

Acts 18.18-28

Knowing the Way of God More Clearly

Book of Acts is STORY of Jesus – Author LUKE – Gospel writer

Gospel > Luke tells us about Jesus on Earth

Acts: Luke tells us about Jesus in Heaven > pours Out Holy Spirit

Doing what He promised: “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” Matthew 16.18,19

“I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be 1 flock, 1 shepherd” John 10.16

Acts: Jesus-Empowered, Spirit-Led, Messengers of Cross/Resurrection

Ch 18: Final Stages of Paul’s 2nd M Journey > launched Antioch, Syria

Antioch - Derbe – Lystra – Phrygia – Galatia – Troas – Samothrace – Neapolis - Philippi – Thessalonica – Berea – Athens – Corinth – Ephesus – Antioch

1. God Establishes His Plan

Book of Acts – HIGHLIGHT Reel 1st Followers of Risen Jesus

First Converts – First Members of First Churches – First Leaders

Not Exhaustive – Not Encyclopedia: Peter/Ap Jews – Paul/Ap Gentiles

Not Even ALL 2 Guys Did > Mighty Army of Spirit-filled Disciples

v. 18 Paul stayed many days longer (IN Corinth) and then took leave ... set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila.

v. 19 came to Ephesus...went into synagogue & reasoned with the Jews

v. 20 they asked him to stay for a longer period...“I will return to you if God wills,” and he set sail from Ephesus

The Lord gave the word: Great was the company of those that published it Psalm 68.11

Prophet Ezekiel begins his Vision: “ I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. “Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them...their appearance and construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel. When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went...and the rims of all four were full of eyes all around. And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, and

the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels... And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army...Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking. Ezekiel 1

What the heck does this mean? Been reading it for 50 years? Not Sure.

1st Question: What was Original Author saying to Original Audience??

Ezekiel the Exile to Babylon – Culturally Appropriate Visions / Drama

All Bible > Sovereign God – Upholds Universe by Word of His Power

Working Every Person / Place / Church > Gospel Worker > Mission

Wheels Turn within Wheels within Wheels > Omnipotent/present

Reached Major Cities of Eastern Mediterranean – Planted Key Churches

Faithfully Taught Scriptures – Proving that Jesus is the Christ

Rejected – Attacked – Beaten – Imprisoned > but Still Soldiering ON

Jesus letter to church Philadelphia: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut”’ Revelation 3.7,8

“Christianity has died many times and risen again; for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.”
G.K. Chesterton

“thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, & thru us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere”
2 Corinthians 2.14

Apostle to GENTILES had Big Responsibility: 5 yrs later wrote Romans

“the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles...In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God... what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ”
Romans 15.15-19

v. 18 At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.

Personal VOW of Thanksgiving for God’s Leading & Blessing

Paul NOT take God’s Gifts for Granted > Gave Glory, Gave Himself!

Paul to church Thess: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you...He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it” 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

2. God Equips His People

v. 22 landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church

v. 22,23 went down to Antioch...spent some time there

v. 23 he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

What did Jesus DO in those cities? **What He promised** >> Built Churches

God’s Primary INSTRUMENT of Global Mission is the Local Church

13 Letters of Paul All TO / FROM Churches in our New Testament

Men, Women, Boys, Girls/ Gathering, Growing, Going/ Power of Spirit

FAITHFUL to Scriptures and FRUITFUL in their SERVICE

Paul returns to Home Church in Antioch > Prayed, Supported, Refreshed

Even in Limited 1st C World > On-going Involvement, Real Participation

Amazing “reaching the world through our local Christian community”

Model for Kalahikiola: Relationship w M’s > Mutual Blessing

1st M Journey launched: in church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon...Lucius...Manaen...Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord & fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting & praying they laid their hands on them & sent them off Acts 13.1-3

End 1st M Journey: they sailed to Antioch, where they’d been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived & gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. And they remained no little time with the disciples. Acts 14.26-28

3. God Encourages His Preachers

vs. 24,25 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

Meet Key Supporting Actor in Story of God’s Global Mission

Luther – wondered IF Apollos was Author of HEBREWS?

Model Minister – Why? Moving what to Look? Kalahikiola almost 69

CALL to Ministry – What is it? How do we Know?

1 Corinthians > EVERY Christian CALLED **1) Be Saved, 2) To Serve**

“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord”
(1 Corinthians 1.9)

How RECOGNIZE Someone’s Call to SERVE – Pastor, Music, Leader

Common Answers: FEELINGS or God TOLD Me

PROBLEM > Not Measurable (Personal) or Accountable (GOD said)

Feelings NOT Bad – Pray you FEEL as Good as Possible!

Bible: Recognize CALL – 2 Things... 1) Character THEN 2) Competency

FEELINGS is Not a Call > If NOT have Gifts, Not have the Call

Disservice to Church / Christian > If you FEEL It – Then Move Forward

Feels like Singer, Missionary, Pastor, Leader > Brain Surgeon, Lawyer!

