



## **Acts 18:24-28 - Apollos the Apologist By Pastor Mike Clark 02/05/24**

*Acts 18:24-28 - <sup>24</sup> Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup> He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup> He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. <sup>27</sup> And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, <sup>28</sup> for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.*

**The Lord gifts people differently for his own sovereign purposes.**

**It's a great mercy of God to give the church differing varieties of gifts and especially differing varieties of preachers.**

**In the body of Christ, there are different members and the members don't all have the same function and each member has their own ministry or ministries.**

*1 Corinthians 3:7-9 - <sup>7</sup> So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. <sup>8</sup> He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*

**Maybe the Lord has gifted you with evangelism and you share your faith boldly and maybe the Lord blesses that and opens the eyes of those you share the gospel with. Be thankful for that.**

**And if you don't have that gift, maybe you help the body of Christ by helping those who are already believers, whether its through discipleship or encouragement.**

**Our sovereign God dispenses according to His will. There have been many great Christians of the faith who have had their stories told and generations benefit greatly by reading their biographies.**

**But there are others, who may have lived equally fervent and earnest lives for the Lord but have never had their stories written down.**

**The records in heaven are perfect and those who were faithful but forgotten here will be remembered in heaven.**



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The faithful believer will be perfectly content when His Master says to him well done, good and faithful slave.

In our passage today, we are going to see a man who was extremely gifted in a unique way.

**Point 1 – Serious Bible study is hard work but has great rewards.**

*Acts 18:24 - <sup>24</sup> Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.*

As the scene shifts to Ephesus, Luke introduces us to an insightful preacher, a man named Apollos, not to be confused with Apollo, which is the name of one of the heathen gods, but Apollos is which a shortened version of Apollonius.

He is mentioned 4 times in 1 Corinthians, once in Titus 3 and possibly in Romans 16 under the name of Apelles.

He was a Jew from Alexandria. Alexandria was located in Egypt near the mouth of the Nile and was the Roman seat in Egypt and was one of the larger cities of the empire and had a large Jewish population, possibly up to one million.

Alexandria was known for its educational opportunities & as a place of philosophical reflection – Philo, the Jewish philosopher was from there.

Some believe that the gospel writer, Mark founded the church at Alexandria.

By 300 AD Alexandria was one of the great Christian centers. The Christian apologists Clement of Alexandria and Origen both lived part or all of their lives in that city, where they wrote, taught and debated.

Alexandria became the center of the first great schism in the Christian world, between the Arians, named for the Alexandrian priest Arius, and their opponents represented by Athanasius, who became Archbishop of Alexandria in 326 after the First Council of Nicaea rejected Arius's views.

Now although Apollos grew up outside Israel, he had a Jewish cultural setting in Alexandria like we see in Brooklyn for example.

And we are told that he was an eloquent man, meaning he was well educated. The Greek word for eloquent appears only here in the NT and can mean a man of words or a man of ideas.



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**As great as the apostle Paul was, he was not gifted in eloquence as Apollos was. In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul says that he came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom.**

**And in 2 Corinthians 10, Paul letters are described by his opposition as weighty and powerful, but his presence is weak and his speech contemptible.**

**But Apollos was extremely gifted in this area of speech and eloquence. The great evangelist George Whitfield might have been similar to Apollos.**

**Whitfield was extremely gifted in speech and preaching and his voice was so powerful that it is estimated that he preached one time to up to 50,000 people where all heard him and that without amplification.**

**Apollos had a great command of language and was someone that could speak very well.**

**And Apollos had a great command of Scripture language, he was well-versed in the Scriptures, meaning the OT.**

**And he's competent in the Scriptures. He's mighty in the Scriptures. That's an incredible statement! The Greek word for competent or mighty is – dunatos, from which we get the English word dynamite.**

**And Scripture is from the Greek word graphe, which when mentioned in the NT always refers to the OT.**

**Apollos is someone who can exposit the Scripture, interpret the Scripture correctly and then make proper application.**

**He understood the sense and meaning of Scripture, he knew how to reason out of the Scriptures strongly with a convincing, commanding, and confirming power.**

**And he knew how to make use of the Scriptures and apply them to life.**

**He might have been able to quote numerous Scripture passages and he might have been able to tell you where to find them.**

**We can all strive to be like this Amen? We can all study our Bibles and labor to understand God's Word better. We need more Christians to be mighty in the Scriptures.**



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We've got so many churches around us and in this country, but how many of them could it be said that they are mighty in the Scriptures? Sadly, I doubt very many.

