



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of February 15, 2026

Acts 18:18-28

[18] After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. [19] And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. [20] When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. [21] But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus. [22] When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. [23] After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. [24] Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. [25] He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. [26] He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. [27] And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, [28] for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.

1. In spite of his suffering, the Apostle Paul, throughout his epistles, exhorts Christians to give thanks for all things (1 Thes 5:18, Eph 5:20, Col 3:17) What do you think Paul learned through his trials and persecution about giving thanks in all circumstances, always, and in everything we do?
2. Paul undertook a Nazirite vow to dedicate himself to God, symbolizing his desire to yield himself completely to God. Why do you think Paul, or anyone else for that matter, would take such a vow? Should Christians today follow Paul's lead and take a Nazirite vow? Explain
3. We've all probably felt "burned out" in life at some point. It certainly seems the apostle Paul did. How does the gospel restore our heart, mind and soul? Similarly, as in Paul's life, why would a thankful heart be "fuel for future ministry"?
4. Why is love for Christ intertwined with love for the church? Can you love one without loving the other? Think about the people in our church. What makes it hard to love *all* of them? What does this tell you about what it takes to truly love Jesus Christ?
5. Apollos was a gifted, educated and eloquent man who was also willing to be corrected and taught by Priscilla and Aquila. Do you think humility is necessary to reach people with the gospel and teach them the Scriptures? Why would a sense of entitlement undermine such efforts?
6. Apollos was preaching a baptism of repentance similar to John the Baptist. Is it enough to be sorrowful over our sin and to repent from wicked lifestyle in order to truly be saved? How is a person saved?
7. The unbelieving world tends to think that the source of our problems comes from outside of ourselves and that the solution to our problems must ultimately come from within ourselves. Explain how the Bible teaches the exact opposite and why this leads to a thankful heart.