temple. Look up Nazarite in the Bible Dictionary. What is one thing you learned about someone who is under a Nazarite vow?

b. Acts 18:18 tells that Paul had his hair cut in Cenchrea, the port town 6 miles east of Corinth. Why do you think Luke recorded a haircut of Paul? (Study tip: you might want to note in your margin where Cenchrea is.)

### **Acts 18:18-28 –The End of the Second Missionary Journey, Beginning the Third**

10. Look at a map of Paul's missionary journeys. Roughly how far did he sail from Ephesus to Caesarea?

Reading Note: Caesarea was the site of Roman administrative headquarters for the region and also the port city for Jerusalem. Even though Jerusalem is not mentioned by name in verse 22, when the Bible text says "go up" it refers to going to Jerusalem, which was situated on the top of hills. After a short stop in Jerusalem to fulfill his vow, Paul returned to his home base of Antioch in Syria.

11. Antioch is Paul's home city, the church from which he begins all his missionary journeys. (vs 22-23) Although we have no information in the scriptures about the time he spent there between his missions, what things might he have done or experienced while he was "home?"

12. Verse 23 indicates that he spent an undetermined time in Antioch before beginning a third mission. His first stops are to revisit the cities in Asia Minor where he had opened the work on his previous missionary journeys.

- a. What is the stated purpose for his return to the cities he originally preached in? Cite verse.
- b. Why is it so important to continually strengthen new members?
- c. PERSONAL: Do you have a personal experience to share about the importance of strengthening converts?

13. What qualities made Apollos a great teacher? (Note the adjectives used in this section.)

Reading Note: The "he" in verse 27 refers to Apollos, and Achaia is the region of Greece around Corinth.

## **Chapter 19 of Acts**

### **Acts 19:1-20 Paul's Three-year stay in Ephesus**

14. When Paul arrives in Ephesus he meets 12 men who considered themselves Christians. How could verse 6 be used to show the necessity for ordinances done with proper authority?

15. What were the signs that followed receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost?

16. What are signs in the life of a Latter-day Saint woman that show that she has received the Holy Ghost?

17. Verses 8 and 9 tell the details of Paul's missionary preaching while at Ephesus. What two places did Paul preach in, for how long in each, and why did he leave off preaching in the first place and move to the second?

18. What works did the seven sons of Sceva do, and in whose name did they do them?

19. In order not to act presumptuously in God's name, how can we ensure that we have His power behind us as we teach, pray or administer in His name in our work in the church?

### Acts 19: 21-41 The Riot at Ephesus

Reading Note: Ephesus was renowned for its worship of the goddess Artemis (Diana) and her temple in that city was a major tourist attraction of the ancient world. Silversmiths had created a whole industry around the making of small copies of the great statue in the temple. See the Bible Dictionary entry under "Diana" on p. 657.

20. Why did Demetrius feel threatened by the Christian missionary work?

21. Opposition to the saints of God often comes from a perceived economic threat. Can you think of other instances where opposition to the church had or has its roots in a group's personal or financial interests?

22. a. What did the town clerk criticize the people for when they gathered in the stadium?

b. Why do you think the disciples would not let Paul go inside the stadium to speak?

## Chapter 20 of Acts

### Acts 20:1-16 Farewells

Note: Leaving Ephesus, Paul now revisits his churches in Macedonia (Northern Greece) and Achaia (Southern Greece). Places in the text that use "we" and "us" as pronouns reflect those times that Luke was present.

23. What reference in this reading suggests that the Christian disciples were meeting together on Sunday?

24. PERSONAL As Paul strengthened the saints at Troas by his visit, so do our church leaders today strengthen us through their visits at stake, regional and general conferences. Is there a particular message you have heard one of them give that impacted your life for good and that stays in your memory?

25. Are there any church leaders that you would not let your teenaged son listen to from a ledge on an open window three stories up late at night? ☺ J.K. Funny story isn't it? Families with children should act this one out at FHE. Make any comments you would like to about this incident.

26. In what way is the story of Eutychus a manifestation of God's love?

27. Follow on the map Paul's journey from Troas to Melitus. (Note: if your map is not complete, all the places mentioned: Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos and Trogyllium are either islands or coastal places, so basically Paul never got off the boat until Melitus. Melitus is 28 miles as the crow flies from Ephesus. Certain church members from Ephesus made the journey there to come and say goodbye to Paul. Why do you think Paul didn't go to Ephesus itself to say goodbye?

### **Acts 20:17-38 Paul's farewell address to the Ephesian church**

28. What reasons does Paul give in his farewell address to the elders from Ephesus for thinking he will never see them again? Cite verse.

29. What phrase most touches you in Paul's accounting of his service to God, and why?

30. What words does Paul use to describe his own personal ministry? Cite verse.

31. Summarize the personal ministry you feel the Lord has entrusted to you. Do not list church callings, but rather summarize how God has equipped you to be an influence for good and the overall mission he has for you.

32. What do you think it means that Christ has "purchased the church with his own blood"?

33. What do you think is the meaning of "grievous wolves"? How is this a fitting metaphor?

34. How does this part of Paul's address point to an imminent apostasy?

35. What are some principles of financial responsibility and self-reliance that Paul has modeled in his ministry and discusses in this passage?