If you want to be mighty and competent in the Scriptures, then you need to understand that it takes commitment.

It takes a measure of dedication, it takes great sacrifice to consistently spend time reading God's Word, listening to God's Word, meditating on God's Word, and memorizing God's Word.

When the word of Christ dwells in you richly your speech will be filled with the Bible.

When you talk about God's Word and you share the gospel, you sow seed and it's a living and growing seed whose harvest is salvation.

It's God's Word that saves men, so quote often God's inspired truth.

So, Apollos knew the Scriptures, he understood how the OT made promises about Christ (v. 25, 28). Not too many NT Christians today can claim that!

Apollos was also a powerful debater (v. 28)

The rarity of such a preacher is indicated by the fact that no one else is so designated as powerful in dealing with the Scriptures.

The church today is desperately in need of men like Apollos.

**Point 2 – Divine fire needs to be combined with divine truth.**

*Acts 18:25 - <sup>25</sup> He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.*

Now the word in the Greek for instructed is *κατηχημένος*, (*katechemenos*) which is where we get the word catechism.

The word means to teach orally by repetition. Apollos had been instructed in "the way of the Lord."

This is an OT expression for instruction in the things of God.



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**Gen. 18:19** - *For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”*

**Judges 2:21-22** - *<sup>21</sup> I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, <sup>22</sup> in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the LORD as their fathers did, or not.”*

**Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9** - *<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.*

*<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all the day long.*

*<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.*

*<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.*

**SO: “The way of the Lord”** was the path of moral and spiritual standards that God expected His people to follow. Cf. 1 Sam 12:23, 2 Kings 21:22

Apollos was well instructed in them and carefully observed them.

And the way of the Lord all of a sudden started zeroing in with the prophet Isaiah. The funnel started getting narrower and narrower with this statement.

**Isaiah 40:3** - *A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

“A voice cries in the wilderness.” Who is that? Who is that a prophecy of? John the Baptist.

Prepare what? – “The way of the Lord.” All of a sudden, the way of the Lord starts narrowing down to the Messiah, doesn’t it?

In the OT, the way of the Lord is a broad system of rules and regulations. The way of the Lord in general conduct starts zeroing in with Isaiah 40 toward an individual who is going to announce the Messiah’s coming. That individual came.

**Matthew 3:1-3** - *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of*



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*by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"*

Now, beloved, watch. If Apollos was instructed in the way of the Lord in terms of the OT, he would have been instructed in all of the body of OT truth.

And if he was instructed fully in the way of the Lord, the way of the Lord focused in then on the ministry of John the Baptist.

So, Apollos then would have followed the way of the Lord all the way until it narrowed into John the Baptist.

It then says that he was fervent in spirit. Now spirit could be referring to one of two things and possibly both.

Firstly, it could mean that Apollos himself was fervent in his spirit, meaning he was enthusiastic, or excited, or on fire.

**Rom 12:11** – *Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.*

James 5:16 says the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much.

Apollos combined his deep knowledge and eloquence with a passionate heart.

He was a burning man, a man on fire. He burned his way by his zeal. He wasn't content to speak calmly and coolly, but he threw his soul into his preaching.

His soul was fired with enthusiasm for the things of God. LIT: boiling, seething

He preached with great enthusiasm. He brought great emotion & passion to his message.

But it could also be referring to the Holy Spirit and His work in Apollos' life. In other words, Apollos is gifted by the Spirit in his ability to preach effectively.

And it could also be a combination, where Apollos himself is fervent in his own spirit because of the Spirit's working in and through him.

Beloved, if you feel like your fervency is luke-warm, then live in the presence of God and let the Lord shine upon you as the Sun of Righteousness and you will be fervent. Keep your heart near the Lord.



