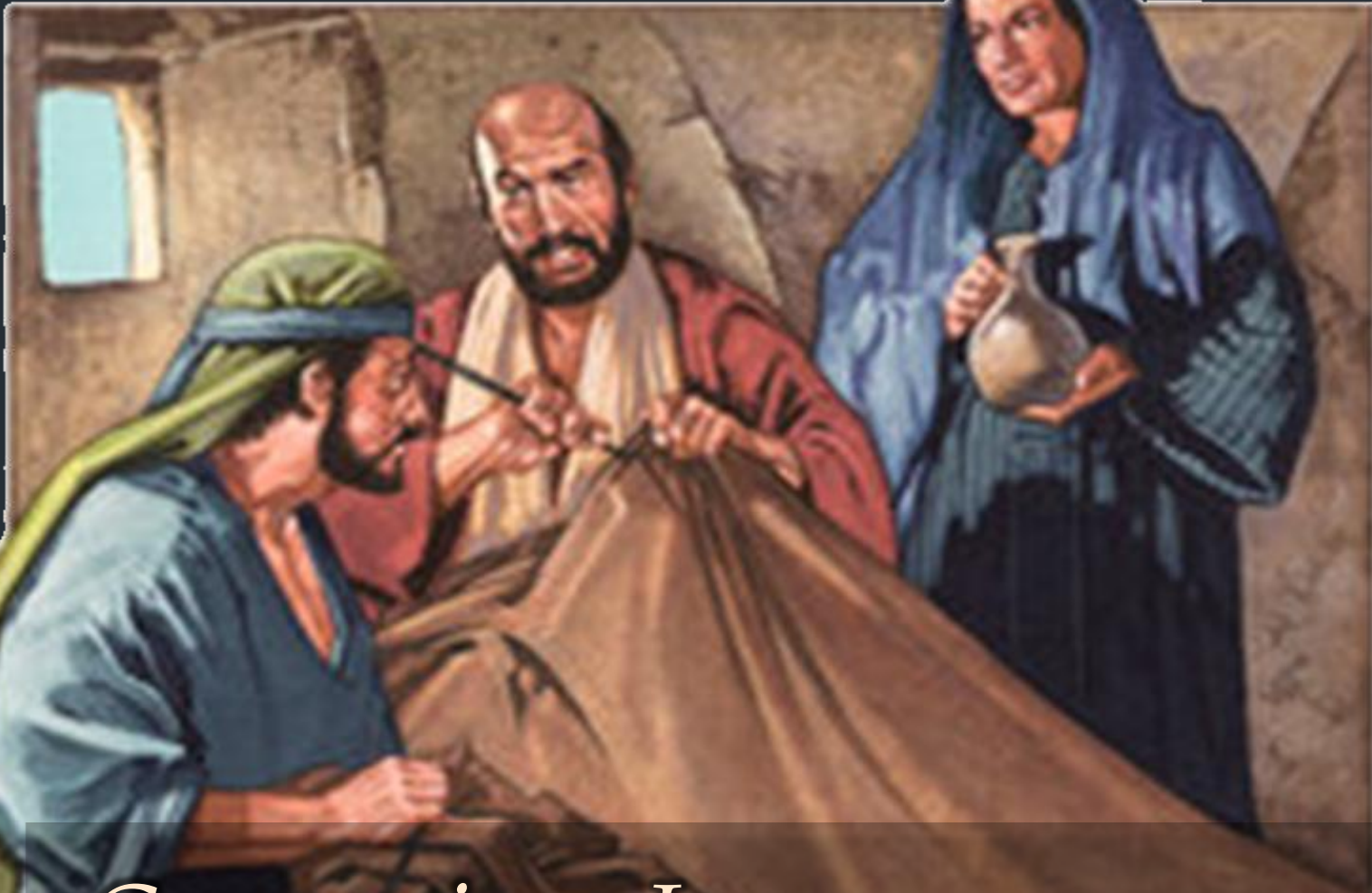


# EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

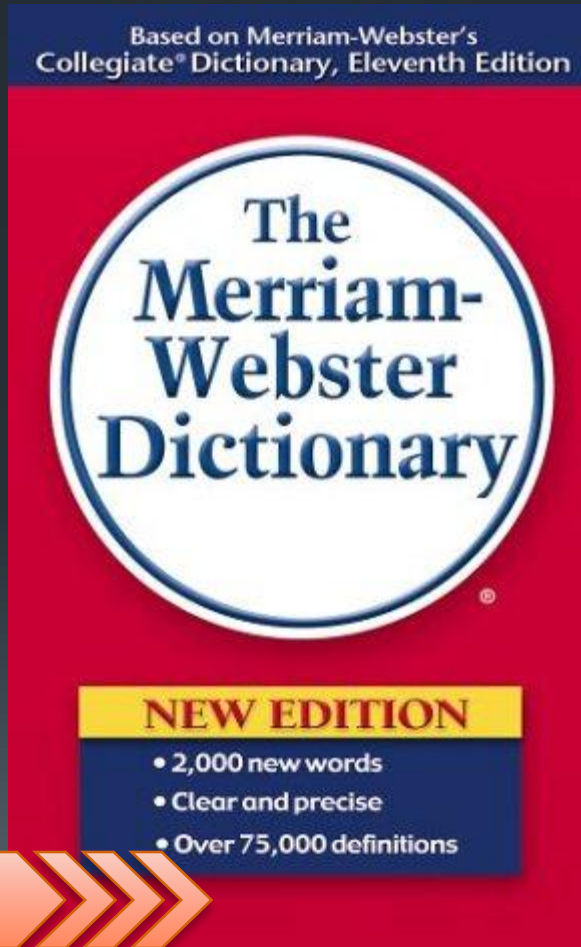
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*Conversions In  
Corinth . . . Acts 18:1-18*

## *Conversions In Corinth* - Acts 18:1-18

### Convert; Converted



transitive verb

- 1 - a : **to bring over from one belief, view, or party to another** b : to bring about a religious conversion in
- 2 - a : to alter the physical or chemical nature or properties of especially in manufacturing b (1) : **to change from one form or function to another** (2) : to alter for more effective utilization



# EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

## *Conversions In Corinth* - Acts 18:1-18

### Convert; Converted



#### Matthew 18:3-4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are **converted** and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Therefore **whoever humbles himself** as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

## *Conversions In Corinth* - Acts 18:1-18

### Convert; Converted



Luke 15:11-24

- ✦ Not merely a change in actions –
- ✦ A change in knowledge –
- ✦ A change in conviction -
- ✦ A change in allegiance –
- ✦ A change in thinking & will –
- ✦ A change in commitment – resulting in a change in relationship & identity -
- ✦ A change in who we are – how we talk – where we go – what we do -



# EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS




## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

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### Psalm 19:7 (NKJV)

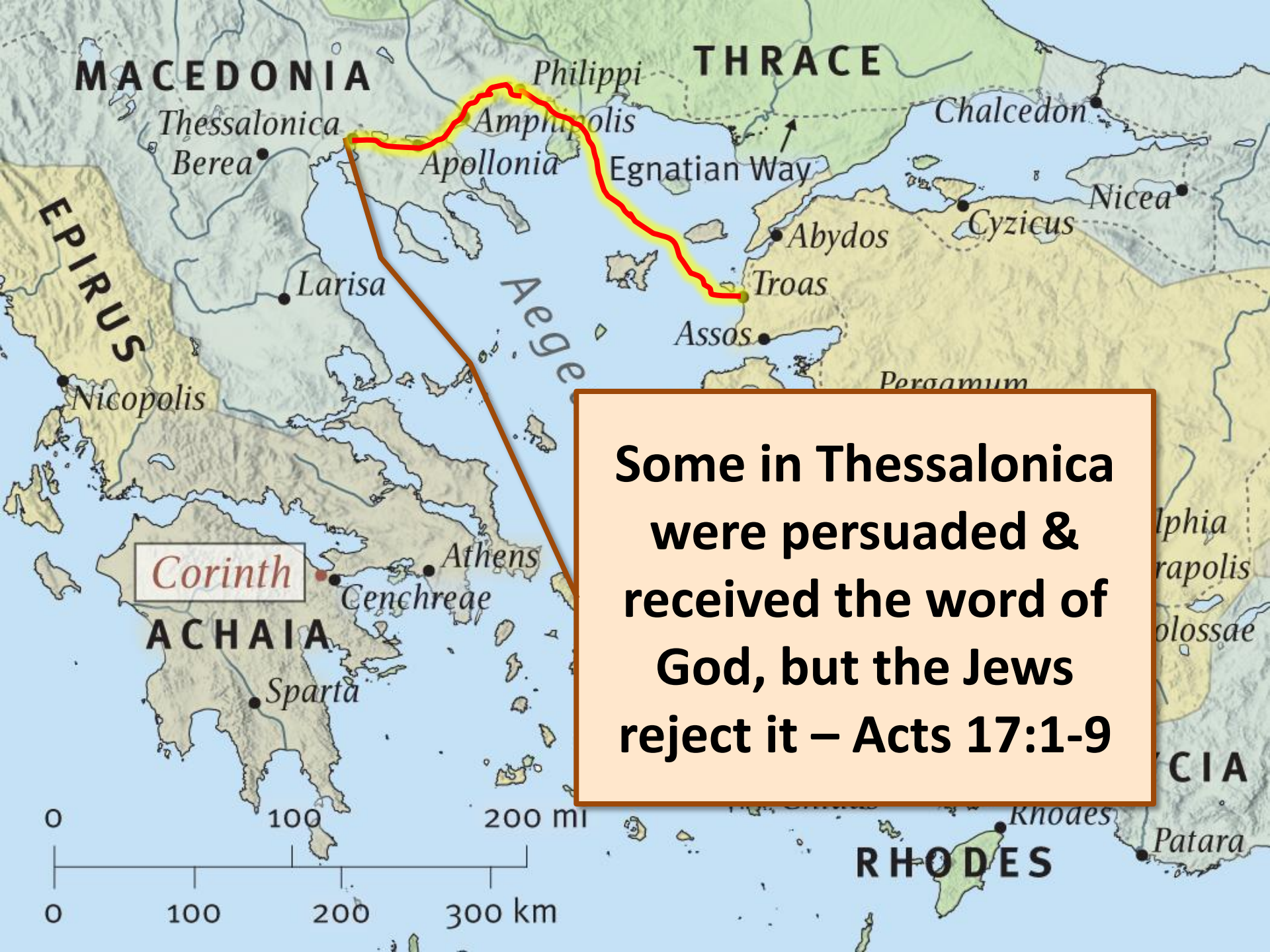
<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD *is* perfect,  
converting the soul; The testimony  
of the LORD *is* sure, making wise  
the simple;





