

Acts

Lesson 10

Paul' Message to the Areopagus

Who is his intended audience?

- **Men of Athens**

Act 17:22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

What does Paul use to provide a connection to the Gospel?

Their objects of your worship

Act 17:23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

What does Paul use instead of scriptures?

Their own poets.

Act 17:28 for "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, "'For we are indeed his offspring.'

Hymn to Zeus

by Epimenides of Crete (c 600 BC)

*They fashioned a tomb for you, holy and high
one,*

Cretans, always liars, evil beasts, idle bellies.

*But you are not dead: you live and abide
forever,*

*For in you we live and move and have our
being*

Phaenomena

by stoic poet Aratus (c 315-240 BC)

*Let us begin with Zeus, whom we mortals
never leave unspoken.*

*For every street, every market-place is full of
Zeus.*

*Even the sea and the harbour are full of this
deity.*

Everywhere everyone is indebted to Zeus.

For we are indeed his offspring

Phaenomena 1–5

What does this explain?

That the divine being is not the result of anyone's imagination.

Act 17:29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

What information does Paul provide in his discourse?

God will judge the world

Act 17:31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

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What surprises you about Paul's message?
He is very complimentary of his listeners unlike Peter's earlier sermons

Act 17:22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

What were the results of Paul's message?

Some believed!

Act 17:34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

AD 48/49-51 (3 years?)

| City | Province/Region | Reference |
|------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Antioch | Syria | 15:35 |
| | Cilicia | 15:41 |
| Derbe | Galatia (region of Lycaonia) | 16:1 |
| Lystra | Galatia (region of Lycaonia) | 16:1–5 |
| | Asia (region of Phrygia) | 16:6 |
| | Galatia | 16:6 |
| Troas | Asia (region of Mysia) | 16:7–10 |
| Samothrace | Thrace | 16:11 |
| Neapolis | Macedonia | 16:11 |
| Philippi | Macedonia | 16:12–40 |
| Amphipolis | Macedonia | 17:1 |

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

AD 48/49-51 (3 years?)

| City | Province/Region | Reference |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Apollonia | Macedonia | 17:1 |
| Thessalonica | Macedonia | 17:1–9 |
| Berea | Macedonia | 17:10–14 |
| Athens | Achaia | 17:15–32 |
| Corinth | Achaia | 18:1–17 |
| Cenchreae | Achaia | 18:18 |
| Ephesus | Asia | 18:19–21 |
| Caesarea | Palestine | 18:22 |
| Jerusalem? | Palestine | 18:22 |
| Antioch | Syria | 18:22 |



Acts Lesson 10

Acts 18-21: Paul's 3rd

Missionary Journey

Time Line: AD 52-57 (5 years?)

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

AD 52-57 (5 years?)

| City | Province/Region | Reference |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Antioch | Syria | 18:22 |
| | Galatia | 18:23 |
| | Asia (region of Phrygia) | 18:23 |
| Ephesus | Asia | 19:1–40 |
| | Macedonia | 20:1–2 |
| Corinth? | Achaia | 20:2–3 |
| | Macedonia | 20:3 |
| Philippi | Macedonia | 20:6 |
| Troas | Asia | 20:6–12 |
| Assos | Asia | 20:13–14 |

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

AD 52-57 (5 years?)

| City | Province/Region | Reference |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Mitylene | Asia | 20:14 |
| Chios/Samos | Asia | 20:15 |
| Miletus | Asia | 20:15–38 |
| Cos | Asia | 21:1 |
| Rhodes | Rhodes | 21:1 |
| Patara | Lycia | 21:1 |
| Tyre | Syria | 21:3–6 |
| Ptolemais | Syria | 21:7 |
| Caesarea | Palestine | 21:8–14 |
| Jerusalem | Palestine | 21:15–17 |



1.) (Acts 18:24-28) Story of Apollos

Who is Apollos?

- *A Jew*
- *Native of Alexandria (Egypt)*
- *Eloquent man*
- *Competent in the Scriptures*
- *Taught the things of Jesus*
- *Knew only the Baptism of John (A baptism unto repentance)*
- *Powerfully refuted the Jews in public,*
- *Showed by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.*

Paul endorsed Apollos.