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**If you live in the light of God's countenance, you will be fervent, but if you turn away from Him you will grow cool.**

**And in Apollos' fervency, he taught accurately about Jesus, that is, he explained carefully and precisely.**

**You know in our day there is so much sloppy teaching, sloppy exegesis, sloppy exposition of Scripture and horrible interpretations.**

**Many pastors don't put enough time into studying and preparing sermons. I don't know how pastors can do that knowing that the omniscient and omnipresent God sees and hears all.**

**And that is why theological training is so important.**

**Often times when I see information about pastors on their church website it says nothing of their theological training. It might talk about their conversion or hobbies, but nothing about theological training.**

**Now I'm not saying that every pastor must have a seminary degree, but he should have some basic theological training, including most importantly how to read, interpret, and preach the Bible.**

**Paul told Timothy -**

***2 Timothy 2:15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.***

**So, Apollos was fervent AND accurate.**

**There are some that are fervent but have bad theology and there are some that have good theology but lack fervency. There needs to be fervency with sound doctrine!**

**We need divine fire with divine light! We want to be full both of divine knowledge and divine affections! May the Lord give us both!**

**Now there are some that think that Apollos is not yet a Christian, though he is a follower of Jesus, but I don't know how that can be.**

**Nothing is ever mentioned of his needing to repent and believe which is how Luke describes conversion.**





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**It seems to me that he's believed, and preaches that Jesus was the Messiah. The fact that he speaks about Jesus accurately is unlikely to be said of a non-Christian.**

**Apollos is a man who accepted all the way of the Lord in the Old Testament, accepted the ministry of John the Baptist, saw that John pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world," and he believed that Jesus was the Messiah.**

**And so, Apollos was full of zeal for the glory of God and of Jesus and was concerned for the salvation of precious souls!**

**So, he's preaching Jesus accurately with at least one potential deficiency: Christian baptism.**

**And this has created much discussion.**

**The text tells us that Apollos only knew of the baptism of John. Baptism in the name of Jesus, as Peter proclaimed on the day of Pentecost was apparently unknown to him.**

**Johns' Baptism was one of preparation for the Messiah's coming (Luke 1:16-17).**

**Apollos received John's message that the Messiah was coming, and that Jesus was the Messiah (John 1:29).**

**He was able to expound with force and persuasion the OT texts that pointed to Jesus.**

**He combined great knowledge of the Scriptures with a masterly skill in expounding their messianic content.**

**And this was coupled with spiritual fervor!**

**BUT: there was some gap in his knowledge.**

**It's possible that he did not understand the full significance of Christ's death and resurrection.**

**And we encounter other Christians who have some gaps in their knowledge and we should do what we can to help them.**





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And in witnessing to people, if you ask them how they are going to get to heaven, most of the time they will say good works.

But then when you share with them that Christ died on the cross, some may say, oh yeah, I believe in Jesus.

So, there's obviously a disconnect there and they're not understanding the full truths of the gospel.

They don't understand the meaning of why Jesus died on the cross and how His death can be applied to them.

And so, we want to help these kinds of people by showing them from Scripture why Jesus died and how they can have Christ's death on the cross applied to them.

And others who are believers might just need to have some of the gaps in their knowledge filled with greater truth.

But getting back to Apollos – in terms of some of his gaps - he also might not have been acquainted with the coming of the Spirit and birth of the church at Pentecost.

He was a redeemed OT saint. He is a person caught in transition who ministers in the Jewish Diaspora and needs to be brought up to date.

SO: His preaching is not inaccurate, just incomplete.

Acts 10:45-46 shows that one can have the Spirit but not be baptized because the Spirit is given by faith, not by water.

**Point 3 – Boldness mixed with humility increases our usefulness in God's kingdom.**

*Acts 18:26 - <sup>26</sup> He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

Priscilla and Aquila, who continued to attend the synagogue in Ephesus after Paul left, listened to Apollos when he began to expound the scriptures.

More than likely, they were very impressed by the learning and skill which he devoted to the defense of the gospel.

No one else, in their experience, came so near their friend Paul in this ability.



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And I'm sure they noticed his boldness! He feared no man!

His confidence was in the Lord and not in man. He knew the truth about what he said and had no doubts.

He knew the worth of what he said and wasn't afraid to suffer for it!

Boldness is something we need as well as we share our faith. When Paul first got saved, he was bold!

*Acts 9:27-28 - <sup>27</sup> But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup> So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.*

*Ephesians 6:18-20 - <sup>18</sup> Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*

*Acts 4:29 - <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness.*

So, pray for boldness and pray for the boldness of other believers as Paul asked others to pray for him that he might speak with boldness.

