

20230618 – THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

Sunday AM – Acts 18:22-28 &19:1-10

I. DISCIPLES DETERMINED

- A. Paul heads to his sending/home church in Antioch (vs. 22)
 - 1. This is an important aspect of the missionary's work
 - a. The church that ordains and sends is in charge of that work
 - b. The church that sends is responsible for that work
 - c. The missionary is ACCOUNTABLE to that church
 - i. The believers in a mission work are baptized
 - ii. They are baptized into the home church
 - iii. And then one day the church is ORGANIZED
 - iv. And they become their own BODY in Christ
 - 2. Paul takes time to visit churches on his trip
 - a. I love visiting other churches when I take trips
 - b. There's plenty of good websites out there with church listings
 - c. Karis and I went to church in Branson the day after our wedding
 - d. And in Heber Springs, AR on the Wednesday of our honeymoon
 - 3. Paul left Ephesus, sailed to Caesarea, then went up to his church
 - a. He told them that he would return, if God willed (vs. 21)
 - b. But he had to leave to report
 - c. And he spent a good amount of time with his people (vs. 23)
- B. Now he's rested and ready to return to the field
 - 1. And he begins the THIRD missionary journey
 - 2. He went all over the country of Galatia to STRENGTHEN the churches
 - a. So often you see people try to WEAKEN the churches
 - b. Much of our culture is designed to WEAKEN churches
 - c. For instance: Pornography
 - i. Pornography makes weak men
 - ii. Weak men make weak families
 - iii. Weak families make weak churches
 - iv. Weak churches make a weak society
 - 3. We need STRENGTHENING – more church, more doctrine, more BIBLE
 - 4. HEB. 10:25 – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”
- C. Paul was doing the WORK of God and he was consistent in it
 - 1. If he had a car, he'd have the oil changed every 3000 miles
 - 2. If he had owned a home, he'd paint it every 5 years to the day
 - 3. Paul was DETERMINED to obey God and willing to put in the work
 - a. And because of HIS determination, the disciples everywhere grew
 - b. His determination rubbed off on everyone around them
 - c. Be a thermostat not a thermometer – SET the tone of Godliness!

4. We see DETERMINED DISCIPLES, but we also see DISCIPLING DISCIPLES

II. DISCIPLES DISCIPLING

- A. Teaching others also is the BEST hallmark of true disciple
 1. 3 JOHN 1:4 – “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”
 - a. Often used in a child-rearing sense and it applies
 - b. But the INTERPRETATION is not to John’s biological children
 - c. 3 JOHN 1:1 – “The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.”
 - d. There were a few mentioned named Gaius
 - e. He might have been Paul’s host mentioned in Romans 16:23
 - f. But he wasn’t John’s natural son (Greek name / John was Hebrew)
 2. 2 TIM. 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.”
 3. People make a big deal about James and works vs. faith
 - a. JAMES 2:26 – “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
 - b. We know that James was speaking to the Hebrews
 - c. Everyone knew that Abraham was called the friend of God BEFORE he was called to take Isaac to Mt. Moriah
 - d. An motivated faith is an ungrateful faith (not a nonexistent faith)
- B. Paul’s disciples (Aquila and Priscila) heard an eloquent man speak (Apollos)
 1. He was a Hellenistic Jew, born in the University City of Alexandria (vs. 24)
 - a. Obviously well-educated, FERVENT in spirit – SAVED
 - b. He had the Baptism of John (vs. 25)
 - i. A truly repentant person John the Baptist would Baptize
 - ii. And none of those are seen to be RE-baptized
 - iii. They were made church members by Jesus
 - iv. JOHN 1:35-37 – “Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; (36) And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! (37) And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.”
 - c. The Lord had the heart of Apollos
 2. Apollos was ELOQUENT but not EDUCATED (vs. 26)
 - a. He was bold but based. Prepared but not Perfected!
 - b. Apollos had some gaps in what he knew
 - c. But was WILLING to tell people what the Lord had done for him!
 3. There are 4 parts to evangelization
 - a. Overcoming the man-fearing spirit, giving out the gospel
 - b. Testifying what the Lord has done for you (your witness)
 - c. And offering more (a chance to pray, salvation, Bible study, etc.)

