

Title: “Paul the Persuasive Professor”

Introduction: The Apostle Paul in this passage exemplified three characteristics. He demonstrated to be an enthusiastic Apologist for Christ. He demonstrated a pastor’s heart for both the lost and the believers. Paul also demonstrated his ability to be a master-teacher of the Word of God. Paul showed an urgency to get the Gospel out to the known world, Asia Minor, and to expound on Bible. This is to say that he developed the multiple layers of truths in Scripture. Paul seemed to employ a strategy of presenting an argument for Christ in the synagogues, than going and teaching the believers in the churches. The other point that should be made is that he was moving from one church to another teaching the pastors and the members.

Propositional Question: If Paul could prepare himself and to teach and persuade others the things of God, shouldn’t we?

Text: Acts 18:18-23 “And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow. And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not; But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus. And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up, and saluted the church, he went down to Antioch. And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.”

CONTEXT:

Who: Dr. Luke was the human author of the book of Acts.

What: Taught the Scriptures in the synagogues and the churches.

Where: Syria, Ephesus, Caesarea, Antioch, Galatia & Phrygia.

When: This event took place in 29AD and was written in 63 AD.

How: Paul’s second missionary trip.

INTERPRETATION:

Key theme: Reasoned with the Jews, and strengthened the disciples.

Key words: Reasoned, farewell, return, saluted, departed, and strengthened.

Summary the text: The Apostle Paul stood had just stood trial, or at least accused of violating the Law, (the Old Testament). Interestingly, Paul seems to linger in Corinth after he was released by Gallio. Paul sailed to Syria, and then onto Ephesus where he apparently invites himself to debate the Jewish leaders in the Synagogue. Paul knew time was of the assents and knew then to move on in order to minister to others. Paul then went to see the believers in Caesarea and then at Antioch. Paul kept on the move, visiting all the churches in Galatia, and teaching them the Word of God. One might say that professor Paul did one week modules at each of the churches.

Summary of the passage: The Apostle Paul was acting as an Apologist whether he was reasoning for the Christ or he was lecturing to the Christians he was using his persuasive skills in order to teaching the things of God to the unsaved Jews and the young and developing Christians. Paul in this passage was literally barn-storming Asia Minor on his Apologetic tour. He was reasoning and persuading the skeptics to come to Christ in faith, and he was spending time in each of the fledgling New Testament local churches in order to strengthen their understanding and belief in the Word of God. Paul was using his Apologetic tools that he might undo the Greco-Roman worldview and replace it with the kingdom of God worldview.

Summary of the main verse: Acts 18:23 “And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.” It seems very reasonable to use the terminology, seminary modules, to explain what Paul was doing going to all these churches. He was lecturing, persuasively, developing stronger Christians.

APPLICATION:

Original audience: Jews in the Synagogue and the Christians in the New Testament churches.

To myself: To continue to develop a fuller understanding of the Bible and how to best present these truths in such a way that would be persuasive and understandable.

To family: Christians should develop their understanding of Bible doctrines to a point that they are confident in teaching these truths to family members.

To church: The local church should develop a Bible institute and teach Bible doctrines. Motivation and confidence comes from sound knowledge of the Scriptures.

To my job: Two of the best Apologetic tools one may have at their disposal on the job, are first, to demonstrate impeccable character and integrity above reproach. Second, is to maintain a spirit of joy and contentment whatever the circumstance might be at the moment.

To society: Every Christian is an Apologist by virtue that they are saved, and that God has not yet taken them to heaven yet. The obvious question maybe, Why are we still here if we are not Apologist for Christ? As Christians we must be defending and advancing the name of Christ to the four corners of the Globe. The unsaved cannot do it. The angels cannot do it. Only God's people can accomplish this divine task.