

and the region of Galatia,... . Note that Galatia was a region, and not a specific town or city. Sister Bodie and Brother Copley note that Galatia means "milky" showing their character of childishness, being able to take only the milk, and not the meat of the Word, which is expressive of folk under the law. Paul would address this very subject to them later in a letter addressed *...unto the churches of Galatia*: (GALATIANS 1:2). Note here that there were several *churches of Galatia* addressed in this one epistle. It was these very same churches that Paul was now visiting once again on his third missionary journey for the purpose of *...strengthening all the disciples*. How many churches Paul established and visited while passing *...throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia*,... we are not told in scripture. We do know from ACTS 18:21 that Paul intended to return to Ephesus, so he progressed in order from east to west, *...strengthening all the disciples...* as he went.

Luke next here in ACTS 18:24-28 brakes away from covering the journeys of the Apostle Paul, and tells a little of what was taking place at Ephesus after Paul had left Aquila and Priscilla there in ACTS 18:18. Essentially in ACTS 18:24-28 we find fruit from Paul's having been with Aquila and Priscilla for a year and a half there at Corinth.

## Paul's Gospel Taught to Apollos by Aquila and Priscilla

ACTS 18:24 *And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 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. 26 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. 27 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: 28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.*

There is a tremendous amount of information conveyed in these five verses, which really magnifies the working of the Holy Ghost in the hearts of Spirit filled believers. In these verses we get a glimpse as to the ministry of Aquila and Priscilla. Additionally we find that they had learned Paul's gospel very well, thus they were able to expound unto Apollos *...the way of God more perfectly*. The only way that the gospel can be expounded more perfectly is through Paul's gospel with the enlightening help of the Holy Ghost. In the above five verses we are also introduced unto Apollos, whose name we find mentioned a total of ten times in scripture. Ten is the number whose meaning is: RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDING TO ABILITY. We found when we did our study on the church apostles that Apollos became one of the church apostles. (To see this for yourself study 1 CORINTHIANS chapter 3 and 4, and note in 1 CORINTHIANS 4:9 the statement "us the apostles," which is a reference to both Paul and Apollos). It was the Holy Ghost who ordained Apollos to be a church apostle. It was Aquila and Priscilla who introduced Apollos to the Holy Ghost, and Paul's gospel. It became Apollos' RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDING TO ABILITY after meeting Aquila and Priscilla, to become a church apostle, and to spread Paul's gospel message, which he did rather eloquently. These facts will become more evident as we now study further the above portion of scripture from ACTS 18:24-28.

The church Apostles were familiar with and taught Paul's gospel, most of them having learned Paul's gospel first hand from Paul himself. Not so with Apollos. So let's see how it was that he became a church Apostle. In ACTS 18:11 we find that Paul was at Corinth a year and a half. Paul then departed for Jerusalem and takes with him Aquila and Priscilla, ACTS 18:18. In ACTS 18:19 we find Aquila and Priscilla taking up residence in Ephesus, and stay there for quite some time as 1 CORINTHIANS 16:19 helps point out. In ACTS 18:21 & 22 Paul ends his second missionary journey, and in ACTS 18:23 Paul starts his third missionary journey. While Paul is away from Ephesus the events of ACTS 18:24-28 take place in which several very important things take place. Let's closely examine what takes place in these verses.

ACTS 18:24 from an expounded reading: *And a certain Jew named Apollos, a native*

of Alexandria, a gifted speaker, and strong in his knowledge of the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been trained in the way of the Lord; and with fiery enthusiasm he preached and taught accurately the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. Now consider this, John the Baptist has been off the scene nearly twenty five years by this time! What a long lasting impact the message of John the Baptist has had! But what about poor old Apollos, he is way behind in his current events. So what does Apollos know concerning the gospel at this time. Apollos knows Old Testament scripture, for he is a Jew, and a traveling preacher, in other words he is an evangelist, and a disciple of John the Baptist for all practical purposes. As hard as it may seem for us to comprehend, Apollos knows nothing about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, nor would he know anything about the true meaning of Pentecost. All that Apollos knew at this time was the preaching of the baptism of John the Baptist. ACTS 19:4 tells us: *John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.* In other words Apollos was teaching the Jews to be looking for their Messiah to come. But Jesus has already come the first time long before Apollos preached in Ephesus. The Jews as a whole had rejected Jesus, the KING OF THE JEWS, and had persecuted Him. Apollos, however was ignorant of these facts at this time. The message of repentance and looking for the coming Messiah was still received by some Jews of that day, showing that Apollos wasn't the only Jew ignorant of Jesus, and we will see the evidence of this fact in ACTS 19.