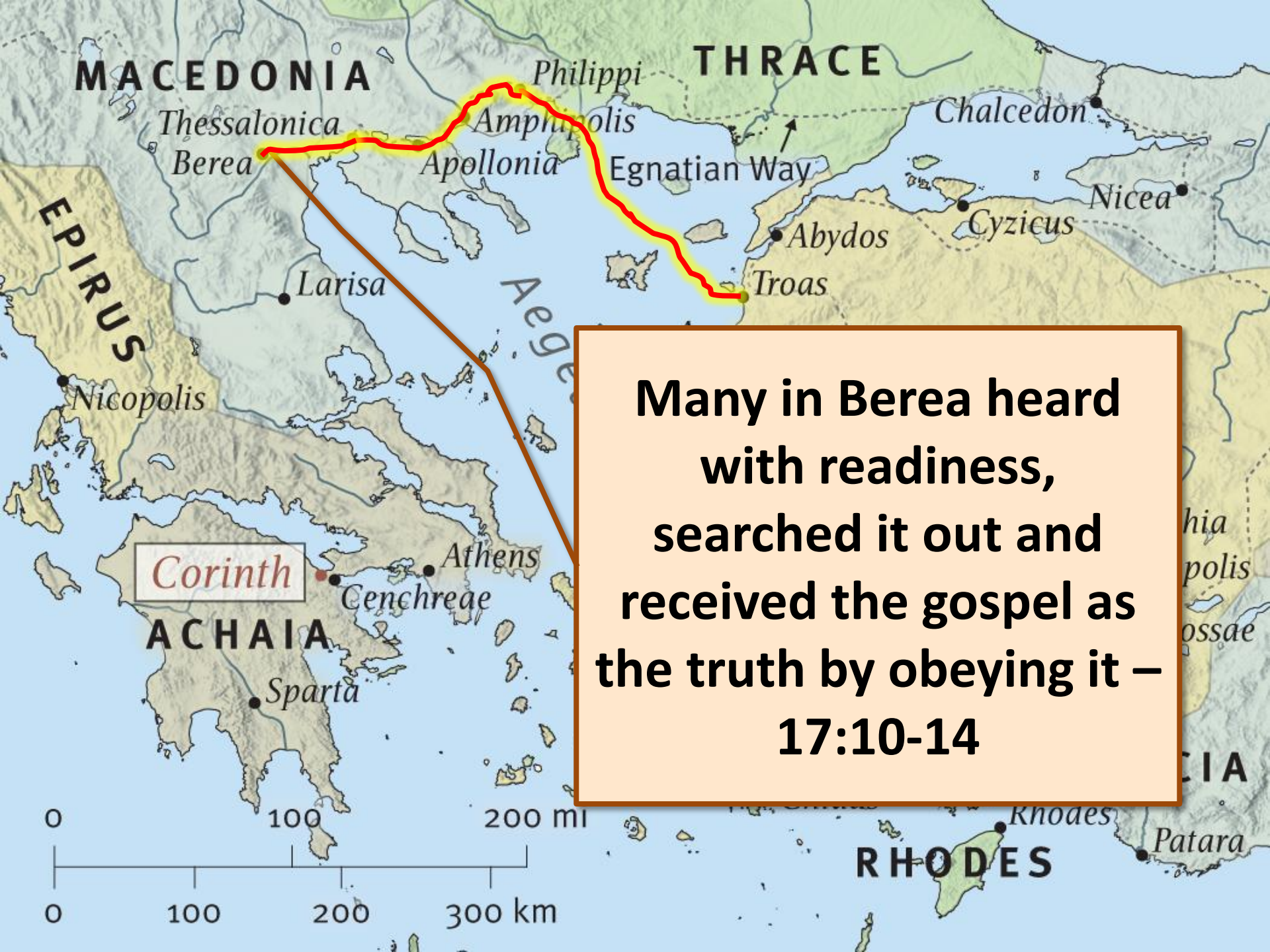
**Lydia and a jailor hear  
the gospel, believes and  
are baptized –  
Acts 16:11-34**





