

*Unsung Heroes of the New Testament [Part 2]*  
*Lessons of APOLLOS*

Acts 18:24-28; 1 Cor. 1:10-31; 16:12

**ACTS 18:23-28** – “And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. **This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.** And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, **they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.** And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.”

**A. The Lesson of Eloquence** – Acts 18:23

Strong: “skilled in speech, learned, versed in history, literature, and the arts”

1. Apollos

*Of George Whitfield* – “His delivery was so improved by frequent repetition, that every accent, every emphasis, every modulation of voice, was so perfectly well turned, and well placed, one could not help being pleased with the discourse; a pleasure of much the same kind with that received from an excellent piece of music.” [Benjamin Franklin on George Whitfield]

2. Paul

**1 Cor. 2:4** – “And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”

**2 Cor. 10:10** – “For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.”

**2 Cor. 11:6** – “But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge.”

*Of Jonathan Edwards* – “If you mean, by eloquence, what is usually intended by it in our circles, he had no pretensions to it. He had no studied varieties of the voice. And no strong emphasis. He scarcely gestured, or even moved; and he made no attempt, by the elegance of his style, or the beauty of his pictures, to gratify the taste, and fascinate the imagination.

But if you mean by eloquence, the power of presenting an important truth before an audience, with overwhelming weight of argument. And with such intensesness of feeling, that the whole soul of the speaker is thrown into every part of the conception and delivery; so that the solemn attention of the whole audience is riveted, from the beginning to the close, and impressions are left that cannot be effaced; Mr. Edwards was the most eloquent man I ever heard speak.” [Serenio Dwight, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, p. 190]

**1 Cor. 1:27-29** – “*But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are; That no flesh should glory in his presence.*”

**B. The Lesson of Sincerity** [fervency] – Acts 18:24

**1 Chronicles 13:1-8** – [bringing back the Ark of the Covenant on an ox cart]

1. Popularity – “for *the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.*” [13:4]
2. Sincerity – “David and all Israel played before God *with all their might, and with singing.*” [13:8]

**C. The Lessons of Teaching and Teachability [Acts 18:24-25]**

**1. Teaching**

“[Apollos] whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, **they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**”

- a. Privately [**“they took him unto them”**]
- b. Perfectly - **The way *more* perfectly [carefully = diligently, with diligent care (24)]**
- c. Positively

**Ephesians 4:11-12** – *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying [instruction that builds a person up for the service] of the body of Christ.”*

- d. Patiently

**2. Teachability (Teachableness)**

*Teachable people approach life with a desire to learn from everyone they meet regardless of that person's status in life.*

**TEACHABILITY**

1. Very aware of the limitations of one’s own knowledge and abilities.
2. Admits limitation, inability, and ignorance to others who can teach and help.
3. Regularly asks for help, instruction, guidance, and advice.
4. Learns from anyone and everyone. [*Everyone can be my teacher.*]
5. Listens carefully and patiently with a desire to learn something from another, regardless of status.
6. Prepared to move from one’s comfort zone, try something different, make mistakes, look stupid, or answer wrongly.
7. Never gives up when one fails at something, but seeks help and tries again until one gets it right.  
- David Murray, minister

**D. The Lesson of Balance [Educated and Eloquent]**

- a. Educated [Alexandria, Egypt: Library & Oratory]
- b. Eloquent

**John Stott:** *“It’s not too difficult to be biblical if you don’t care about being relevant. And it’s not too difficult to be relevant if you don’t care about being biblical. But to be both biblical and relevant is the art of expository preaching.”*

**Lewis Sperry Chafer:** *“The art of preaching the gospel is the art of saying the same thing over and over again in different ways.”*

**Mark 12:35-37** - *“And the common people heard him (Christ) gladly.”*

In his intriguing book *Good to Great*, Jim Collins states that a wise leader is intentionally surrounded by people who have complementary skills. **The most successful leaders look for ways to empower those around them for the ultimate best of the whole organization or church.**

### THE PERFECT BALANCE

Luke 2:52 – “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and *in favor with God and man.*”

Acts 24:16 – “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience *void of offence toward God, and toward men.*”

*The Christian Life is a Balance of BOTH our Vertical and Horizontal Relationships*

#### E. The Lesson of Ministry [Plant, water, God] – 1 Cor. 1:10-13, cf. Rom. 10:13-17

**1 Cor. 1:10-17** - Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; **and I of Apollos;** and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

**1 Cor. 3:4-9, 21-23** - For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, **I am of Apollos;** are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and **who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed,** even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, **Apollos watered;** but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building. **Therefore let no man glory in men.** For all things are yours; **Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.**

#### F. The Lesson of Humility [1 Cor. 4:6-7]

**Micah 6:8** – “What doth the Lord required of thee, but . . . **to walk humbly with thy God.**”

**Luke 14:11** – “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and **he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.**”

**Rom. 12:3** – “For I say to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.”

**1 Cor. 4:6-7** - And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and *to* Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us **not to think of men above that which is written,** that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ *from another?* and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it,* why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it?*

**James 4:10** – “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

#### G. The Lesson of Discretion [1 Cor. 16:10-12]

**1 Cor. 16:10-12** – “As touching *our* brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren: but his will was not at all to come at this time; but he will come when he shall have convenient time.”

“Knowing when to walk away is Wisdom; Being able to is Courage; Walking away with your head held high, is Dignity.

#### GCBC Constitution [Attachment 1: Philosophy of Missions]

*“It is the philosophy of GCBC to primarily support missionaries involved in church planting. When the new church becomes self-supporting, and there is a national pastor in place, the missionary should move to another location and plant a new work.”*

**John 14:12** – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and **greater works than these shall he do;** because I go unto my Father.”