

44-Acts-Pt18-Transcript

Wow

what uh what a beautiful song be strong and courageous don't be afraid and certainly the servants of God through time have had to be strong and courageous and that's not Paul is no exception we're going to be studying the chapter the book of Acts chapter 18 this evening and Paul is told by Christ himself

not to be afraid so let's just say a quick prayer and then get right into chapter 18 of the book of Acts I have any father we pause and we give you thanks Lord we just thank you so much for these scriptures that you have given to us that we can search and study and come to understand and we have certainly been blessed by studying the book of Acts and we pray God that your blessing will continue upon us this evening as we delve into the 18th chapter of this book thank you Father

we asked your blessing on our study now in Jesus Holy Name Amen so brethren we left off in acts 17 with philosophers coming into the church and and this is very significant we saw Paul doing all he could to speak to these Athenians to identify this how superstitious they were and there was one unknown God there was a one Rock that was to the unknown God and so he used that as a jumping-off point to try to reach them to say I'm gonna proclaim to you this unknown God we also saw him quoting from Greek poetry in order to reach them and yet when he speaks to the Jews he's quoting from the scriptures and we see that Paul had this tremendous flexibility and he was very effective and we see that the book ends with Dionysus some great

philosopher if we were alive at the time you know certainly if the awfulest would know who this is and other philosophers coming into the church and while that sounds like good news it actually ends up being very tragic for the church because these are very intellectual people and they end up hijacking the church when we look at when we were in acts 15 the council at Jerusalem the first ecumenical council was all Jews and then we look 300 years later or 250 years later it be council of nicaea all Gentiles and in fact you know a council when I see a council of laodicea all of these uh ecumenical councils there is such a hatred of Jews it's incredible and so something has happened where these philosophers come into the church and because of their powerful intellects they end up in leadership positions and end up bringing what we call Gnostic the doctrine and and false doctrine into the church and we can trace it Plato is very influential because he set up many schools or Socrates was really the the pivot point in terms of these great philosophers but he didn't write anything down a Plato did Plato wrote down everything and he set up schools and so he had tremendous influence and then years later another philosopher called plutinos who was a neoplatonist if you study these philosophers then you see their doctrines in all of these versions of Christianity which have nothing to do with the Hebraic root that Christianity is based upon so that being the case we now leave acts 17 and come into chapter 18 and he says after these things that were the things that that happened in Athens Paul left Athens and you can see here that he came to Corinth

and again if you've been following his journey you can see where he left Berea and then he was in Athens and now he's leaving Athens and he's going to Corinth so he says here he came to Corinth and he found a certain Jew named Aquila born in Pontus lately come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome and so this is something that we see through time that God's people are always persecuted consistently Satan has a hatred for God's people and since the destruction of the northern tribes by the Assyrian Kings this the southern tribes were all that's left that was Judah Benjamin and Levi known as the Jews the tribe of Judah so here they are now in Rome and there's some sort of edict where they're being persecuted and they have to flee for their lives and they've left Rome so this is why Aquila and Priscilla are now leaving Rome and they're there they're meeting up with Paul and he came unto them and because he was of the same craft so that is he was a tent maker like Paul because he was the same craft of the same craft he stayed with them and wrought for by their occupation they were tent makers and he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks and again we were talking last week and we looked at this word reasoned which really means disputed debated and so every week he was there every Sabbath debating with the Jews and in showing them from the scriptures as well as the Greeks that Jesus is the Messiah and when Silas and Timothy were come from Macedonia so remember that Paul commanded them to join him and so they they have now come down and joined him from Macedonia Paul was pressed in the

