

Acts 18:12-22

One Key Characteristic of Spiritual Greatness

The Conclusion of Paul's Ministry in Corinth 18:12-17

Religious opponents bring Paul before Gallio the Proconsul, but he promptly dismisses the case and castigates those who falsely accused Paul of criminal behavior

Verse 12

Gallio was the Proconsul of Achaia (southern Greece) at this time

The term translated "judgment seat" is one word in the original text "bema" (βῆμα) pronounced "BAY-mah." It is also used for the event in which believers will appear before our Savior and have the fruit of salvation (good-good works) commended by Jesus Himself (1 Corinthians 3:1-4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10).

Verse 13-17

Bad Rap! Jewish opponents bring a (false) religious charge to a Greek pagan/secular judge and he predictably throws them out of his courtroom.

Sosthenes was the leader of the synagogue in Corinth/Paul's most visible opponent in Corinth, yet approximately five years later he (or someone else from Corinth with this same name) is mentioned positively in 1 Corinthians 1:1. God is in the people-changing business...which should encourage us about ourselves and others.

The Conclusion of Paul's Second Mission Trip 18:18-22

Paul leaves Corinth to return to his home base of Antioch of Syria, stopping in Cenchrea, Ephesus, Caesarea... and Jerusalem along the way.

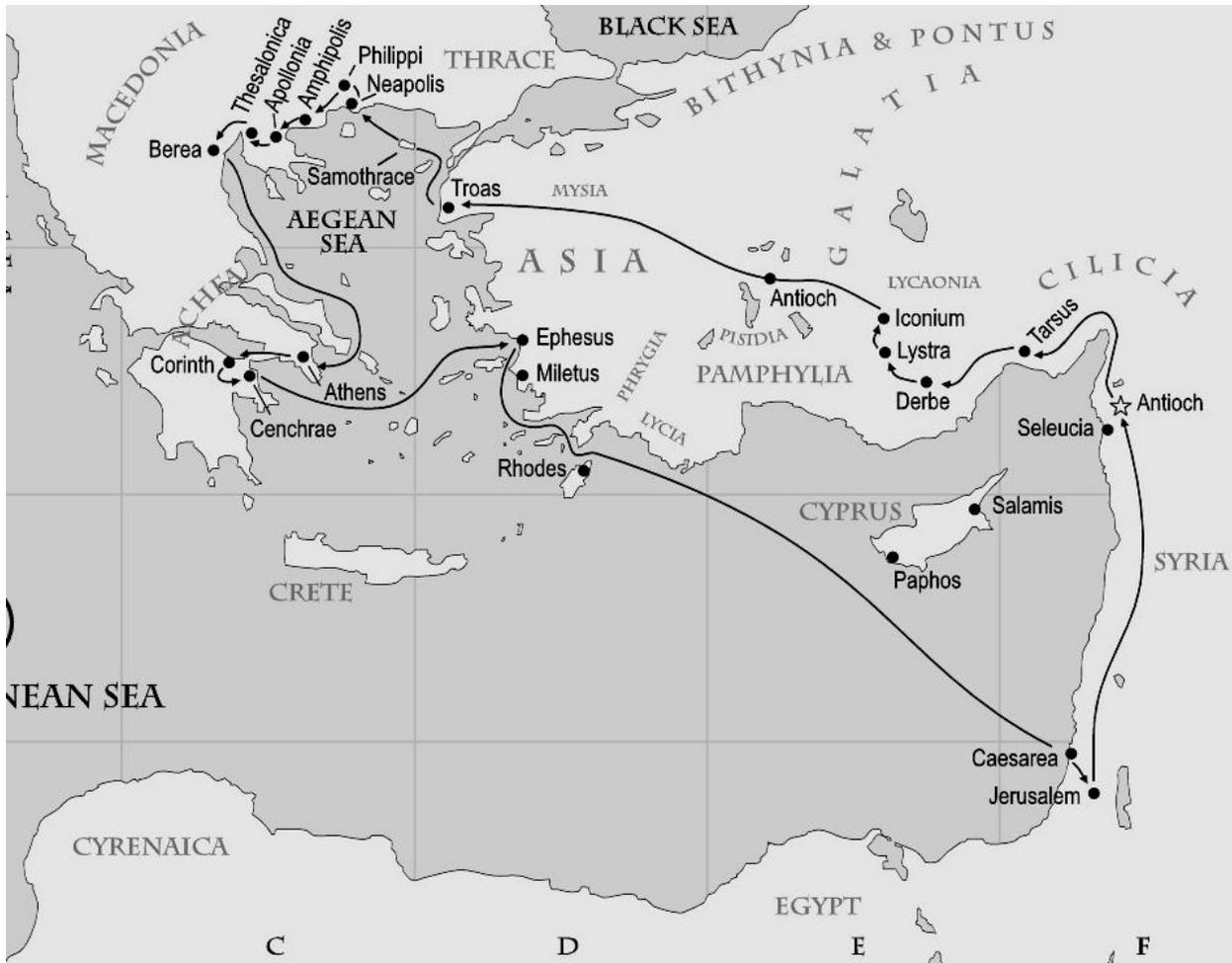
Verse 18-20

Cenchrea was the eastern port of greater Corinth...Paul passed through Ephesus (and left Priscilla and Aquila there)

Verse 21-22

Paul promised the Ephesians he would return to them in the future "If God wills."
...he lands at Caesarea, went up to the church (Jerusalem) and then down to Antioch

We see the early Christians living out lifestyles of “Routine Faithfulness”
in the context of Paul’s 2nd Missionary Trip



Take This To Heart

An Algebraic Expression Not Taught in the Public Schools
Matthew 20:25-28 + Acts 18:12-22 = True Spiritual Greatness

One Key Characteristic of “Spiritual Greatness” is Faithfulness Through the Ups/Downs, the Joys/Sorrows, the Good/Bad of Life. Regardless of the Madness Around Them, Faithful Believers Keep on Trusting/Obedying and Serving the LORD Resting in the Fact That God Works Through the Mundane as Well as Through the Miraculous, Through Both Supernatural and Natural...and He Doesn't Change When Our Circumstances Change Drastically. Keep the Faith Brothers/Sisters.