**Some in Thessalonica  
were persuaded &  
received the word of  
God, but the Jews  
reject it – Acts 17:1-9**





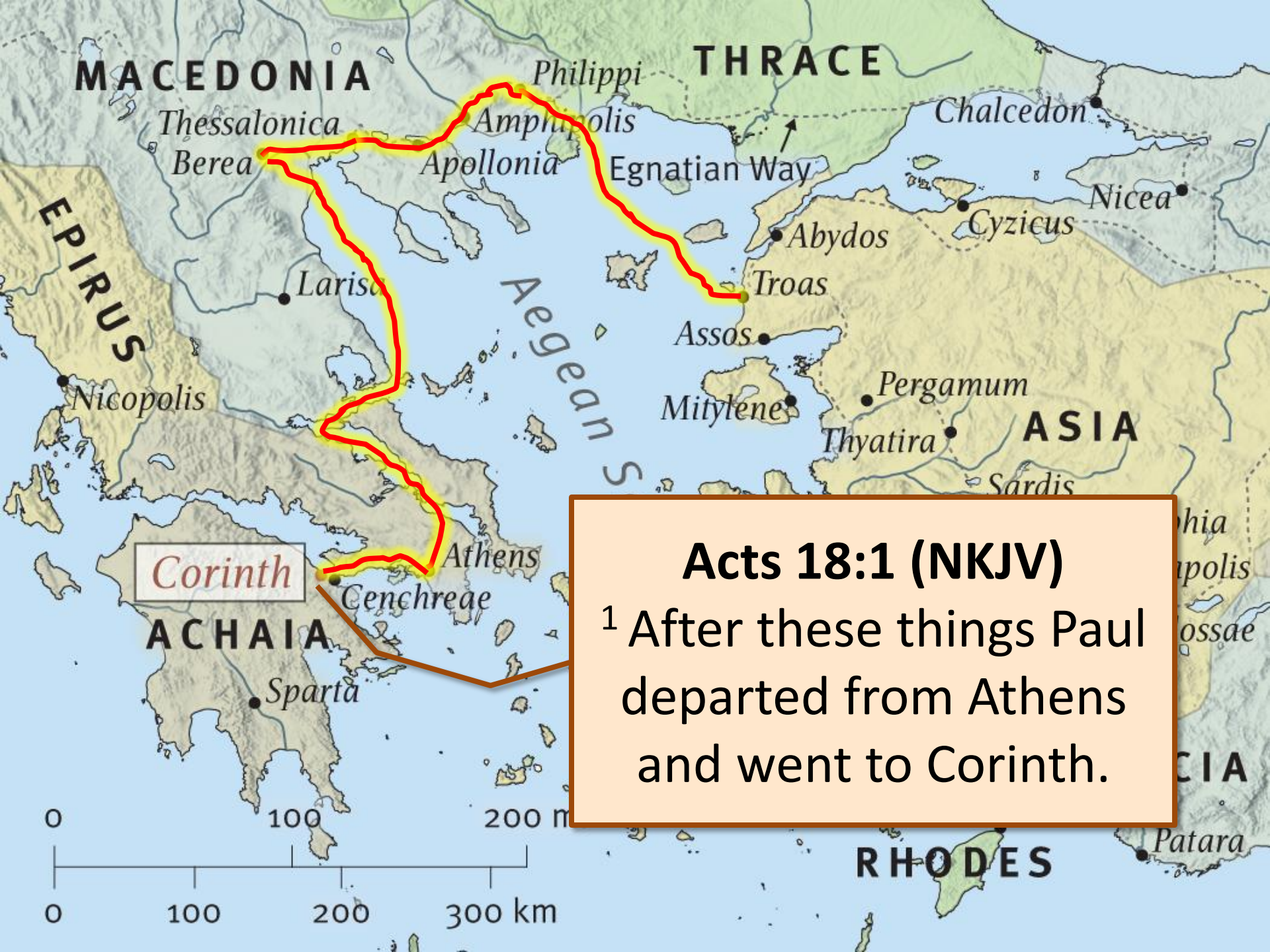
**Many in Berea heard  
with readiness,  
searched it out and  
received the gospel as  
the truth by obeying it –  
17:10-14**