spirit and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Messiah this is his constant message that Jesus is in fact the Messiah and when they opposed themselves and blaspheme he shook his raiment and said unto them your blood be upon your own heads so he's done his best to warn them to tell them that Christ is coming he is the Messiah but they they blaspheme and so he shakes his remnant and says your blood be upon your own heads I'm clean from now on I'm going to the Gentiles so that's now the break with them and he's going to the Gentiles and he departed there and entered into a certain man's house named Justice one that worships God whose house joined hard to the synagogue so clearly this is somebody who's right in the middle you know in every congregation you have people are out on the edge and then you have the people who are in the middle there in the core in the center and clearly justice is one of these brethren that is a pillar in the congregation and he's right there and is how his house is connected to the synagogue so clearly he can service the synagogue without rest and Christmas the chief ruler of the synagogue believed on the Lord with all his house so Paul was so effective that even the chief ruler of the synagogue came to understand that Jesus is the Christ and many of the Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized so many of these Corinthians are baptized but when we look in the letter to the Corinthians notice what Paul says in verse 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Christmas Crispus and Gaius so Christmas clearly was baptized by Paul perhaps being one of the early early converts there but

Paul is grateful that in fact he didn't convert the rest because Corinthians became very divisive and were in factions in different parties and he's just grateful that you know if there was a party that he had baptized that they would all say well we were baptized by Paul and maybe feel superior to the others but he did baptize Crispus and Gaius going back then to Acts 18 and verse 9 then spoke the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision don't be afraid and that's again where we had opened up with that that beautiful song is important for the servants of God to be fearless and that's what the day of Pentecost was all about that the Holy Spirit was sent down because their mission their purpose was to become witnesses for Christ in a hostile world Satan is not lying down allowing the servants of God to preach the gospel he's angry and he's running out of time and yet this gospel must be preached and so the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost and what we've been doing is were reading through the book of Acts is we're seeing how the Holy Spirit is working in these men of God to give them the boldness and the conviction and the fearlessness and the courage so that they can preach the truth of God preach that Jesus is in fact the Christ and so now Jesus tells Paul directly in a don't be afraid but speak and do not be silent do not hold your peace because I'm with you and no man shall set on you to hurt you for I have many people in this city so Paul didn't notice he's in hostile territory and Christ is reassuring him I have many people in this city there are many people who are faithful to me you preach the gospel and so he continued

there for 18 months teaching the Word of God among them and you can imagine how effective he was there in Corinth and when Gallio was the deputy of Asia the Jews made insurrection with one Accord against Paul so they're all united Paul has got to go he's there for 18 months he's clearly effective winning many converts for the Lord and now they're like they've had it he's got to go - is the Jews again many of these converts are Jews they're not just the Gentiles a lot of Jews have are in the church so I think a lot of people think that Christianity is some new religion and these Jews are a problem no it's it's Jewish brethren that are the foundation of the church and now the Gentiles are starting to come in but there are also the unbelieving Jews and so the unbelieving Jews made insurrection and they were all in agreement against Paul and brought him to the judgment seats that are bringing into Gallio saying this fellow this guy persuades men to worship God contrary to the law so the law says what we what what it says here how we should worship God he's blaspheming he's telling them to do it differently and when Paul was about to open his mouth to defend himself basically to show from the Scriptures that he in fact his teaching according to the law he didn't have to Galio basically interrupted him and said to the Jews if this were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness something that the Roman law dealt with then oh you Jews reason would that I should bear with you so okay you're coming with me with this complaint if it had something to do with Roman customs or Roman law or immorality according to Roman law then I would deal with this but if it be

a question of words and name stuff in your scriptures and of your law you look after it for I will be no judge of such matters in other words I don't care you have this ability to have your religion within the Roman Empire knock yourself out

I couldn't care less and so I will be no judge of such matters and then in verse 16 and he drove them from the judgement seat so remember what what Christ said to Paul in the vision I'm with you no man shall set on you to hurt you for I have many people in this city so here Paul is about to be in front of the Gallio to be judged to be proud of the perhaps punished or tortured in some way imprisoned and no harm came upon him then all the Greeks took Sosthenes the chief ruler of the synagogue so so he would be the one who is perhaps organizing this because all the Jews were in one Accord so he would be the chief ruler and the one perhaps organizing this complaint against Paul and so now when the Gallio says yeah you guys look after this I couldn't care less

now the Greeks took Sosthenes the chief ruler of the synagogue and they beat him before the judgment seat and Gallio couldn't care less so you know what's that saying if you dig a pit for your enemy you know be careful that you don't fall into that pit and so the very thing that the Jews wanted to happen to have happen to Paul it's come back on their chief ruler and now Sosthenes eventually we see he's converted because in corinthians again the letter to the corinthians paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ to the will of God and Sosthenes our brother so so you know first the the

