

# Paul's Third Journey: Strengthening and Encouraging Believers

Not long after completing his second missionary journey, the apostle Paul left Antioch again to start his third missionary journey. Luke records the events of this trip in Acts chapters 18-21. This journey was marked by faith, courage, and love. Paul spent four to five years revisiting many of the cities where he had planted churches on his previous journeys, teaching, strengthening, and encouraging the believers. By studying Paul's incredible third journey, with all its challenges, opportunities, and heartbreaking goodbyes, we learn how to live with the same bold trust and purpose in our own lives.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Have you ever needed to “step out in faith”? What was that experience like?
- Do you think you are—or can be—bold? Why or why not?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Paul's Third Journey: Strengthening and Encouraging Believers](#)

**READ** [Acts 18:23–21:17](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- The apostle Paul disciplined many believers along his journeys. In Acts 18:24-28, Priscilla and Aquila mentor Apollos. Who has been a notable mentor to you in your faith? Have you had the opportunity to disciple or mentor someone? What gets in the way of you teaching or discipling others?
- Paul was committed to preaching the gospel of Jesus anywhere and everywhere. In segment 3, host Darrell Delaney said, “Paul is committed to being obedient, and that is more important to him than his own comfort and the security of his life.” Can you say this about yourself? Why or why not?
- In segment 3, host Scott Hoezee tells us that we, like Paul, need “to stay tuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit.” How do you keep yourself in tune with the Holy Spirit?
- Paul strengthened and encouraged each community of believers he visited, but they also uplifted and supported him. Do you have a community of believers from whom you receive love, encouragement, accountability, and support?

**RELATED PASSAGES** for further study

[1 Corinthians 1:10-31](#), [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#), [Philippians 1:12-26](#), [Hebrews 12:1-3](#), [Philippians 3:7-14](#), [Matthew 26:36-44](#), [Matthew 16:24-27](#)

## CONCLUSION

Scott and Darrell discussed three important lessons we can draw from Paul's third missionary journey:

1. Listen to God's leading.
2. Prepare for sacrifice.
3. Lean on community

Do you feel challenged to lean into one of these lessons? What is God calling you to today? How can you step out in faith, even when the path ahead is uncertain? Close your time of reflection by praying for God's presence with you and the clear guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life.

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