**The soil was more difficult in Athens - but some were willing to receive the word of God, repent and join the disciples – Acts 17:15-34**





## Acts 18:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.



## *Conversions In Corinth* - Acts 18:1-18



- ✦ Corinth was located on a narrow isthmus (4 miles wide) between the Aegean and Adriatic Seas, about 50 miles west, south west of Athens.
- ✦ Roman capital of Achaia – largest city in Greece at the time –
- ✦ Center of trade and commerce -

## *Conversions In Corinth* - Acts 18:1-18



- ✦ It lay at the foot of Acrocorinth, an acropolis which rises precipitously to 1,886'
- ✦ Upon which were many shrines to female deities , including the famous and wealthy temple of Aphrodite which was served by a thousand “religious prostitutes”



## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*



- ◆ A center of idolatry: **Apollo, Poseidon, Aphrodite** and others were worshipped in the many pagan temples.
- ◆ Corinth had a reputation as a very wicked city; immorality was rampant.
- ◆ “korinthiazo” – i.e. “to act like a Corinthian,” came to mean, “to commit fornication.”

## *Conversions In Corinth* - Acts 18:1-18

"Corinth . . . was the Vanity Fair of the Roman empire... It was into the midst of this mongrel . . . population of Greek adventurers and Romans (middle class), with a tainting infusion of Phoenicians, this mass of Jews, ex-soldiers, philosophers, merchants, sailors, freedmen, slaves, tradespeople, hucksters, and agents of every form of vice"... where "Greeks, Latins, Syrians, Asiatics, Egyptians and Jews bought and sold, labored and revelled, quarreled and hob-nobbed, in its cities and its ports, as nowhere else in Greece."

**(McGuiggan pp. 5-6)**



## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

### AQUILA & PRISCILLA - ACTS 18:1-3



- ♦ **Aquila** - a Jew, originally from Pontus, a province in northeast Asia Minor south of the Black Sea.
- ♦ **Aquila and Priscilla** – had come from Italy, (Rome) because of an edict in A.D. 49 or 50 from Claudius for all the Jews to leave Rome,

## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

### AQUILA & PRISCILLA - ACTS 18:1-3

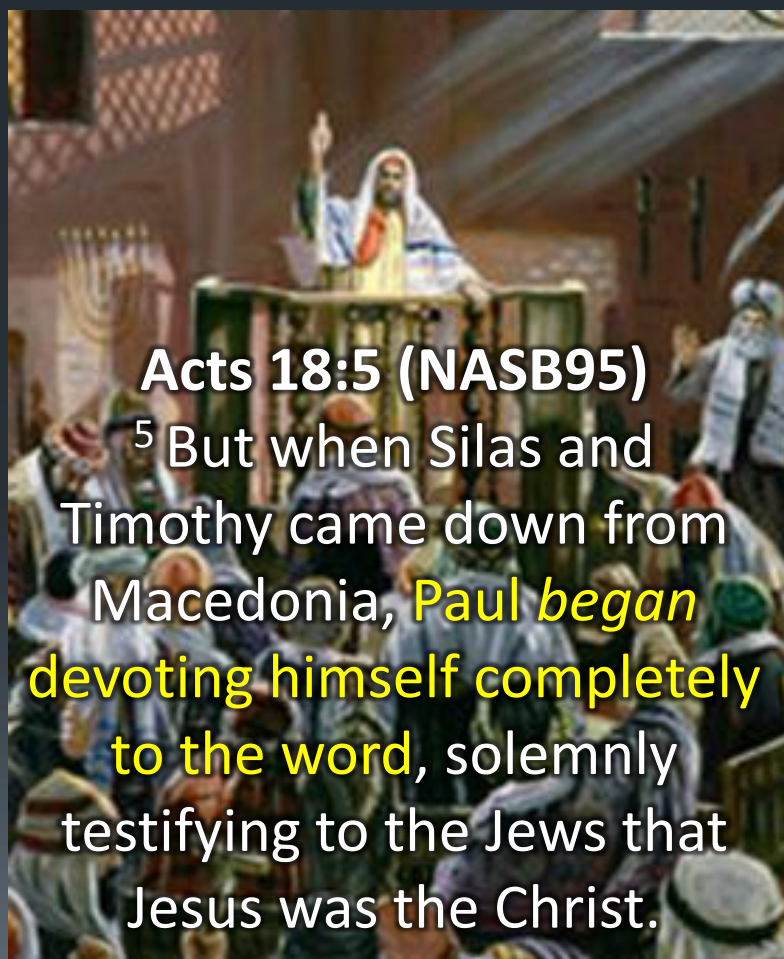


- ◆ Paul stayed with them because they were tentmakers – (18:3)
- ◆ Whether Aquila and Priscilla were Christians before they met Paul is not known - but they became Christians at some point – (18:18,26; Rom 16:3; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19)



## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

### REJECTED BY THE JEWS- ACTS 18:4-6



- ♦ Paul, as was his custom, began his work of evangelism in the synagogue - (cf. 9:20; 13:5, 14; 14:1; 17:2, 10, 17; 18:19; 19:8).
- ♦ When Timothy and Silas arrived from Macedonia Paul was able to devote more time to preaching - (18:5, compare NASV; cf. 2 Cor. 11:8,9)

## Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

### REJECTED BY THE JEWS- ACTS 18:4-6



#### Acts 18:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, "Your blood *be* upon your own heads; I *am* clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