first chief priests there was who is that the first priest that we just read see if I can go back here Christmas so Christmas was the chief ruler of the synagogue then he was converted and then Paul is there for 18 months and now Sosthenes is the chief ruler of the synagogue and then he gets into trouble here looks like when he looks at these things and considers these things and considers Paul's preaching he then becomes one of the brethren and he's converted so acts 18 would continue in verse 18 and Paul after this tarried there yet a good while so it was there for 18 months and he even after that he stayed for a good while knowing that God said don't be afraid just preach the truth and you can see these men are vicious and yet no harm came upon Paul and then took his leave of the Brethren and sailed from there into Syria so he's gone back to Syria now and with him priscilla and aquila having shorn his head in cenchrea for he had a bow so there's some sort of vow that paul had taken so it required him to shave his head so let's just look at this vow in numbers chapter 6 it deals with the the Nazarite vow and so it says here speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them when either a man or a woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite to separate themselves unto the Lord he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink and shall drink no vinegar wine or vinegar or strong drink neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes nor eat moist grapes nor dried all the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree from the kernels even to the husk all the days of the vow of is separation there shall no razor

come upon his head until the days be fulfilled in which he separates himself unto the Lord he shall be holy and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow so for whatever reason Paul felt it necessary to make this vow maybe the whole time he was there in in Corinth he was under this vow of separation and maybe because of the danger he was in not sure why but until the vow was over he couldn't shave his hair nor participate in the drinking of wine or eating raisins or any of these things now that the valve has come to an end he's able to now shave the locks off his head and the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation and shall take the hair of the head of his separation and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings and the priest shall take the sodden shoulder of the RAM and one unleavened cake out of the basket and one unleavened wafer and shall put them upon the hands of the Nazarite after the hair of his separation is shaven and the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the Lord for this I say this is holy for the priest with the wave breast and heave shoulder and after that the Nazarite might drink wine this is the law of the Nazarite who has vowed and of his offering unto the Lord for his separation beside that his hands shall get according to the bow which he has vowed so he must do after the law of his separation so that's the vow that he had taken he then shaved his head not sure if he went through the rest of this process here or him he's actually taking his hair back to Jerusalem to complete the this ceremony with the priests in Jerusalem but in any

case he he completes the vow shaves his head and then he's now back in Syria and now he came to Ephesus again just to locate this on the map we see where he's come back into Asia Minor which is today Turkey and he's now in Ephesus eventually he's going back to Jerusalem but right now he's in Ephesus so he says here

and he left them there but he himself entered into the synagogue and again he's reasoning with the Jews so he's constantly people say we mustn't debate we mustn't you know we must just mind our own business

he's constantly debating and through this clash of ideas the people are seeing how clearly the truth stands up and how much sense it makes and through this collision of ideas the truth stands and he's winning converts for the Lord and so you know we're having this debate tomorrow evening and certainly hope that you will join us tomorrow if you're in the Greater Toronto Area tomorrow night at the Sandman signature hotel and November 17th at 7 p.m. and we're going to be answering these questions

first of all fundamentally is Allah the God of the Bible what separates Christianity from Islam what connects Christianity to Islam do Christians and Muslims worship the same God and I am so encouraged I've received so many emails and and phone calls people telling me that they're they're praying with me are praying for me and fasting with me just so that we can effectively preach this truth of the gospel to our Muslim brothers and sisters they don't know the gospel they need to hear the gospel and you know it's again through the collision of