- d. Apollos was FORWARD to give his testimony!
- C. Apollos was MIGHTY in the scriptures (the Old Testament)
- D. Apollos was ENTHUSIASTIC in his preaching
- E. Apollos was LACKING in his knowledge
 - 1. Aquilla and Pricilla took him aside and instructed him
 - 2. Carefully, thoughtfully, lovingly – but DIRECTLY
 - 3. TACTFULLY and THOROUGHLY (vs. 26)
 - 4. And APOLLOS received the instruction readily
- F. We see DISCIPLES DISCIPLING and now DISCIPLES DECLARING

III. DISCIPLES DECLARING

- A. Now a disciple of a disciple is DECLARING the truth (vs. 28)
 - 1. Apollos speaks BOLDLY and publicly
 - 2. And now HE becomes a missionary and an evangelist (vs. 27)
 - 3. They send with him letters of introduction
- B. His purpose is very well stated – to convince the Jews
- C. And the results were obvious (vs. 27) – He HELPED them much
 - 1. What a great testimony for any Christian
 - 2. Can it be said that through your life, service, tithes, witness, walk
 - a. That YOU have helped other Christians MUCH?
 - b. That YOU (that I) have helped our church?
 - c. God recorded that fact about Apollos
 - 3. He HELPED them much that believed!
- D. We see the DISCIPLES DECLARING and then DISCIPLES DISTINGUISHED

IV. DISCIPLES DISTINGUISHED

- A. There were some other disciples (learners) here in Chapter 19
 - 1. Twelve of them, according to the Bible (vs. 7)
 - 2. Who were NOT SAVED
 - a. ROM. 8:8-9 – “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”
 - b. JOHN 6:44 – “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”
 - c. JOHN 6:63 – “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”
 - 3. They were asked a question. Unto WHAT were you baptized?
 - a. Can you answer that question?
 - b. I was once “baptized” as a young boy, before I got Saved
 - c. I remember the day that Pastor Gray showed up and explained

- B. They had UNSCRIPTURAL Baptism (vs. 3)
 - 1. They didn't have John's Baptism, bring forth fruits meet for repentance
 - 2. They were BAPTIZED unto John's Baptism!
 - a. It was a religious ACT
 - b. Not a heart changed!
 - 3. They had no evidence of Salvation in their lives (no peace, no Holy Spirit)
 - a. But they were willing to listen to the Gospel Message (vs. 4)
 - b. And they GOT SAVED!
 - c. Then they were baptized scripturally (vs. 5) – Public Testimony!
 - d. ACTS 20:21 – “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- C. Scriptural Baptism has 4 QUALIFICATIONS
 - 1. A scriptural CANDIDATE – a saved person – JOHN 3:16 – “For God so...”
 - 2. A scriptural MODE – a burial, enough water to picture it VISIBLY
 - 3. A scriptural GOAL – not FOR Salvation but BECAUSE OF Salvation
 - 4. A scriptural AUTHORITY – a New Testament Baptist Church
- D. Their baptism did not qualify on three of these qualifications
 - 1. They were not saved, they didn't have the right goal
 - 2. And they didn't have the right authority!
 - 3. But they were willing to CHANGE all of that!
- E. And the DISCIPLES were DISTINGUISHED! That is how DISCIPLES are DESIGNED!

V. DISCIPLES DESIGNED

- A. Disciples are LEARNERS.
 - 1. We don't start out with all knowledge, that's okay, no one does!
 - 2. 2 PETER 1:5 – “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;”
 - 3. He wants to deepen our knowledge of Him
 - 4. But we must FIRST have FAITH – SAVING faith
- B. We can then add to our faith, virtue, and unto virtue KNOWLEDGE!
 - 1. Understanding of God's Word
 - 2. The knowledge of God's PRESENCE in your life
 - 3. His Holy Spirit to COMFORT and to GUIDE
- C. Be Saved Today!