**Acts Chapters 17 and 18**

**Second Missionary Journey Continued and the Start of the Third Missionary Journey.**

**Review**

* The Council of Jerusalem and the inclusion of the Gentiles
* Paul and Barnabas want to revisit established churches.
* They have a falling out regarding taking John Mark with them.
* Paul takes Silas and Timothy, and the 2nd Missionary Journey is begun.
* Paul’s vision and call to Macedonia – Greece - Europe
* Philippi

**Chapter 17**

**Thessalonica**

* Paul spent three weeks reasoning with the Jews from the scriptures.
* Christ must suffer, be raised from the dead and He is the Christ – Messiah
* I Corinthians 15:1-4 – according to the scriptures
* Psalm 16:10; Psalm 22, Sign of Jonah, Isaiah 53, Zechariah 12-14, Daniel 7,9, and 12
* Road to Emmaus – Luke 24: 25-27
* Some Jews believed, many gentiles and many leading women.
* Jewish envy and persecution – note: all persecution against Paul was from the Jews.
* World not upside down; turned the world right side up!
* Paul escaped so they took Jason in his place.
* Silas and Timothy stayed behind to build the church.

**Berea**

* Small town 60 miles southwest of Thessalonica.
* Unique experience – they studied to see if Paul was right.
* Only time a synagogue gave Paul a fair hearing.
* Jews come to Berea to discredit Paul.
* Silas and Timothy come and stay in Berea.
* Paul escapes to Athens.

**Athens**

* Intellectual center – university town.
* Past center of Greek Philosophy – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, etc.
* Center of beauty, culture, art, knowledge, etc.
* The idolatry of Athens – Epicureans (atheistic and materialistic) – life is chance, pleasure is the chief end of life.
* Stoics -everything is God and God is everything. Fatalistic, and take what comes. Passionless.
* The Areopagus – where Socrates was tried and put to death 400 years earlier. Where the men of Athens gathered to hear and discuss the “the flavor of the day.”
* Mars Hill Sermon
  + You are religious and devout.
  + You have an UNKNOWN GOD
  + This God is the creator of heaven and earth and does not need a temple.
  + He made us all of one blood – common humanity.
  + God determines the appointed times and the boundaries of where we live.
  + We are God’s offspring.
  + Paul quotes – Epimeriids, Aratus (poet) and Menander.
  + God’s demands that we all repent (overlooking our ignorance).
  + God has fixed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness.
  + Through Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead.
  + Mocked and dismissed although some believed.

**Chapter 18**

**Corinth**

* Commercial center and capital city of Achaia (not Athens).
* Primary issue – sexual sin – center of worship to Aphrodite – goddess of sex.
* Employed about 1000 temple prostitutes.
* Commerce – connected the Aegean See and the Ionian Sea.
* Corinthian Columns – architectural feat.

**Ministry**

* Paul meets Aquilla and Priscilla. – tentmakers.
* Begins in the synagogue – persuades both Jews and Greeks.
* Crispus – the head of the synagogue believes and joins Paul.
* Timothy and Silas join him.
* Paul goes to the Gentiles.
* The Lord’s encouragement for Paul to be bold and not afraid.
* Spends a year and a half in Corinth. – wrote 1&2 Thessalonians and Romans
* Persecution fails – Paul free to preach in Roman Empire – considered a sect of the Jews.
* Paul sails to Ephesus – short visit –
* Leaves for Antioch promises to return and does.
* Aquilla and Priscilla remain – meet Apollos and teaching more fully the message of God.
* After a season Paul departs and revisited congregations in Galatia.