For a moment imagine how Aquila and Priscilla must have felt hearing Apollos speak this message at the Jewish synagogue there at Ephesus. They would have had mixed emotions about his message. First of all they would have realized that what Apollos preached was good, and was the truth, and they would have appreciated that, but then they would realize that Apollos, howbeit good intentioned, was ignorant of the events since the time of John the Baptist. I wonder how many times the Apostle Paul had used this expression in teaching Aquila and Priscilla: "Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren," and then he would teach them something. Now it was Aquila and Priscilla's turn to see that Apollos no longer remained ignorant concerning the things of the Lord. Actually there is more to it than that. The Holy Spirit was giving Aquila and Priscilla the opportunity to take some major steps down the road to being full overcomers. Of course they could have not listened to the unction of the Holy Spirit, but they instead yielded to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Think of what you would have done in this circumstance. Knowing what you know you have two choices. One ignore Apollos and his message and rejoice in the fact that you know more than him, or two, do what Aquila and Priscilla did, and try to point Apollos down the better path. It was not up to Aquila and Priscilla to make Apollos go the correct way of the Lord, it was only up to them to point him in the better direction; to teach him Paul's gospel. This they did.

An expounded translation of ACTS 18:26 explains what took place next: *In the synagogue he (Apollos) was very outspoken at first, whereupon Priscilla and Aquila, who had been listening, invited him to their home, and expounded the new way to him in greater detail.* Now think of what dear old Apollos would of had to learn from Aquila and Priscilla, and keep this point in mind while we consider this; Apollos was not an ignorant man, for he was well grounded in the Old Testament scriptures, and was a gifted, cultured, and eloquent speaker. The question Aquila and Priscilla would of had was how receptive would dear old Apollos be to Paul's gospel? And further, how receptive would dear old Apollos be to hearing Paul's gospel from the common folk that they were, a tent maker and his wife? Would Apollos be willing to learn some things from a woman? With these questions hanging over their head, Aquila and Priscilla yielded to the leading of the Holy Ghost, and began to explain to this educated man the things he was ignorant of concerning the things of God. Their teaching to Apollos would have gone something like this: "Apollos, let us declare unto you the gospel, how that Jesus Christ came in the days of John the Baptist, and for three years many times before many witnesses proved that he was the Christ. And how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of several people at different times after his resurrection, to whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining

to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. And Jesus told them ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Dear Apollos these things happened in your life time in Judaea and the regions round about nearly twenty years ago. And after Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples returned unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey. And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Jews from all over the world witnessed these Galilaeans speaking in tongues, and were confounded and amazed and marvelled that they heard these Galilaeans speaking in their various languages about the wonderful works of God. The power of the Holy Ghost is mighty, and on that day of Pentecost thousands of Jews became believers, and many received the gift of the Holy Ghost also. And the believers, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Now this is a lot of new information for dear old Apollos to take in at one time, so we wonder what his reaction would be. Here is where we get a glimpse into the heart attitude of dear old Apollos. Apollos has two choices he can make after hearing what Aquila and Priscilla have just said. One choice is that he can ignore what they have just told him, for after all he is an educated man, and he can put his confidence in this fact. Or dear old Apollos can examine himself, and see that he is lacking in the proper training and knowledge of what has recently taken place in the Christian world, and that he needs help along these lines. Of course Apollos acknowledges the later, which requires a change in heart attitude. And if any of us want to be a full overcomer we must be willing to have a change in heart attitude. Of course the Holy Ghost is the One who can bring these changes to us, if we will only yield to Him. *ROMANS 12:1-3 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.* Apollos realizes that he needs to learn what it is that Aquila and Priscilla can teach him. Thus Apollos spends some time learning Paul's gospel from Aquila and Priscilla. How do we know this? *ACTS 18:26* tells us that Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos *...unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.* This, of course, would have taken some time, and maybe it was during this time that Aquila and Priscilla really established the church that was in their house, which Paul later mentions in *I CORINTHIANS 16:19*. Apollos must have had an open hungry heart to receive Paul's gospel message from Aquila and Priscilla, so only a short time would pass before Apollos was ready to continue being an evangelist.

Without question one of the first things that Apollos received after meeting Aquila and Priscilla was the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost brought the understanding to the heart of Apollos that he needed in order to fully receive the gospel message of the Apostle Paul. Now armed with Paul's gospel, Apollos was ready to continue his missionary journey.

*ACTS 18:27*, and *ACTS 19:1* tells us that Apollos next went to Corinth. Before we

