

RUSSELL SANDERS

7-28-2021

THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 27

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY – PART 13

AT CORINTH WITH AQUILA AND PRISCILLA

After fleeing from Athens, Paul remained in Achaia (Greece), and then went westward of the Greek city of Corinth (Acts 18). There he found a fellow tentmaker and Jew named Aquila. Paul stayed in the house of Aquila and his wife Priscilla.

Aquila was originally from northern Asia Minor where Paul had been forbidden by Holy Spirit to preach. Aquila had gone a while to Italy, and was now in Corinth, Greece. It is thought that he may have been a convert of Peter. Most of the Apostles had gone preaching abroad on their mission's trips. Peter even addresses the "strangers" (gentiles) in I Peter 1:1 which included believers in Pontus. Or he may have been one of the proselytes in Jerusalem at Passover when the Holy Spirit baptized the 120 in the upper room. People were present from Pontus (Acts 2:9). Regardless of the time or manner of his conversion, this husband and wife team were to become part of Paul's traveling missionary team for a season.

Paul found a synagogue in Corinth and began "reasoning" with the Jews there on every Sabbath. When Silas and Timothy finally arrived there from Macedonia, Paul got bolder, pressed by the Holy spirit to boldly declare that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ, the Anointed Messiah. When the Jews from that synagogue came in opposition and blasphemed the name of Jesus, Paul washed his hands of them and declared that he would preach his message to the gentile population of Corinth.

Paul and his party departed the synagogue. Paul now took up a new residence in the house of a believer named Justus. Ironically, the house of Justus was right next to the synagogue. In fact, it was so close that it practically joined walls with the synagogue. This could easily have agitated the opposing Jews; however, God gave Paul assurance of safety here in a night vision (Acts 18:9-10) that no harm would come to him in Corinth. He was to continue in boldness to preach Jesus. God assured him of many believers in Corinth. In fact, the chief ruler of the synagogue at the beginning, Crispus, became a Christ follower.

Paul and his party remained in Corinth a year and a half preaching and establishing a strong church.