1Cor 16:12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to visit you with the other brothers, but it was not at all his will to come now. He will come when he has opportunity.

Titus 3:13 Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing.

2.) (Acts 19:1-10) Effects of Bad doctrine, the witness in Ephesus

People were not taught about the Holy Spirit.
What was the problem in Ephesus?

Act 19:2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Paul ascertained that the type of baptism they received did not acknowledge the Holy Spirit.

What was Paul's response?

Act 19:3-4 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

What was the outcome?

The Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues.

Acts 19:7 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. There were about twelve men in all.

**How long did Paul preach in the
Paul preached in the synagogue? and for
three months.**

*Act 19:8 And he entered the synagogue and for
three months spoke boldly, reasoning and
persuading them about the kingdom of God.*

How long did Paul reason in the hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus?
Paul reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus for two years (AD 54? to 57?)

Act 19:9-10 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

What was the result?

All the residents of Asia (a province roughly the size of Ohio) heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Act 19:10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.



3.) (Acts 19:11-14) The Sons of Sceva and their effect on the witness in Ephesus.

**What extraordinary miracles were done
by the hands of Paul?
People were healed through handkerchiefs
or aprons that had touched Paul's skin.**

Act 19:11-12 And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. .

The evil spirit turned on them and
~~How did that work for them?~~
they left naked and bleeding?

Act 19:15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

What took place as a result?

People repented of magic arts and the word of the Lord continued to increase.

Act 19:16-22 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

4.) (Acts 19:15-41) The Riot in Ephesus

What takes place that cause Paul to
Paul became embroiled in a dispute with
move on?
artisans, whose livelihood depended on
selling the statuettes of Artemis

Act 19:21-23 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while. About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way.

5.) (Acts 20:1-6) Paul's return to Macedonia & Greece

Paul departs for Macedonia encouraging those regions (Berea? Thessalonica?)

Act 20:1 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

Where does Paul spend three months? Paul goes to Greece (Achaia)

(Paul in Corinth writes Romans?)

Act 20:2-3 When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

Act 19:21 Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome."



What does it indicate about his team? Who
Who accompanies Paul as he returns to
is not mentioned?
Syria through Macedonia?

Paul leads a diverse group from many cities
including:

- *Sopater of Berea*
- *Aristarchus and Secundus; of Thessalonica,*
- *Gaius of Derbe*
- *Timothy (of Lystra)*
- *Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia*
- *Luke (not mentioned, but verse 6 says “we”)*

6.) (Acts 20:7-12) Miracle at Troas

A dead sleeper is raised up from the dead
What miracle takes place at Troas?

Act 20:7-10 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him."

How long did Paul preach?

Until daybreak

Act 20:11-12 And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

7.) (Acts 20:13-21) Paul's travels in Asia Minor

What cities does Paul travel through in Asia Minor?
Paul meets team at Assos, and went to Mitylene, (AD 57) traveling through:

- Assos
- Mitylene
- Chios
- Samos
- Miletus



8.) (Acts 20:17-38) Paul addresses the Ephesian Elders

Who does Paul meet with in Miletus?

Paul went to Miletus and meets with the elders of the Ephesian church

Act 20:16-17 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

What is Paul's passionate appeal to the elders of the Ephesian church? To take care of themselves and the church.

Act 20:28-30 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

9.) (Acts 21:1-17) Paul's return trip to

Paul sailed to Rhodes, Patara, Phoenicia, and
Jerusalem. What cities are recorded?

landed at Tyre, in Syria, traveled from Tyre, to Ptolemais, and came to Caesarea, where they stay at the house of Philip the evangelist. Finally Paul & the brothers arrive in Jerusalem, & report to James, and all the elders.

Act 21:17-19 When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

Some final thoughts:

- Good Doctrine is essential
- The need for the work of the Holy Spirit is essential
- A ministry team is essential

Homework:

Read: Acts 22-End of Acts

Using Paul's message to the Areopagus (Acts 19:22-31) as a guide how would you share the gospel with one of the following...

A nominal Catholic

A nominal Muslim

An Agnostic