

A LOOK AT APOLLOS

TEXT:

“And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 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 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. 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: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ” (Acts 18:24-28).

Purpose: To help us learn some important things from this account of Apollos.

Introduction.:

1) Relate text.

2) Apollos is mentioned by name ten times in the Bible.

(1) Mentioned in connection with Corinth.

(a) “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” (1Corinthians 1:12).

(b) “For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; 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 planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (1Corinthians 3:4-6).

(c) “ If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha” (1Corinthians 16:22).

(2) Also mentioned to Titus, “This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;” (Titus 3:13).

3) We learn from the above passages that Apollos was a useful man.

4) Let's center our attention now on Acts 18.

I. BORN AT ALEXANDRIA, v. 24

1) Mentioned 3 times in Bible:

(1) here in verse 24, “ And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus” (Acts 18:24).

(2) when Paul was going to Rome, “And there the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing into Italy; and he put us therein” (Acts 27:6).

(3) when on a ship of Alexandria, “And after three months we departed in a ship of Alexandria, which had wintered in the isle, whose sign was Castor and Pollux” (Acts 28:11).

2) Alexandria was an important city in the past.

(1) Located in northern Egypt, west of Nile.
(2) Founded by Alexander the Great, in 322 B.C. and named after him.
(3) City of commerce, and considered the 2nd city of the Roman Empire; population over 500,00.
(4) Intellectual center, had a famous library of several hundred thousand volumes.

(5) It was here that the LXX was translated.

3) Birth place of Apollos.

II. AN ELOQUENT MAN v. 24

1) "Eloquent" -fluent, orator, eloquent., (able to reason).

2) This will help - but remember, power is in the message (gospel), not the messenger.

3) No matter how eloquent, must have the right message, "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" (1Corinthians 2:1-2).

III. MIGHTY IN THE SCRIPTURES v. 24

1) He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, "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" (Acts 18:25).

2) To be mighty in the scriptures, we must apply ourselves.

(1) "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

(2) "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

3) Lay aside some things, and fill our heart with God's word, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: " (1Peter 2:1-2).

IV. FERVENT IN THE SPIRIT v.

1) "Fervent" - idea of zealous.

2) "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" (Romans 12:11).

3) Are we slothful in activity-slothful in worship?

4) In works? "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

V. KNEW ONLY THE BAPTISM OF JOHN v. 25

1) He did not know the whole story.

2) John's work was preparatory.

(1) "For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee" (Matthew 11:10).

(2) difference in baptisms: name, confession.

3) Of such importance, that Paul re-baptized those in Ephesus,

(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, 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. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, 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. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve" (Act 19:1-7).

(2) Some today have **not** been scripturally baptized.

(3) Sprinkled, believing already saved, or wrong confession, to enter denomination, etc. - need to correct.

VI. AQUILLA & PRISCILLA TEACH HIM THE WAY OF GOD MORE PERFECTLY v. 26

1) Apollos had not been fully taught, or either had not grasped it.

2) This husband and wife take him aside and teach him.

3) Not so indifferent to think it didn't matter, it did!

4) Apollos also a man that could be taught.

(1) He was already "educated", but he was humble!

(2) Apply to own life.

CONCLUSION:

1) Repeat points - there are lessons for us in Apollos' story.

2) Apollos went on being useful in the Lord's service.

3) Maybe you & I cannot be a Paul or Apollos, but we can be useful.

4) Must first be "in Christ", "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27).