

**“Paul’s Final Days”**  
God’s Story of Redemption— Part 9  
*Acts, Ephesians and 2 Timothy*

**1. Paul’s letters help us know how to live for Christ.**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Ephesians 5:1-6

**2. Paul’s letters show us a deliberate discipleship process.**

**Paul and Priscilla and Aquila:**

They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. **21** But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God’s will." Then he set sail from Ephesus. Acts 18:19-21

**Priscilla, Aquila and the church in Ephesus:**

The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. 1 Corinthians 16:19

**Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos:**

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. Acts 18:24-26

When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace

had believed. For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ. Acts 18:27-28

### **Key lessons about discipleship:**

- *Discipleship* is best within the context of a relationship.
- Apollos' humility gave him a teachable spirit that enabled him to be *discipled*.
- We can only *disciple* others to the degree that we have been *discipled*.
- The *discipleship* mission is big enough for all of us.

### **Paul returned to Ephesus:**

"You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of the Jews. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."

Acts 20:18-21

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:16-21

### **Timothy and the church in Ephesus:**

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work — which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

1 Timothy 1:3-7

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

### **Paul—Timothy—faithful men—others**

Paul understood the necessity of discipleship for duplication.

## **Discipleship Matters!**

**Application:** Discipleship is the only way to protect the church from going astray. It protects believers from deceivers. It builds up the church, grounds new believers, fosters the maturation of developing saints, and results in more disciplers. Discipleship must be deliberate, determined, doctrinally sound, and aimed at duplication.

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:19-20*

### **How are you passing the torch to the next generation?**

"Paul's Final Days" is ninth in a series titled, "God's Story of Redemption—The Story-New Testament." March 1, 2015  
All verses are taken from the New International version unless noted.  
Scripture used: Acts 20-23; 27-28; Ephesians 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4