

Apollos: From Humility to Honor
Do We have a Teachable Spirit?

Acts 18:18-28

February 12, 2023

Vv 18-23 The Apostle Paul takes Priscilla and Aquilla from Corinth to Ephesus. In Ephesus, the Jews at the synagogue ask him to stay longer, but he declines and promises to return, if God wills. He then sails to Caesarea, he visits Jerusalem, then travels to Antioch, his “home base.” After some time there, he commences his third missionary journey, headed towards Ephesus on land, revisiting the territory of Galatia (southern Turkey).

Vv 24-25 Apollos

- A Jew
- Born in Alexandria
- Eloquent – *attractive and convincing speech*
- Mighty in the Scriptures—*particularly capable; powerful; having special competence*
- Had been instructed in the way of the Lord
- Fervent in spirit—to *show great eagerness for*
- Speaking and teaching accurately— *carefully and exactly*
- The things concerning Jesus
- Being acquainted only with the baptism of John- *to possess information only about the baptism of John*

One the baptism of John, see Acts 13:23-25, 19:4, and John 1:29, among others. Luke is not specific on exactly how much Apollos did not know, but in the very least he did not know that the Holy Spirit had come at Pentecost, and that for the last 20 years the Apostles had been baptizing converts not in the name of John the Baptist, but in the name of Jesus Christ.

V 26

- Began to speak out boldly in the synagogue— *to speak openly about something and with complete confidence*
- Priscilla and Aquilla took him aside
- Explained to him the way of God more accurately

How Priscilla and Aquilla took him aside, and did not correct him in public, is a good example for all to follow, when dealing with disagreement or correction within the church.

How he responded, with humility, is likewise a good example to all to follow.

Vv 27,28

Without so much as a mention of controversy or criticism, Luke details that Apollos expanded his ministry to adjacent nations, continuing to be a powerful witness.

How can we have a teachable spirit?

It starts with a proper perspective, that God is God, and we are not, and as our Creator, He knows what is best for His creatures. See Proverbs 15:33, 1:7, 9:10, among others.

2 Timothy 3:16,17

- Teaching—imparting theoretical and practical knowledge
- Reproof—rebuke (“That’s wrong!”)
- Correction—restoration, reestablishment (“Here is what’s right.”)
- Training in righteousness—instruction and discipline (“Here is how to go about it.”)
- So that the man of God may be adequate (proficient and capable), equipped for every good work.

The purpose of our equipping is that we accomplish good works.