ideas that they will be able to see like
thus the gospel actually makes sense and
I'm sure if Paul was alive today he
would not be fearful he would be
courageous and he would bring the gospel
and he would he would be able to reason
with them and show them this the
strength of the ideas in the gospel so
here in this time appall is again
debating and again must just look at
this word reasoned to say that it says
this misdialed dialogue am i which means
to debate to dispute so to say
thoroughly to really explain to discuss
an argument or exhortation to dispute to
reason to preach so he was really making
it clear to them Jesus is the Christ and
so he reasoned in the synagogue with the
Jews and when they desired him to stay
for a longer time with
so they were beginning to come to
understand what he was teaching and
wanted him to stay there he consented
not but bade them farewell saying I must
by all means keep this feast that's
coming in Jerusalem and notice that Paul
is the apostle to the Gentiles and he's
keeping the feast and so the feast days
that are coming up and maybe this is uh
could be Tabernacles could be the spring
feast days I'm not quite sure which one
it was but it's certainly the holy day
plan of God and again because he had
taken this vow and maybe he has not yet
burned the hair it might be that he
wants to get back to Jerusalem to
complete the process of Goff closing
down his vow with the Nazarite vow but
he's really determined to get from
Ephesus to Jerusalem in time for the
beef in time for the feast but he says I
will return again unto you if God will
and so he sailed from Ephesus so it was
in Ephesus and now he's sailing from

Ephesus in an attempt to get back to Jerusalem and you're gonna see when he lands back in Judah he lands in Caesarea first and then he goes down to Jerusalem and so that's what it's gonna say here and when he had landed at Caesarea that's the port city and gone up to Jerusalem and salute the church then he went down to Antioch so it's just critical for him to get to Jerusalem and after he had spent some time there he departed and went all over the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order strengthening all the disciples so he's these are all the churches that he had found it and now he's going back having the occasion to go back to them and just strengthen them and reinforce them and make sure that they continue to do well and a certain Jew named Paulus born in Alexandria so this is an Egyptian Jew he's born in Alexandria an eloquent man he's really capable to speak well and mighty in the scriptures he came to Ephesus so remember that Paul City is going back to Ephesus so he's going through all the churches to get back to Ephesus eventually and so here this man came to Ephesus and this man was instructed in the way of the Lord and being fervent in the spirit he spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord knowing only the baptism of John so he was a very converted man really pushing hard and really really understanding that the truth of God but only had the baptism of John and he began to speak boldly in the synagogue who when Aquila and Priscilla had heard they took him unto them and expounded unto Him the way of God more perfectly so here again a lot of people you know women must never talk women must be silent well here's this man

who's mighty in the scriptures a very powerful teacher for a god and he didn't fully understand Christ and in fact I said the converted man shouldn't really say converted he just really had a very good understanding of the scriptures but he only had the baptism of John and here this husband and his wife were teaching this very mighty teacher and so I think we need to rethink the role of women in the church certainly they're not to be preachers in speech were to speak with authority in the church but to say that they must have ducked go go go around in life with duct tape over their mouths I think we can see that's a bit ridiculous and so here Aquila and Priscilla when they heard him they took they took him unto them and they taught him the way of God more perfectly and when he was disposed to pass into aquella the Brethren wrote exhorting the disciples to receive him so they're telling him this is a good man receive him who when he was come he helped them much which had believed through grace so just he was a very gifted individual and so he was able then to really help them for he mightily convinced the Jews so he was had this spirit of boldness and he mightily convinced the Jews and that publicly and again you know a lot of brethren think we must mind our own business we should just go to services we should just blind each other with our light and and that's not what the Scriptures support he was publicly convincing the Jews publicly debating with the Jews and so he did that mightily and publicly showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Messiah and so a wonderful chapter I think we're going to finish early tonight I have some more preparation

that I need to do for our debate debate
tomorrow evening certainly hope that
you'll continue to pray for me that the
word of God be preached that it be
preached powerfully and clearly and that
those that God is calling that their
eyes would be opened that their ears
would be opened and that we can help
them to come out of the darkness that
they're in and into the beautiful light
of the gospel so thank you so much for
joining us this evening hope you'll join
us tomorrow evening in fact where we are
planning to broadcast the debate live
right here on this channel so that's
tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. Eastern
Time if you're not in the Greater
Toronto Area you can still participate
by joining us again tomorrow evening
right here on this channel that is CGI'd
org slash webcast at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow
evening I'm gonna head to that URL right
now do a little bit of chat and then as
I said I need to continue in preparation
for tomorrow night god bless you all
Jesus Christ is Lord