Acts 13:45-51; Mat 10:14;  
Acts 20:26,27; Ez. 33:4-9



## Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18

### SOME ARE CONVERTED - ACTS 18:7-8

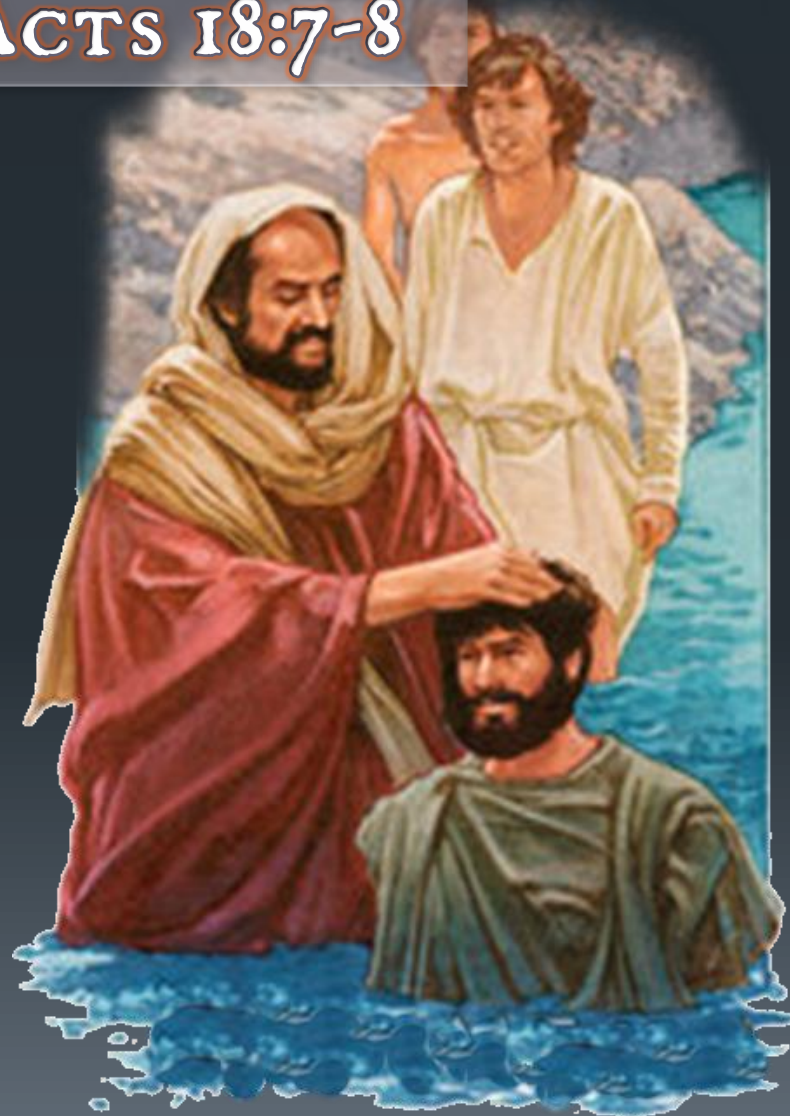


- ♦ Paul left the Synagogue and began teaching in the house of Titius Justus - (18:7 - *probably a Gentile as he is called a worshipper of God – 10:2,22*).
- ♦ Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, with all his house, along with many other Corinthians heard, believed and were baptized - (18:8)

## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

### SOME ARE CONVERTED - ACTS 18:7-8

- ♦ **Hearing** – (every example in Acts – cf. Romans 10:9-17)
- ♦ **Believed** – (John 3:16; 8:24; Heb 11:6)
- ♦ **And were Baptized** – (Act 2:38; 8:12,38; 9:18; 22:16; 10:47,48; 16:15,33; Rom 6:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:14-17; 12:13; Gal 3:26,27; etc.)





## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

**SOME ARE CONVERTED - ACTS 18:7-8**

### **What About 1 Corinthians 1:17?**

**1 Corinthians 1:12-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided?

Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except **Crispus** and **Gaius**, <sup>15</sup> lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.

<sup>16</sup> Yes, I also baptized the **household of Stephanas**. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

**SOME ARE CONVERTED - ACTS 18:7-8**

### **What About 1 Corinthians 1:17?**

- |                                          |                                            |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| ♦ Paul did not die for them!             | ♦ JESUS DIED FOR THEM                      |
| ♦ Paul did not baptize in his own name   | ♦ They were baptized in the name of Christ |
| ♦ Therefore: They could not be “of Paul” | ♦ Therefore: They belonged to Christ!!     |

