

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 I 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*

way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. MALACHI 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Aquila and Priscilla on the other hand had learned from the Apostle Paul ...the way of God more perfectly. We are not specifically told in scripture if the Apostle Paul ever heard John the Baptist preach, or not, but ACTS 19:4 tells us that Paul was very familiar with the doctrine of John the Baptist, stating: *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.* We also know that the Apostle Paul, as Saul of Tarsus, didn't believe the preaching of John the Baptist, and persecuted those who did. Then one day Saul of Tarsus journeyed toward Damascus, and in ACTS 26 Paul once again recalls that day, stating: ACTS 26:13 *At midday, Cking, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. ...15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.* The words Jesus spoke in JOHN 14:6 then immediately came alive in the heart of Saul of Tarsus: *...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me...*, and Saul of Tarsus believed. After that most wonderful event, the Lord Jesus saw to it that old Saul of Tarsus was transformed into the Apostle Paul, and revealed unto him ...the way of God more perfectly. Paul then taught this doctrine unto all he came in contact with, including Aquila and Priscilla. Aquila and Priscilla then were able to teach Apollos...the way of God more perfectly... because they knew Paul's doctrine.

Now consider this. ACTS 18:25 tells us that Apollos ...*was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord...* yet we know at that time he was ignorant of many things, including Paul's doctrine. Such is a lot of the religious world today! How many are out there today much like Apollos that are ...*instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit...* ...*and taught diligently the things of the Lord...* but know little or nothing of Paul's doctrine? Of course only God knows the answer to such a question. But then there are some out there like Aquila and Priscilla who know Paul's doctrine, thus they know ...the way of God more perfectly. What is their responsibility? In other words, what is our responsibility concerning Paul's gospel? The answer to this question is at least two fold. First, those of us who have been taught Paul's gospel are to indeed learn Paul's gospel, which is to be a life long effort. Secondly, we are to help those we come in contact with to learn ...the way of God more perfectly... through Paul's gospel. Aquila and Priscilla didn't go out looking for Apollos, nor did Apollos go out looking for them, rather the Lord brought them together through a divine appointed opportunity, which Aquila and Priscilla recognized, and took advantage of. No doubt thousands benefited because of their efforts with Apollos. Yet here in ACTS 18 they only had to teach one man, Apollos, ...the way of God more perfectly. Each of us who knows Paul's gospel may only have one come our way, one who is eager to learn ...the way of God more perfectly. May we too be willing to expound unto them ...the way of God more perfectly. We know from ROMANS 16 that many more than just Apollos were taught Paul's gospel by Aquila and Priscilla, for Paul wrote concerning them these words: ROMANS 16:3 *Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house.* "All the churches of the Gentiles" covers a lot of territory. "All the churches of the Gentiles" benefited from Aquila and Priscilla expounding ...the way of God more perfectly... and all of this was because Aquila and Priscilla first of all allowed the Apostle Paul to live with them in their house, and expound unto them ...the way of God more perfectly. Is the gospel of the Apostle Paul allowed to live in your house?

We now have covered many events in the life of Paul from ACTS chapters 9 through 18. Think about how many Paul has come in contact with up to this point in his life. Narrow that thinking down to those whose names we know from scripture. People like Barnabas, John Mark, Titus, Silas, Timothy and Luke, all of whom have been

traveling companions of the Apostle Paul somewhere along the way in these chapters. All of these men then also were entrusted with the doctrines given unto Paul to preach. All of these men also helped spread Paul's gospel, thus they all were able to lead those they came in contact with *...the way of God more perfectly*. Some of these very same men also became the Church Apostles of the current church age we are still living in. All of these men were in some fashion or another an aid unto the Apostle Paul. Paul himself uses such terms as: "fellowlabourer, helper, fellowhelper, fellowworkers, workfellow, labourer together with, and companions in labour" to describe how they aided him in spreading the gospel. All were thankful that Paul had expounded unto them *...the way of God more perfectly*.

You may be thinking how was John Mark able to help spread Paul's gospel? It sure doesn't look like that from reading ACTS 13 and ACTS 15. In ACTS 13 we find John Mark leaving Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, and at the end of ACTS 15 we find Paul and Barnabas splitting up because of John Mark. But as time went on, Barnabas patiently taught John Mark Paul's gospel. Thus years later we find that an aged Barnabas has encouraged a much younger John Mark to join up again with the Apostle Paul, who writes unto Timothy in 2 TIMOTHY 4:11 *...Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry*. There is only one way John Mark could have been profitable unto Paul and his ministry, and that was because his uncle Barnabas was able to teach him Paul's gospel, and expound unto him *...the way of God more perfectly*. {For more on John Mark review pages 95-97 of these notes}.