read these verses, recall that Paul, and Aquila, and Priscilla had just spent a year and a half at Corinth, for the Lord had told Paul that *"I have much people in this city."* Paul has not yet written either epistle to the Corinthians. However by this point in time of ACTS 18:27 - 19:1 those at Corinth have had the opportunity to receive Paul's gospel, and this being first hand from Paul himself. Furthermore those at Corinth have also been helped in their learning of Paul's gospel by Silas and Timothy as indicated by ACTS 18:5. The Holy Ghost had now prepared Apollos to continue to preach Paul's gospel to those very same Saints at Corinth, for the Lord had *"much people in this city"* (ACTS 18:10). This was one of the main reasons that the Holy Ghost had lead Apollos to Ephesus first, so that Apollos could learn Paul's gospel. Imagine what would of happened to Apollos had he visited Corinth before he knew Paul's gospel. He would have confused those new Saints at Corinth, and probably would have come away from there confused himself. But of course this did not happen. Recall further that when Paul did write those at Corinth in the next few months, he stated that they were carnal and babes in Christ, (1 CORINTHIANS 3). In other words they had many things to learn, but by now Apollos had learned these things himself, and could teach those at Corinth some more about Paul's gospel. So the Holy Ghost moved in the heart of Apollos to go to Corinth, where he could continue to preach to this group of Saints Paul's gospel. As we move on keep in mind that an unknown period of time passes between the verses of ACTS 18:26 and ACTS 18:27. ACTS 18:27 & 28 (from an expounded translation): *Then, as he (Apollos) had made up his mind to cross to Greece, the brethren (at Ephesus) encouraged him, and wrote to the disciples (at Corinth) to give him a kindly welcome. When he arrived (at Corinth) he proved of great help to the faithful through the grace that had been given him: He was a powerful debater and in public overcame the Jews in argument, making clear from the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.*

This brings back memories of the Apostle Paul after he first got saved on the road to Damascus in ACTS 9:20-22: *20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. 21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? 22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.* Apollos and Paul had these things in common: one, they were both well educated Jews, and two, both knew the scriptures, which, of course, were the Old Testament scriptures. Now that Apollos was full of the Holy Ghost, and armed with Paul's gospel, he could better expound the scriptures, especially to the Jews. Note in ACTS 18:28 that Apollos *"...mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ."*

So Apollos spent some time in Corinth preaching and teaching Paul's gospel. This was just a few months after the time Paul himself had spent a year and a half preaching and teaching at Corinth. Paul's gospel message was newer to Apollos than it was to those established Saints there at Corinth. When Paul before had preached at Corinth his preaching was done in the following manner, (as recorded by Paul himself): from 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching [was] not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.* Apollos was a different man than Paul, and his manner of preaching was different than Paul's, for recall in ACTS 18:24 it states that Apollos was *an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures.* These were assets that now the Holy Spirit would use in Apollos preaching. Even though the scripture doesn't specifically so state, we assume that when Apollos came to Corinth, his preaching was with excellency of eloquent speech and of wisdom of the gospel, declaring also the testimony of God. Then somewhere along the way, (probably at a little later time than Apollos), came Peter (Cephas) to Corinth, of whom ACTS 4:13 states that he was an *unlearned and ignorant* man; that is to say Peter was an uneducated laymen, not a trained scholar like Paul or Apollos. Obviously Peter's preaching and teaching to those of Corinth would have been different than Paul's and

Apollos' preaching and teaching, in that Peter's words were laymen's words, not scholarly words. All of these men, Paul, Apollos and Peter were men full of the Holy Ghost, who could only preach what they did by the power of the Holy Ghost. It is obvious from 1 CORINTHIANS that those at Corinth had their favorite preachers they wanted to hear, and they began to focus on the man, and not the message, thus word came to Paul of contentions, divisions, envying and strife among the believers there at Corinth. Thus Paul states this in his first letter to those at Corinth: *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. 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. For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?* (From 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 - 12, and 3:4 and 3). Paul then goes on to point out to those Corinthian Saints that himself and Apollos were nothing more than *...ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man.* (1 CORINTHIANS 3:5). Then Paul explains in the third and fourth chapter of 1 CORINTHIANS that it is God who gives the increase. Paul preached the gospel, Apollos preached the gospel, they were laborers together with God, ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God; church apostles.

One more thing about Apollos. Apollos becomes a life long acquaintance of the Apostle Paul as the following scriptures help point out. 1 CORINTHIANS 16:12 *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.* TITUS 3:13 *Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them.* We are not told in scripture exactly when Paul met Apollos, but most likely it will be during the next three years while Paul is in Ephesus.

## The Way

Before we move on to ACTS 19 let's note one more important lesson that lies in the background of what we have read concerning the Apostle Paul, and his doctrine so far. We actually find this lesson highlighted in ACTS 18:25 & 26. We read this of Apollos starting in verse 25: *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.* 26 *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.* The lesson that lies in the background concerns "the way." Note that Apollos *...was instructed in the way of the Lord,*... and Aquila and Priscilla armed with Paul's gospel were able to expound unto Apollos *...the way of God more perfectly.* The following discussion then concerns "the way."

In JOHN 14 Jesus expounded unto His disciples about "the way." Jesus told them starting in verse 1 -- JOHN 14:1 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.* 2 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.* 3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* 4 *And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.* 5 *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?* 6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* What we see in these verses is that Jesus is "the way." Again note what Jesus said here in verse 6: *...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Apollos, and Aquila and Priscilla really all knew this doctrine, but from different perspectives. Apollos was ignorant of the fact that Jesus had already come, and was preaching the forward looking doctrine of John the Baptist that actually prepared "the way" of the Lord. The doctrine of John the Baptist is recorded in ISAIAH 40:3, and MALACHI 3:1. ISAIAH 40:3 *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the*