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## Helping Others to See the Way More Accurately

We read in Acts 18:24 that Apollos was able in the Scriptures, that he was fervent in spirit, and that he taught accurately what concerns Jesus ... but we also note that he was "versed only in the baptism of John." And then...

*"Hearing him, Priscilla and Aquila took him to themselves and expounded the way of God to him more accurately." (Acts 18:26)*

It was not long ago that I myself preached within the United Methodist and Free Methodist Churches. My sermons were always based firmly on the Scriptures, but since I made no distinction between the "baptism of John" and the writings of Paul, I see that I was much the same as Apollos. Everything I preached and taught was from the Scriptures, and I was teaching accurately what concerns Jesus, but I was not teaching the correct and complete gospel for this present age.

I would at times preach from Paul's writings, but I would even more often preach from the Old Testament prophets, or from the days of John the Baptist, or from Matthew or John. I would stand in the pulpit and proclaim the words that John the Baptist once used ... "Repent, for near is the kingdom of the heavens" (Matthew 3:2).

I did not see that most of the Old Testament, the four "gospels," much of the book of Acts, and many of the epistles were directed to the sheep of Israel, and not to the Gentiles or the general population. I did not see that there was a difference between the gospel of the circumcision and the gospel of the uncircumcision (Galatians 2:7) as I thought there was just one Gospel. I did not notice that Paul's writings were not just more of the same as the other writings, but that what he shared had come to him thru a direct revelation (Galatians 1:11) and that these things were different ... revealing new truths that had not been revealed to any other who preceded Paul.

One might say that as a minister ordained in the United Methodist and Free Methodist Churches, I was "versed only in the baptism of John." And many other preachers and Bible teachers today are in the same situation.

Certain circumstances led me to understand the way of God more accurately. God placed others in my life who were like Priscilla and Aquila ... some "real" people, and others who spoke to me thru their writings even though they were no longer living.

Those of us who have come to see the errors within popular Bible teaching must now teach more accurately the way of God to others. There are many very earnest "Apollos Christians" today, teaching

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very fervently ... and there is a need for “Priscilla and Aquila Christians” to teach them more accurately concerning the way of God.

Sometimes I will hear folks say that others will not understand unless God chooses to open their eyes. I agree that this is so. But I also note that God opened the eyes of Apollos, using Priscilla and Aquila as His instruments. Priscilla and Aquila did not sit back and watch Apollos preach, praying that God would open his eyes to a full understanding. Instead:

*“Priscilla and Aquila took him to themselves and expounded the way of God to him more accurately.” (Acts 18:26)*

Upon hearing Apollos preach and teach, Priscilla and Aquila were:

1. **PREPARED** to expound the way more accurately
2. **WILLING** to expound the way more accurately
3. **TACTFUL** in how they expounded the way more accurately

We **PREPARE** ourselves thru a careful study of God’s Word.

*“Endeavor to present yourself to God qualified, an unshamed worker, correctly cutting the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)*

To expound the way more accurately to others, we must be serious about our study. We cannot expound the way more accurately if we do not know the way ourselves. There is enough confusion in the many different theologies being taught by multitudes of different churches today. More seeds of confusion are not needed.

And we must be **WILLING** to teach, as were Priscilla and Aquila. A knowledge of the truth is not for our own edification, but should be for the edification of the Body of Christ. God has always worked thru human instruments He has prepared ... instruments like Priscilla and Aquila ... and perhaps like you!

We must be **TACTFUL** in expounding the way more accurately. Priscilla and Aquila did not challenge or humiliate Apollos publicly. They “took him to themselves.” They spoke to him privately. We get the sense that they spoke with Apollos in love, and with patience.

There are many today who are versed only in the “baptism of John,” and who are not teaching the full and correct gospel today. Go into most any traditional church today and you will find them.

Prepare yourself! Be willing! Speak and act tactfully! Following the example of Priscilla and Aquila ... expound the way of God to them more accurately.

- Bob Evely -