

Anatomy of Revival Part 2

Revival at Ephesus – Paul’s Supernatural Guidance to Macedonia (Acts 18:19-28)

Paul was in Corinth making tents and met Aquila and Priscilla who helped him minister to the Corinthians.

19 “And he came to Ephesus and left them (Aquila and Priscilla) *there; but he himself* (alone) *entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.*”

Ephesus is the capital of the Roman province of Asia. The population was around three thousand and had a large temple to the worship of Diana (Acts 19:28). Diana’s worship was accompanied by sexual acts with priests and priestesses. It was a large tourist and convention city.

When entering a new city, Paul’s method of ministry was to go to the synagogue and minister to Jews first.

Aquila and Priscilla were Jewish, but they were not good at debating with the Jews in the synagogue.

20 “When they (Jews) *asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent...*”

Paul had a good response, and many people were born again. This was not the norm. He was usually removed quickly. There was a spiritual hunger in Ephesus. Paul was only there to plant seeds for the new church. He would return later for a great revival, a harvest of souls and churches.

21 “But took leave of them, saying, “*I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem (Pentecost); but I will return again to you, God willing.*” And he sailed from Ephesus.”

Paul wanted to be there to see many of his friends and visit the church at Jerusalem. He told the converts at Ephesus he will return if it is God’s will, and it will be God’s will. He will return after many months to see a harvest which has been sown and watered for a long time.

22 “And when he had landed at Caesarea and gone up (to Jerusalem) *and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.*”

Paul docked at Caesarea and went up to Jerusalem. He visited the church and the many saints who were his friends. And when the feast of Pentecost was over, he went to his home church of Antioch and rested for quite a while.

There could not have been two churches more different than Jerusalem and Antioch. Jerusalem tended toward and moved quickly to legalism. Antioch was built on a foundation of grace by Barnabas and Paul (Acts 11).

23 "After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples."

Beginning his third missionary journey, he visited the same churches he established on his first and second trips. He went to encourage the pastors and saints in Galatia. Since they had a tendency toward legalism, he had to go and remind them of their position in Christ and the walk of faith which should remain throughout the Christian life.