

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THIS MAN WAS INSTRUCTED IN THE WAY OF THE LORD;

...KNOWING ONLY THE BAPTISM OF JOHN

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SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 12, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **ACTS 18:23-28** AND **ACTS 19:1-2**

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.* **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.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the August 12, 2018 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Today we will take our text from the **Book of Acts**.
- b. The proper setting of these verses follows the Apostle Paul as he embarks upon his third missionary journey.
- c. This third missionary journey commences in **Acts 18:23,** *And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.*
- d. Paul will find himself going to Ephesus.

- e. He will have a flourishing ministry in this locale, but at this time he encounters a man who preceded him, named Apollos, who the Bible says was mighty in the Scriptures.
- f. We want to stay extremely close to the Word of God today and follow this story because there has been so much error associated with it.
- g. **Whatever your preconceived notions might be**, I would ask you to **stay with the Word of God** as we examine the background of Apollos, and the activities of the Apostle Paul on this great missionary journey.
- h. Apollos is not as well-known as Paul, but he was a mighty man for the Lord and did great and mighty things.
- i. As Paul comes to Ephesus we see he speaks daily in the school of Tyrannus for two years.
- j. Ephesus was a religious center as well as being highly commercialized.
- k. With that Introduction let's see what we can glean from God's precious Word today.

3. SEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. **And a certain Jew named Apollos,... mighty in the scriptures.**

1. **Acts 18:24**, And a certain Jew named Apollos, *born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and* mighty in the scriptures, *came to Ephesus.*
2. In order to understand this passage completely let's quickly review the background of Apollos.
3. As indicated in the introduction, he arrived at Ephesus preceding the Apostle Paul.
4. **This man was mighty in the Scriptures**, which indicates that he **knew the Mosaic Law** and was well grounded in the Old Testament.
5. Apollos was born in Alexandria, which is in North Africa.
6. Alexandria was founded by Alexander the Great, during his reign as world leader of the Grecian Empire.
7. Alexandria was the center of Greek culture.

8. History tells us that there was a great university that had one of the finest libraries in all the world.
9. There was some work done there on the Greek version of the Old Testament.
10. There was a Jewish temple in the city.
11. The center of early Christianity moved from Jerusalem to Antioch to Alexandria and remained there for several centuries.
12. Apollos was obviously influenced by his background.
13. In no uncertain terms we are told that he was an eloquent man, highly educated and well trained.
14. He had not been converted by the grace of God and lacked information concerning the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**, Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2**: By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3**: For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4**: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

b. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; knowing only the baptism of John.

1. **Acts 18:25**, 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.**
2. This is very important for us to understand; that he knew "only the baptism of John."
3. As we recall, the baptism of John was a baptism unto repentance. **Matthew 3:1-2**, *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, **2**: And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

4. **Repent means to change one's mind, or direction; the Kingdom of Heaven speaks of the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on Earth; it is not the Gospel Message for the Church.**
5. *"This man was instructed in the way of the Lord;"* means he had an education and it came by word of mouth and not a revelation from Jesus Christ, as the Apostle Paul had. **Galatians 1:11-12**, *But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12: For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
6. *"Being fervent in the spirit,"* - it does not say that he was fervent in the Holy Spirit.
7. This man had a compassion for the things of God.
8. The Holy Spirit gives us the testimony of him and indicated he was an outstanding man.
9. Apollos spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord.
10. He taught everything he had learned from his culture, background and others.
11. The Bible enlightens us and indicates he knew only John's baptism.
12. A man cannot go any further than what he has already known and learned.
13. Bottom line: he had never heard, nor did he know the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
14. Apollos is introduced to Aquila and Priscilla.

c. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue.

1. **Acts 18:26**, **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.*
2. Aquila and Priscilla recognized the fact that he was unsaved and needed more information to do what he was attempting to do. **Romans 10:17**, *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

3. This man had all the qualification to be a great man of God except he did not have the correct message.
4. Throughout America today, great people have qualifications but if we do not have the correct message and preach and teach the whole counsel of God, we are indeed limited.
5. These two people; having been saved and born again, were instrumental in helping the Apostle Paul get the message out in Rome.
6. **Aquila and Priscilla, having come to a saving knowledge of Christ**, immediately took this young man, who did not resist them, and **expounded the way of the Lord more perfectly**.
7. They gave him the Gospel Message of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
8. As his conversion was noised abroad, the disciples were exhorting to receive him.

d. The brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him.