And so, as Priscilla Aquila listened to Apollos, they became aware of some gaps in his knowledge.

SO: Acquila and Priscilla bring him up to date.

It's very possible that Paul may have had to do the same thing with Acquila and Priscilla and so they in turn do the same with Apollos.

Now, you may be thinking about 1 Timothy 2:12 where Paul says, "I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man, rather she is to remain quiet."

Or about 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 - <sup>34</sup> The women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. <sup>35</sup> If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church."



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**I want you to notice firstly that both take him aside, both disciple him. This isn't just Priscilla teaching him, but with her husband, Aquila.**

**Secondly, this is not in the context of corporate worship in the church. This is in the synagogue where they are evangelizing.**

**So, there is nothing wrong with a husband and wife together coming alongside a man to better instruct him in the knowledge of the Scriptures outside of corporate worship.**

**This scene reminds me of the road to Emmaus where Jesus talks with the two disciples and helps them understand from the OT all the Scriptures that pointed to Christ.**

**And notice something else, instead of publicly instructing Apollos, they tactfully took him aside, possibly into their home, to speak to him.**

**The way Priscilla and Aquila handle this is admirable. It's much better to give such private help to a teacher whose understanding of his subject is deficient than to correct or denounce him publicly.**

**They don't despise him because of his lack of knowledge or embarrass him in front of others. They are gracious to him.**

**And so perhaps Priscilla and Aquila update Apollos on baptism, moving him beyond John's baptism, probably to the gift of the Spirit, telling Apollos that the Spirit has come.....**

**.....and acquainting him with the importance of the arrival of the eschatological promise, specifically that we saw in Acts 2 and the arrival of Pentecost.**

**They also might have explained to him the rich fullness of the truth concerning the Messiah's atoning death and resurrection.**

**Maybe he is taught the full benefits of salvation, especially as it relates to the Holy Spirit.**

**God took a mighty preacher and scholar and taught him through a tentmaker and his wife! That took godly humility on Apollos part!**

**Apollos was glad to receive instruction from them and to be shown where his defects and mistakes were and to have his deficiencies made up.**



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**If you are new in the faith, be willing to have someone who is older than you in the faith instruct you and help you understand Scripture better.**

**Be willing to shed certain beliefs you might have had for a long time that are not biblical when you are shown that those old beliefs don't line up with the Scriptures.**

**We should all have a desire to know more, even those of us who know a lot!**

**Point 4 – A heart for evangelism should lead to a heart for discipleship.**

*Acts 18:27-28 - <sup>27</sup> And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, <sup>28</sup> for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.*

**Armed with his newfound knowledge he wanted to go to the region to the west, across the Aegean Sea to Achaia, and specifically to its capital, Corinth.**

**He had a mind to try to do what good he could among those in Achaia.**

**One thing is for sure: his commendation to Achaia tells us that the church does not have any concerns about him after the time of additional instruction.**

**The brothers in Ephesus encouraged him to do so and even wrote to the disciples in Corinth to welcome him.**

**We see an example of what this letter might have looked like in –**

*Romans 16:1-2 – I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, <sup>2</sup> that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.*

**And so, Apollos soon made his presence felt in both the Christian and Jewish communities.**

**He proved himself to be a tower of strength to the believers in Corinth, both by his teaching in the church and by his preaching to those outside, especially the Jews of Corinth.**

**Believers were greatly edified. He helped greatly those who had believed through grace.**



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Faith is a gift of grace –

**Ephesians 2:8-9** - *<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

It was grace that chose the people whom God would save and gave them to the Lord Jesus.

It was grace that gave Jesus Christ to stand in their room and place and stand and bear for them that which was due to the justice of God on account of their sin.

It was grace that led the Savior to undertake and carry through the work of substitution.

Salvation is all of grace, from first to last!

**Romans 9:16** - *So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*

Grace is undeserved favor, unmerited favor, it comes from God to us. It's sovereign grace which is moved only by the good pleasure of the Lord.

Grace is exercised according to the will of God and not according to the will of man.

**Romans 9:15** - *<sup>15</sup> For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*

Spurgeon said "Grace sat in the council chamber of eternity and devised the plan of mercy, the plan of redemption, the method of peace through the blood by grace through faith in Jesus Christ."

