

Acts Chapters 16-18 **Question and Answers**

Acts 16:3 “Him (**Timotheus**) would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.”

1. Why did Paul put Timothy thru the discomfort of circumcision, when in chapter 15 had just stated that it was not necessary for gentiles? Acts 15:19-20. **List other such scriptural teachings?**

Acts 16:3 “He took and circumcised him because of the Jews.”

The unbelieving Jews, to whom he designed he should preach. For they would not have conversed with him at all, so long as he was uncircumcised.

List other such scriptural teachings?

Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” (ESV)

Romans 12:10 “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.” (ESV)

1 Timothy 5:8 “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (ESV)

Hebrews 10:24 “And let vs consider one another to prouoke vnto loue, and to good workes:” (1611 King James Bible)

Galatians 6:2 “Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (KJV)

Colossians 3:9 “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”

Hebrews 3:13 “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

2. Why were the Jews in Berea considered “more noble” than the Jews of Thessalonica?

Acts 17:10-11 “The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (ESV)

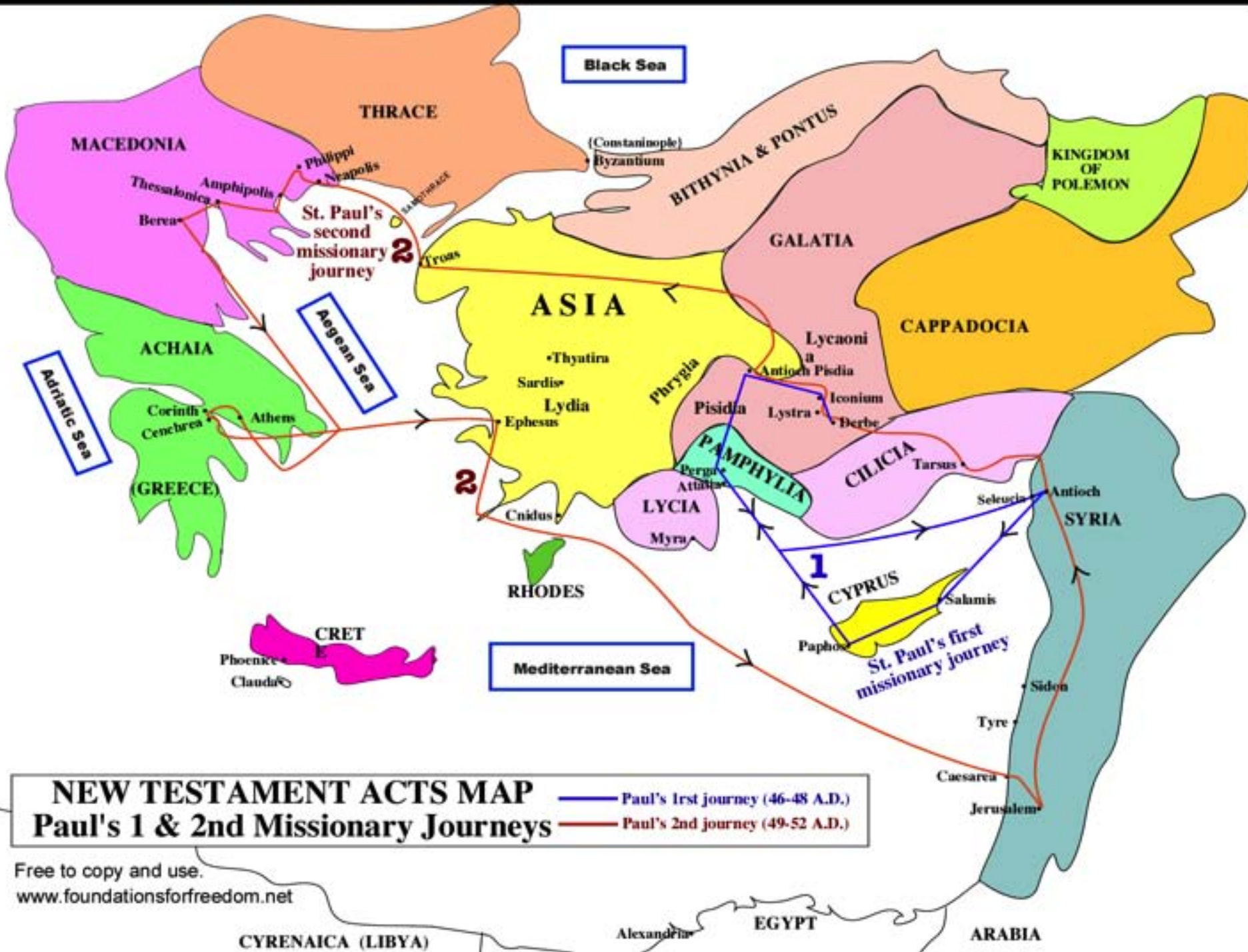
Acts 17:11. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica--The comparison is between the Jews of the two places; for the triumphs of the Gospel at Thessalonica were mostly among the Gentiles.

In that they received the word with all readiness of mind--heard it not only without prejudice, but with eager interest, "in an honest and good heart" (Luke 8:17), with sincere desire to be taught aright (John 7:17).

Mark the "nobility" ascribed to this state of mind. Who searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so--whether the Christian interpretation which the apostle put upon the Old Testament Scriptures was the true one. Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary

3. Note three unusual teaching points from these verses?

Acts 18:24-26 “Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.” (ESV)



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A. Why Ephesus?

Acts 18:18-19 “After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. (ESV)

1 Corinthians 16:19 “The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.” (ESV)

B. “he knew only the baptism of John.”
So What?

...he was instructed in the gospel of Christ as far as John's ministry would carry him, and no further; he knew *the preparing of the way of the Lord by that voice crying in the wilderness, rather than the way of the Lord itself.*

We cannot but think he had heard of Christ's death and resurrection, but he was not let into the mystery of them, had not had opportunity of conversing with any of the apostles since the pouring out of the Spirit; or he had himself been baptized *only with the baptism of John*, but was not baptized with the Holy Ghost, as the disciples were at the day of Pentecost.

Matthew Henry's Whole Bible
Commentary

C. "...they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."

Aquila and Priscilla were acquainted with the whole doctrine of the Gospel: the doctrine of Christ dying for our sins, and rising again for our justification; and in this they instructed Apollo; and this was more accurate information than what he had before received, through the medium of John's ministry. Adam Clarke's Commentary on the Bible

Many scholars believe that this included Baptism since he only knew the baptism of John.

Acts 18:2-3 “There he [Paul] met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.”(NIV)

Acts 18:18-19 “Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila . . . They arrived at Ephesus, where he [Paul] left them [Priscilla and Aquila].

Acts 18:26 “He [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him The Way more accurately.”

Romans 16:3-4 “Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.”

1 Corinthians 16:19 “The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.” (ESV)

2 Timothy 4:19 “Greet Priscilla and Aquila...”.

Prayer Time