**TWO THINGS ESSENTIAL TO BE OF CHRIST  
HIS DEATH — BAPTIZED IN HIS NAME**

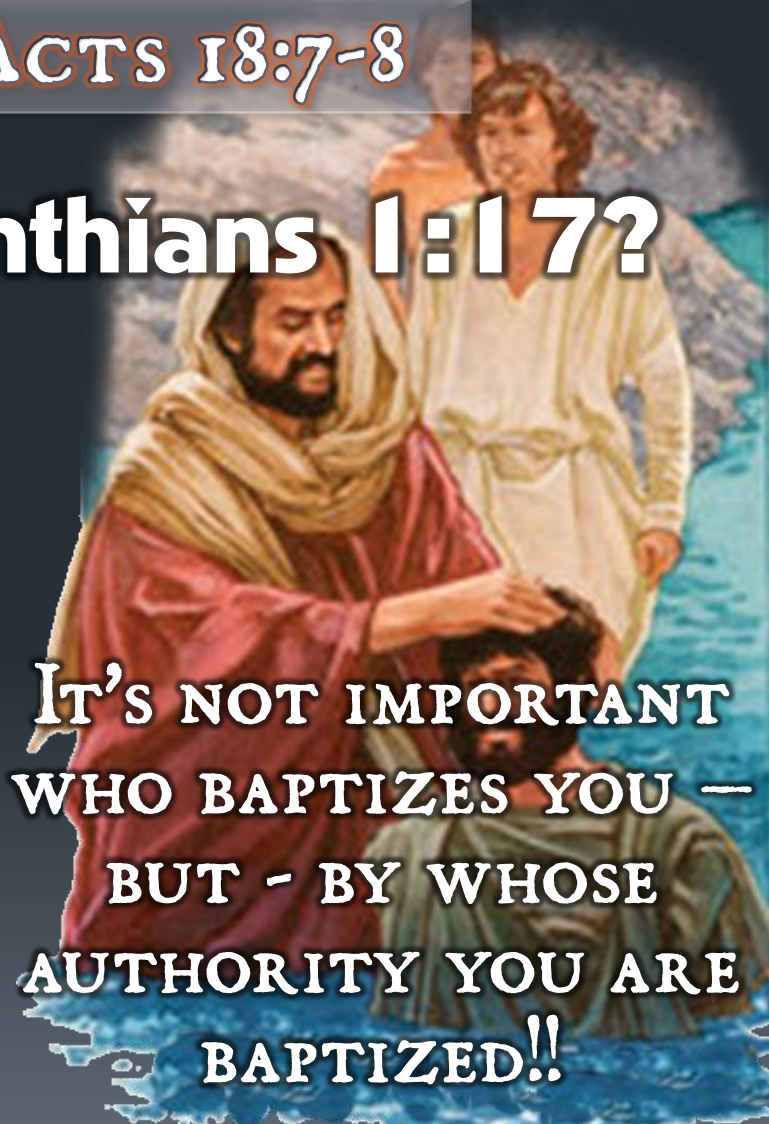


## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

**SOME ARE CONVERTED - ACTS 18:7-8**

### **What About 1 Corinthians 1:17?**

- ✦ Paul did NOT make the cross of Christ of no effect when he baptized Crispus, Gaius and the house of Stephanas – (cf. Rom 6:3-6; Col. 2:12,13)
- ✦ Every Christian in Corinth had been baptized – 1 Cor. 12:13
- ✦ Paul did not baptize in his own name – (1 Cor. 1:15)



**IT'S NOT IMPORTANT  
WHO BAPTIZES YOU –  
BUT - BY WHOSE  
AUTHORITY YOU ARE  
BAPTIZED!!**

## *Conversions In Corinth* - Acts 18:1-18

### PAUL ENCOURAGED - ACTS 18:9-17



#### Acts 18:9-10 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent;

<sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city."



## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

### PAUL ENCOURAGED - ACTS 18:9-17



- ◆ Let us not be discouraged by lack of results – or rejection – if we preach the Gospel – plant the seed – God will give the increase - (1 Cor 3:7; Is. 55:11)
- ◆ What may appear to be hard soil – may be receptive to the gospel – (Jews rejected – the immoral Gentiles accepted – 1 Cor. 6:9-11)

## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

### PAUL ENCOURAGED - ACTS 18:9-17



- ♦ Paul continues in Corinth for a year and six months - (18:11; )
- ♦ The Jews bring accusation against Paul to Gallio (18:12,13)
- ♦ Gallio wants the Jews to deal with matters of their own law themselves - (18:14,15)
- ♦ Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, beaten before the judgment seat (18:16,17)



# CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

Examples	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized
Pentecost – 2:14-41	Implied	✓ 37,38	Implied	✓ 38,41
Samaria – 8:5-13	✓ 12	Implied	Implied	✓ 12,13
Eunuch – 8:35-39	✓ 36,37	Implied	✓ 37	✓ 38
Saul – 9,22,26	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 9:18
Cornelius - 10:34-48	✓ 43	Implied	Implied	✓ 48
Lydia – 16:13-15	✓ 14	Implied	Implied	✓ 15
Jailor – 16:30-34	✓ 31	Implied	Implied	✓ 33
Corinthians - 18:8	✓ 8	Implied	Implied	✓ 8
Ephesians - 19:3-5	Implied	Implied	Implied	✓ 5

## *Conversions In Corinth - Acts 18:1-18*

### LESSONS & APPLICATIONS



- ♦ The gospel may be rejected by those we think most likely to accept it – and accepted by those we think most likely to reject it –
- ♦ To be free from the blood of others – we must do what we can to teach them
- ♦ We must never tire of doing the Lord's work –



# HAVE YOU BEEN CONVERTED?



- ◆ Have you heard, and do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
- ◆ Have you confessed Jesus as the Christ?
- ◆ Have you by faith, obeyed the truth in repentance and baptism? (1 Pet. 1:22,23)
- ◆ You can be washed – sanctified and justified today of any & every sin! – 1 Cor. 6:11







# EXAMPLES OF CONVERSIONS IN ACTS

## *Conversions In Corinth* - Acts 18:1-18

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Prepared August 25-27, 2011

Preached August 28, 2011

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## **1 Corinthians 1:12-25 (NKJV)**

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## 1 Corinthians 1:12-25 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written: *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."* <sup>20</sup> Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age?



## **1 Corinthians 1:12-25 (NKJV)**

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom;

## **1 Corinthians 1:12-25 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.