Lesson Fourteen: Athens and Corinth

Athens (read verses 17:16–34)

- 1) How does Luke describe Athens and its people (17:16,21)?
- 2) What did the cultured men think of Paul, and why (17:18, 32)?
- 3) Put yourself in Paul's place addressing well-born intellectuals in an age where class distinctions were stone walls between people. Why was Paul able to face those men confidently? (See also 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.)
- 4) When invited to speak to the prestigious Areopagus (see 17:24-31), what did Paul say about...a) The nature, character, and attributes of God?

 - b) The nature of man?
 - c) Idols?
 - d) Jesus?
- 5) How was this speech in Athens different from what Paul said previously to the Jews (see 9:20, 22; 13:16-41; 17:2-3)?

Corinth (read verses 18:1-17)

- 6) What did God promise Paul in Corinth (18:9-10)? How did Paul respond to that promise (18:11)?
- 7) How did God Keep His promise (18:12-17)?
- 8) What do the events of 18:1-17 tell you about God?

Corinth to Ephesus to Antioch (read verses 18:18-23)

9) Luke's mention of Paul's shaving of his hair as a vow he had taken (18:18) was in the Jewish tradition of expressing thankfulness to God for blessings received and blessings to come. How do Christians today give thanks in such a visible way?

Your Response: (consider doing one or more of these activities this week)

✓ What difference do Jesus and the resurrection, Paul's teaching about God, or some other aspect of his sermon in Athens make to your life? In what specific ways should you respond to what Paul says?

✓ Describe one way in which 18:1-17 is relevant in your life. Is there a promise, an example, or an insight about God that you might take to heart?

✓ Pray for Christians in countries where the legal status of the church is shaky. Ask God to move the authorities to tolerate Christianity more. (Choose one country this week and do research on what issues Christians there are facing).