

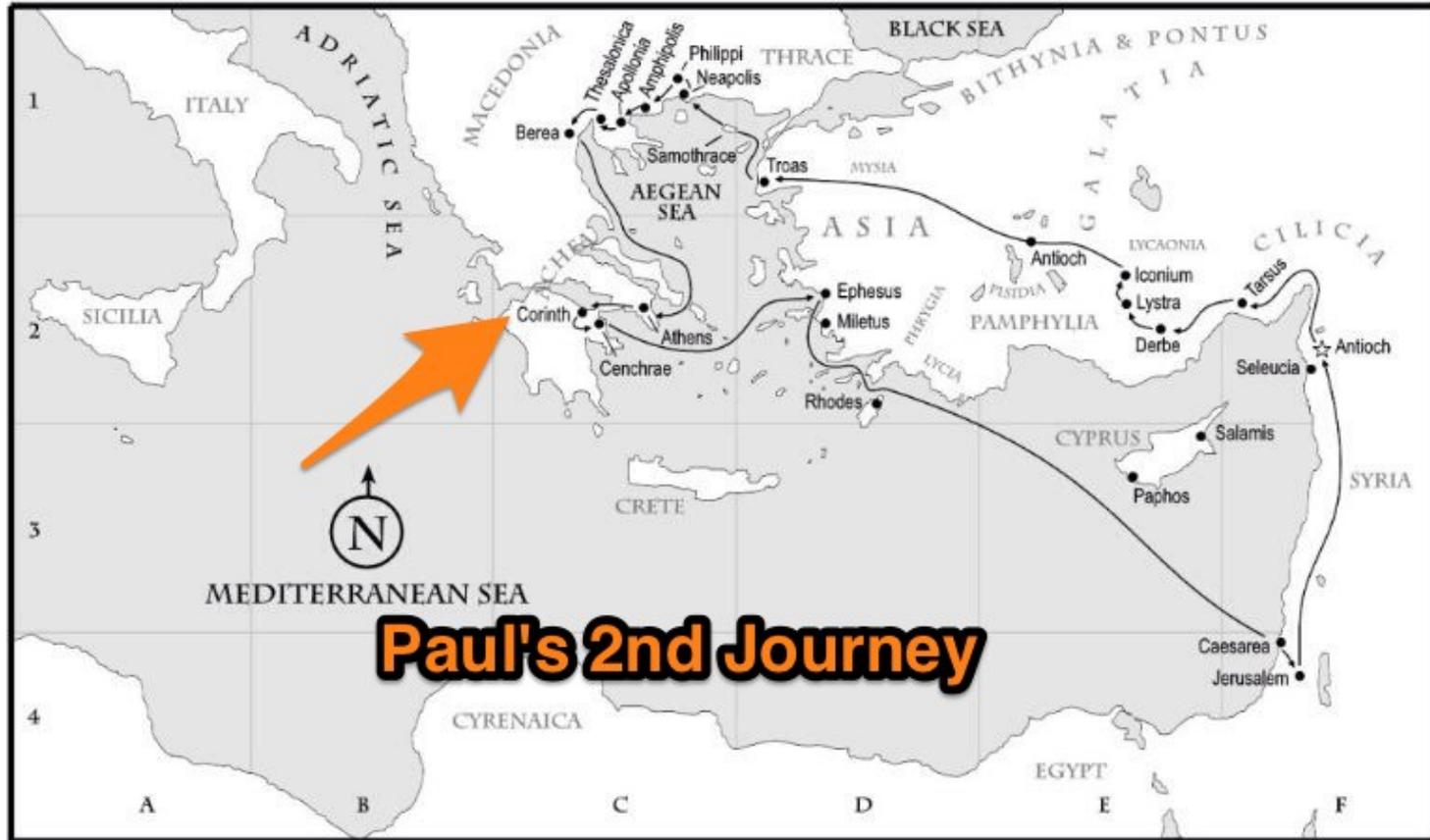
Acts 18:1-11

18 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. 3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. 6 But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, “Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” 7 And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus,[a] one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. 8 Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.” 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Paul's Journey



The Church

God was using Paul to build his Church. When we look into these verses today we are going to see what the Church is not and what the Church is.

Corinth

When Paul was finished with his speaking at Athens he departed and came to Corinth.

What a City!

The city of Corinth was famous, or rather infamous, for unclean practices; as fornication, adultery, lasciviousness in words and deeds, and other unnatural lusts; "Corinthian whores" was a common proverb; nor was it proper for persons to go to Corinth, there were so many snares for lust and uncleanness; there were said to be above a thousand prostitutes in the temple of Venus there (k); hence the very great impurities and wickedness



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- **place of entertainment.** Acts 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.
- **business.** Act 16:18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, being greatly annoyed and turning around, said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out in that very hour. 19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their profit was gone, they took Paul and Silas, and dragged them to the marketplace to the rulers.

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God intended for the Christian life to be a family affair. The Bible teaches that it's ideal for entire families to love and serve God together.

Introduction

Allow me to reconstruct this story for you...this couple was living in Rome, Italy. The name Priscilla is a Roman name, and secular history tells us she was from a prominent family of nobility living in Rome. Aquila is a Jewish name. So we can see that a young Roman girl has married a young Jewish boy, and that was not acceptable in those days...a huge wave of anti-Semitism had swept that land in those days, and the Romans hated the Jews. The Emperor Claudius had just issued an edict expelling all Jews from Rome. You see, as they were being kicked out of Rome, and were traveling east toward Corinth, the Apostle Paul was leaving Athens and traveling west to the same place, and when they met face to face, it was the beginning of something wonderful that would last the rest of their lives.

Gospel Presentation

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Aquila and Priscilla had the opportunity to work with Paul and I'm sure there were conversations of our Lord and they were more than likely save at this point in time.

Support Arrives

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From the time Paul had left Berea he had to be by himself. His provisions had more than likely been provided by those who had conducted him to Athens. We do not see him being given hospitality like in other towns but we now see him working.

A new congregation is born

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We see when people are born again according to John 3. God adopts them into his family. As he places us in his Church we are the Bride of Christ according to Ephesians 5. He gives us his Spirit as an guarantee of our inheritance as his children.

Matthew 6:9 Therefore pray in this manner: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.

Church is a Family

Ephesians 5:25-29 Husbands, love your own wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 in order that He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he that loves his own wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as also the Lord does the church.