



Lesson 25 – Apollos at Corinth

Based on Acts 18:18-28

The Apostle Paul and his fellow travelers were nearing the end of his second missionary journey. He had stayed in Corinth for an extra season after God encouraged him in a vision that he would protect him.

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

Acts 18:18 And Paul after this tarried there (Corinth) yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in _____: for he had a vow.

Having his head shaved signaled either the beginning or the end of a special vow. The nature of the vow is uncertain among Bible commentators. Most likely it was to signal the accomplishment of something. Some translations even say it may have been Aquilla that took a vow.

2) Where did he stop after having his head shaved in Cenchrea?

Acts 18:19 And he came to _____, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

After leaving Corinth, Paul's next scene of labor was Ephesus. He was on his way to Jerusalem to attend an approaching festival, and his stay at Ephesus was necessarily brief. He reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue, and so favorable was the impression made upon them that they entreated him to continue his labors among them.

3) What was Paul's reply to their request?

Acts 18:20-21 When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented _____; But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in _____: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

Aquila and Priscilla had accompanied him to Ephesus, and he left them there to carry on the work that he had begun.

4) Who met Aquilla and Priscilla at Ephesus?

Acts 18:24 And a certain Jew named _____, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

5) How did they meet?

Acts 18:25-26 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 _____ in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and _____ unto him the way of God more perfectly.

He had heard the preaching of John the Baptist, had received the baptism of repentance, and was a living witness that the work of the prophet had not been in vain.

Through their teaching he obtained a clearer understanding of the Scriptures and became one of the ablest advocates of the Christian faith.



6) Where did he desire to minister?

Acts 18:27 And when he was disposed to pass into _____, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:

Achia is the lower region of Greece that included Corinth and Athens.

7) Going house to house, what success did he have?

Acts 18:28 For he _____ convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Paul had planted the seed of truth; Apollos now watered it. The success that attended Apollos in preaching the gospel led some of the believers to exalt his labors above those of Paul. This comparison of man with man brought into the church a party spirit that threatened to hinder greatly the progress of the gospel.

8) How had Paul labored in Corinth?

1 Corinthians 2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came _____ with _____ of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 And my speech and my preaching was _____ with _____ words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the _____ and of _____: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

During the year and a half that Paul had spent in Corinth, he had purposely presented the gospel in its simplicity. He had come to the Corinthians with fear and trembling.

9) How did Paul adapt his teaching for them?

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto _____, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with _____, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Many of the Corinthian believers had been slow to learn the lessons that he was endeavoring to teach them. Their advancement in spiritual knowledge had not been proportionate to their privileges and opportunities. They should have been far advanced in Christian experience, and able to comprehend and to practice the deeper truths of the word.

10) What similar thing did Jesus tell His Disciples?

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot _____ them now.

Jealousy, evil surmising, and accusation had closed the hearts of many of the Corinthian believers against the full working of the Holy Spirit.

11) How are things revealed to us?

1 Corinthians 2:10 But God hath _____ them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

It had been Paul's work to instruct the Corinthian converts in the rudiments, the very alphabet, of the Christian faith. He had been obliged to instruct them as those who were ignorant of the operations of divine power upon the heart. At that time, they were unable to comprehend the mysteries of salvation.



12) How did Paul try to explain it?

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the _____ man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are _____ unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

When the apostle took up his work in Corinth, he realized that he must introduce most carefully the great truths he wished to teach. He knew that among his hearers would be proud believers in human theories, and exponents of false systems of worship, who were groping with blind eyes, hoping to find in the book of nature theories that would contradict the reality of the spiritual and immortal life as revealed in the Scriptures. He also knew that critics would endeavor to controvert the Christian interpretation of the revealed word, and that skeptics would treat the gospel of Christ with scoffing and derision.

He dwelt especially upon practical godliness and the holiness to which those must attain who shall be accounted worthy of a place in God's kingdom. He longed to see the light of the gospel of Christ piercing the darkness of their minds, that they might see how offensive in the sight of God were their immoral practices. Therefore, the burden of his teaching among them was Christ and Him crucified.

Paul saw that the character of Christ must be understood before men could love Him or view the cross with the eye of faith. Here must begin that study which shall be the science and the song of the redeemed through all eternity. In the light of the cross alone can the true value of the human soul be estimated.

13) How are we to view ministers here?

1 Corinthians 3:4-7 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of _____; 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 _____, Apollos _____; but God gave the _____. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

It was Paul who had first preached the gospel in Corinth, and who had organized the church there. This was the work that the Lord had assigned him. Later, by God's direction, other workers were brought in, to stand in their lot and place. The seed sown must be watered, and this Apollos was to do. He followed Paul in his work, to give further instruction, and to help the seed sown to develop. He won his way to the hearts of the people, but it was God who gave the increase.

14) What did Paul add to that?

1 Corinthians 3:8-9 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own _____ according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's _____.

In this scripture the apostle compares the church to a cultivated field, in which the husbandmen labor, caring for the vines of the Lord's planting; and also, to a building, which is to grow into a holy temple for the Lord. God is the Master Worker, and He has appointed to each man his work. All are to labor under His supervision, letting Him work for and through His workmen. He gives them tact and skill, and if they heed His instruction, crowns their efforts with success.



15) How should we treat one another?

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour _____ one another;

Each one has an individuality of his own, which he is not to sink in that of any other man. Yet each is to work in harmony with his brethren. In their service God's workers are to be essentially one. No one is to set himself up as a criterion, speaking disrespectfully of his fellow workers or treating them as inferior. Under God each is to do his appointed work, respected, loved, and encouraged by the other laborers. Together they are to carry the work forward to completion.

16) Are we to judge another's work?

1 Corinthians 4:1-3 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be _____ of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine _____.

1 Corinthians 4:4-5 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until _____ come, who both will bring to light the _____ things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

17) What did Paul suggest about the divisions in them about Paul or Apollos?

1 Corinthians 4:6 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 _____ that which is written, that no one of you be _____ up for one against another.

Paul plainly set before the church the perils and the hardships that he and his associates had patiently endured in their service for Christ.

18) Were things easy for Paul or any of his coworkers?

1 Corinthians 4:11-15 Even unto this present hour we both _____, and _____, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being _____, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I _____ you. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

The Lord sends help to His people, not always as they may choose, but as they need; for men are shortsighted and cannot discern what is for their highest good. It is seldom that one minister has all the qualifications necessary to perfect a church in all the requirements of Christianity; therefore, God often sends to them other ministers, each possessing some qualifications in which the others were deficient.

Those who are working for Christ today may reveal the same distinguishing excellencies revealed by those who in the apostolic age proclaimed the gospel. God is just as ready to give power to His servants today as He was to give power to Paul and Apollos, to Silas and Timothy, to Peter, James, and John.

19) What promise is still kept today?

Psalms 25:9 The meek will he _____ in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Can you see that we are one in Christ?

Do you see things may get challenging at times?

When is the time to seek guidance?