1. **Acts 18:27**, *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:*
2. Apollos was a brilliant man, having received the message that Jesus Christ saves us by His grace, now Apollos helps other believers.
3. The Bible says in **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
4. This man did not resist the teachings of Aquila and Priscilla.
5. He **did not** reject the truth of the Gospel. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 8:32*, *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:36*, *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be*

free indeed. **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11:** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: **12:** That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

6. We must be very careful here at Chesswood Baptist Church, when God shows us the truth of His Word, to not hold on to some traditional thought or idea we might have.
7. Aquila and Priscilla expounded unto this man the Gospel by the grace of God.
8. Notice, he received the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour upon doing so he was able to – *“helped them much which had believed through grace:”*
9. Now the disciples are receiving him into their fellowship.
10. It reminds me of God, concerning Saul before he was called Paul.
11. Saul had great credentials, but when he came to know Jesus as personal Saviour, he had an urgency to get the Gospel to a lost and dying world.
12. Aquila and Priscilla, being grounded in the Word of God by the Apostle Paul, was able to help Apollos.
13. Now Apollos is a valuable asset to the Apostle Paul in getting the Word of God out.
14. Immediately he jumps into the harness and shares the Word of God with boldness.

e. For he mightily convinced the Jews, that Jesus was the Christ.

1. **Acts 18:28**, For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.
2. To mightily convince someone indicates that the Word of God must first lodge in your own heart. **Psalms 119:130**, *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.*

3. We must know what we believe and why we believe it. **John 1:12**, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
4. We must be unshakable in our belief and in the things of God. **1 Corinthians 15:58**, *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*
5. Once we have it in our heart, we can mightily convince others of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Romans 1:16**, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
6. Many times, we mightily convince them and do not have to utter one single word. We **should not have to** broadcast that we Christians.
7. People know when we have been with Jesus Christ.
8. This man had to get his doctrine straight first. **John 7:17**, *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*
9. We must have sound doctrine in our local church. Here at Chesswood Baptist Church, there are three non-negotiable doctrines: **The Preserved Word of God, the Deity of Christ and Justification by faith.**
10. We must be steadfast in the Apostles' doctrine. **Acts 2:42**, *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
11. When we do that, then we can pass the Word of God from one place to the other.
12. Upon conversion, the Holy Spirit does five things.
 - a. He regenerates us.
 - b. Baptizes us into the body of Christ. Since there is some confusion with respect to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we must note that this is a spiritual baptism that saves

us, and it comes at the moment we receive Christ as our personal Saviour. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is what initiates us into the new life in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:13-14, *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. 1*

Corinthians 12:13, *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

- c. Indwells us.
- d. Seals us unto the day of redemption.
- e. Gives us the capacity to be filled with the Spirit as we add to our faith. **2 Peter 1:5-9**, *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6: And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

- 13. After conversion this man is able to deliver a powerful message in Achaia, the Churches in Greece, which include Corinth and Athens, preaching Jesus as the Saviour of the world.

f. Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts, came to Ephesus.

1. **Acts 19:1**, *And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,*
2. This verse indicates that Apollos continued to work in Corinth.
3. He is not traveling with Paul.
4. At that time Paul is working his way to Ephesus.
5. Paul had come through Ephesus on his return from his second missionary journey.
6. He told them he would come back if God permitted him to do so.
7. He had not stayed at Ephesus on any previous occasion and had not started any ministry there at this time.
8. Now Paul returns to Ephesus, but he had been preceded there by Apollos.
9. Apollos was limited in what he knew.
10. *He did not know about the death, burial, or resurrection of Jesus Christ **until** he talked with Aquila and Priscilla.*
11. *As a result of his previous preaching, the people had not even heard there was a Holy Ghost.*
12. Paul detects this and asks a very important question.

g. Have you received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?

1. **Acts 19:2**, *He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*
2. Since there is so much confusion concerning this verse, we need to stay very close to the Word of God on this issue.
3. Paul is now in Ephesus and finds certain disciples; it does not say they were disciples of Christ, they had been instructed by Apollos **before** he received the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour.

4. Paul asks them, "*Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*" knowing full well that the Holy Spirit is associated with salvation.
5. The Bible says in **Romans 8:9**, *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*
6. We must be careful to know that the Holy Spirit is given to every single believer at the moment of salvation; this is justification which is instantaneous.
7. No one can get saved and born again without having the Holy Ghost.
8. These people indicated very frankly, that they had not even heard whether there was a Holy Ghost; naturally, because Apollos did not have this knowledge either knowing only John's baptism.
9. Paul causes the church to be expanded because he speaks unto these people about God's simple plan of salvation.
10. The Bible says in several verses after this point that all the men were about twelve. **Acts 19:7**, *And all the men were about twelve.*
11. These twelve men now receive the Gospel Message and are instrumental in spreading the Gospel into all of Asia. **Acts 19:10**, *And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend, do you know Christ as your Saviour?
- b. If breath were to leave your body are you sure you would have a home in Heaven?
- c. The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- d. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

- e. **1 John 1:9**, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- f. **Romans 10:9-10**, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10**: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
- g. **Matthew 11:28-29**, Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29**: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
- h. Would you come to the side of the Living Saviour Today and let Him give you that peace in the heart? Let's reflect on a few verses that will provide you with assurance of your salvation: **2 Peter 1:4**, Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **John 10:27-29**, My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: **28**: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. **29**: My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. **2 Timothy 1:12**, For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. **Romans 8:38-39**, For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, **39**: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **1 John 5:13**, These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
- i. Please stand.

