



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High
Title: Saints In Transition, Part 1
Lesson: 96

Text: Acts 18:18-22
Date: Feb 23, 2025

The transition from the Jewish age to the church age.

Three examples of those caught in the transition:

1. Paul - 18:18-23
2. Apollos - 18:24-28
3. The disciples of John the Baptist - 19:1-7

Acts 18:18–23 Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow. 19 They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay for a

longer time, he did not consent, 21 but taking leave of them and saying, "I will return to you again if God wills," he set sail from Ephesus. 22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch. 23 And having spent some time there, he left and passed successively through the Galatian region and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Acts 18:18 Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila.

18a In Cenchrrea he had his **hair cut**, for he was keeping a vow.

“ _____ ”

A pericope is a set of verses that forms one coherent unit or thought.

Nazirite vow

Verses 1-4 - Restrictions of food and drinks

Numbers 6:5 'All the days of his vow of separation no razor shall pass over his head. He shall be holy until the days are fulfilled for which he separated himself to the Lord; he shall let the locks of hair on his head grow long.

Two unusual things about this:

1. It was meant to be obvious to others.

2. Men were not allowed to have long hair.

1 Corinthians 11:14 Does not even nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a dishonor to him,

18 'The Nazirite shall then shave his dedicated head of hair at the doorway of the tent of meeting, and take the dedicated hair of his head and put it on the fire which is under the sacrifice of peace offering

Why did Paul make the vow?

Acts 21:20–24 And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law; 21 and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

22 “What, then, is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. 23 “Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; 24 take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law.

19 They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Wherever God plants us is where He wants to use us.

20 When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, 21 but taking leave of them and saying, “I will return to you again if God wills,” he set sail from Ephesus.

Why did Paul not stay in Ephesus?

“if God wills”

James 4:13–15 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and went down to Antioch.

“went up”

“went down”

Implications

Be _____ with those who come to Christianity but continue to cling to their religious heritage.

Acts 15:8–11 “And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; 9 and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. 10 “Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

_____ takes time and
requires patience.

Discussion Guide

1. Do you think the understanding of the transition between the Jewish age, the apostolic period, and the church age helps to determine our Christian life? If so, how?
2. Would it be wrong for us today to take a Nazirite vow?
3. What is a pericope and how does it help in studying our bibles?
4. What would living by the idea of “if God wills” look like in our lives? Share some examples?

ANSWERS: Pericope, patient, Sanctification