Apollos > Character & Competency, Gifts & Grace, Skills & Submission

Character is Foundation > Competence can be Learned

People of God should see BOTH – Character AND Competency

Competent: v. 24 “eloquent” – TODAY Podcast, Go Viral, Smooth Talker

Ancients > THINK Before You SPEAK: THOT ABOUT > Scriptures

v 24,25 “competent in Scriptures. He had been instructed in way of Lord”

Eloquent = Understand the Scriptures / Know the Savior

Brings LIGHT to our Mind, and HEAT into our Hearts

Easter Afternoon: “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” Luke 24.32

v. 25 “taught accurately the things concerning Jesus”

Many things are Helpful and True > but Do Not Reveal Jesus

Paul in 1st Corinthians: “when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (2.1,2).

“far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world” - Gal 6.14

Competent Pastor: Bible Believing and Christ Honoring Messenger

Foundation of Apollos Competency was his CHARACTER

a) Spirit-filled v. 25 “being fervent in spirit” lit. BOILING - Zealous

SPIRIT – spirit of Apollos > Definite Article Gk THE Spirit = Holy Spirit

Baptism of Sp ONCE: Receive Jesus / FILLING Day by Day, All Day

b) Student v. 25 though he knew only the baptism of John

Ap. Born/raised Egypt > Alexandria > Huge Footprint of John BAPTIST

Had Apollos MET / Heard John or FOLLOWERS of John?

“All the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.” Mark 1.5

John MARTYRED Before Cross > OLD Testament Prophet > Greatest

NOT have Complete Mesg Crucified / Risen / Ascended / Exalted JESUS

Apollos – LIKE US – Deficient in some Theological BASICS

WAS Believer > NOT Baptized by Aquila > different story in ch 19

Not Say MESSAGE was INACCURATE > but it was INCOMPLETE

“We today are so accustomed to assume the availability of the entire New Testament that we forget that it was not to be even completed till late in the first century, and not generally accessible in the churches for a considerable period thereafter. That being so, it was surely nothing less the gracious overruling of the Holy Spirit that the church in the first few generations did not lapse into all manner of diverse parties, and false teachings” Bruce Milne

Want be Preacher – Need STUDY A lot or Rehash All OLD IDEAS

Move Different Church every Year > Don’t go on LOOP REPEATING!

c) Submissive v. 26 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.

CRITICAL Moment – Who are these Tentmakers “I am great APOLLOS”

What they Teach Me? Notice Wife Teacher > Submissive / Supported

Resisted Inner Voices > Went their Home, Ate Food, Spent Time > OPEN

Today some Correct Preachers DIRECTLY > Shout at Back Door!

Even WORSE than Shouting at Back Door > Saying NOTHING!

Preacher: Man – Honesty / Sinner – Needs Rebuke / Xtian Brother – Needs Support Need Know

what Bible says Big Book – SIMPLE Message

God Creator, Judge, Savior – People/God’s Image/Lost/Found

d) Stubborn v. 27,28 And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

Boiling Messenger traveled from Ephesus to Corinth > Bring Blessing

Eloquent Rhetorician Welcome Corinthian Culture > Manner & Message

Different than Founder: Paul > No Conflict > Compliment One Another

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” 1 Corinthians 3.5,6

God gives Growth – Jesus BUILDS Church – God GROWS It!

ALL called to Plant, Water, Till, Pray, Love, Serve, Help > Point to Jesus

May God make this TRUE for Us and OUR Church @ Kalahikiola

Congregational Prayer

Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of your wisdom. As you spoke through Isaiah, “my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (55.8,9). We would expect your holy Gospel would be handled by angels, who serve tirelessly in sinless perfection. Yet, you have called us who need to be saved to proclaim you as God and Savior. We who have tasted that you are good can declare the Great News from our hearts. We are called to “share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Timothy 1.8-10). We praise you, Sovereign Lord, for your Kingdom advance, from the First to the final century, “the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly” (Acts 6.7).

Pray for the those who Share the Great News of Jesus – including Yourself! Remember Levi Silva and the team of young Egyptians who are serving in Lebanon today!

“For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 1.11). “One half of the world is always in the light, while the other half is always in darkness. When one part of the world is going to bed, another part is just getting out of bed. While one part is hard at work, the other part is fast asleep. While some of God’s servants are carrying forward their mission, others are resting in preparation for the new day that will soon dawn. Somewhere, twenty-four hours a day, God’s message is being spoken; his Word applied; people are being saved. The sun never sets on the work of God and the witness of his people.” (Roger Greenway). May Your will be done in Kalahikiola Church, as it is in Heaven. Amen and Amen.

Acts 18.18 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. ¹⁹ And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. ²¹ But on taking leave of them he said, “I will return to you if God wills,” and he set sail from Ephesus. ²² When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. ²³ After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. ²⁴ Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, ²⁸ for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.