Acts

Pursue Sound Doctrine

Acts 18:24 – 19:10

We don’t know what we don’t know. We don’t miss the people we’ve never met. We don’t regret actions never taken. The missions mandate to tell others about Jesus has been given to us to tell to others because salvation comes from faith in Jesus and that faith comes by hearing. Paul spent his life telling other people what God had so graciously revealed to him because he understood that the gospel was the power of God to salvation for those who believe. If they don’t hear it, they can’t know what they don’t know.

1. We shouldn’t just settle for accurate.
2. We shouldn’t just settle for half-truth.
3. We shouldn’t just settle for capitulation.

These verses show that the people we meet are often working through different stages of spiritual understanding and growth. Some people know Christ and need encouragement or reinforcement. Others may be genuinely converted but lack doctrinal clarity on some issues. Others are religious but have no understanding of the gospel. Still others, have heard the gospel and have rejected it as truth. We cannot assume to know where people are in their faith journey, so the gospel should be central to our conversations about religion, the church, morality, and many other areas that describe the deeper things of life.

For further consideration:

What do Paul’s follow-up visits teach about the importance of follow-up discipleship and the value of the local church? What can we learn from Priscilla and Aquila with regard to correction and potentially sensitive conversations? What can we learn from Apollos with regard to receiving such correction? Priscilla and Aquila were lay leaders who supported Paul’s work. How can you take on that role? Is there anyone that you know who is involved in the work of the kingdom whose work you could support in that way? Who helped you come to faith in Christ? Did they nurture that faith in you and disciple you in the way of the Lord? Who can you evangelize and then begin to disciple? Take a moment to ask God to equip and empower you not to settle, but to live the kingdom life to its fullest glory.