Man left to himself does not believe and will never believe apart from God's grace.

And to overcome the depravity of our nature and its settled unbelief, God must also give the faith that believes the gospel.

Man by nature is set on sin. Man is proud, glory seeking, unbelieving. None of us come to receive the gospel except through the operation of the grace of God upon our consciences and wills.



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**Have you ever wondered how it is that some have believed in Christ, while others who have been exposed to just as much truth of God's word as others have not believed in Christ?**

**Its only because of God's grace.**

***1 Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.***

**But that doesn't excuse sinners. Unbelief from sinners is their own fault and the blame is to be laid at their feet for willfully refusing the Savior!**

**The only difference between belief and unbelief is God's grace. And because of that He gets the glory.**

**True believers recognize that. Even Arminians are willing to give God glory for their conversion, although maybe not in the fullest sense as those who understand God's sovereignty in salvation.**

**We come to God because He draws us. If you have believed on Christ, it's because the Spirit enlightened and persuaded you and brought you into that blessed state of salvation by faith in Christ!**

**Furthermore, true belief is evidence of grace.**

**If you have believed in the Lord Jesus and repented of your sins, you have the grace of God in you.**

**Where there is faith, there is grace. The one is inseparable from the other.**

**If you have believed in Christ alone and are resting your salvation on His finished righteousness, you have the clearest evidence that the grace of God is in your heart.**

**And you know something? The grace that made you believe is the best guarantee that you will keep on believing.**

**Faith that is born of self will die, but that which is the child of grace will live forever and ever.**

**We believe, yes, it's an act of our own mind, but we believe through grace. It's a result of God's grace working upon our mind.**



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**We both will and do because God works in us to will and do.**

**Philippians 2:12-13** - *<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

**This should give you a great comfort because you need that comforting assurance of faith, especially when times of trial come.**

**Romans 8:35,38-39** - *<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Now notice what else Apollos did. It says that he greatly helped those who had believed by grace.**

**In what way do true believers who have grace need help? Well, many believers need help in further instruction. And so, Apollos assisted the believers in their spiritual growth.**

**Young Christians only know so much when they first come to Christ, but they need to be disciplined, to learn more about God and His Word and how to live as a Christian.**

**Oftentimes they need someone to open up passages of Scripture to expound them, to show them how to interpret Scripture, especially using the analogy of faith, that is interpreting Scripture with Scripture.**

**If you've had many years of walking with the Lord and sitting under good teaching, then you can be a great help to new Christians and can help them understand the way of God more perfectly.**

**And it starts in the pulpit! If preachers won't open up the deep things of God and instead settle for merely skimming the surface and don't cover the treasure house of doctrine, shame on them.**

**If the church in America would be firm on expository preaching, who knows what kind of influence the church would have on our society.**





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**But it's not just the preacher's job to disciple, its every Christians job to disciple because the preacher can't do everything and can't disciple everyone.**

**Pastors do disciple, but then train others how to disciple so that Christians aren't left new-borns and can grow in their faith.**

**And there are many Christians who have believed through grace that need consolation.**

**They may be tempted to doubt, depression, and distress.**

**Charles Spurgeon said "Pour in the oil and wine of the gospel wherever there is a wound gaping and bleeding. A word fitly spoken, a promise seasonably quoted, may help much those who have believed through grace."**

**Apollos also helped those who had believed by defending them against their opponents.**

**In our day, we need to put on the whole armor of God because objections against the Christian faith are always being raised and doubts are always being insinuated.**

**It's hard sometimes to keep the faith in the midst of a wicked and hostile society that is filled with unbelief.**

**But if you are strong in faith and are especially gifted to endure the onslaughts of attacks from the devil and from unbelievers, then help other believers.**

***Romans 15:1 - We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak.***

**Older Christians can do a lot to help younger Christians when they share their own experiences of how the Lord has been faithful through trials and attacks on their faith.**

**New Christians need someone to show them the way.**

**Older Christians can tell young Christians how God has helped them to trust Him in their darkest hours and how the Lord gave them joy and peace that surpasses all understanding.**

**When you do this, they might not be so likely to stagger in their faith when trials come.**



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**Beloved, give your brothers and sisters in Christ a word of direction, especially to the inexperienced because there are times when they are unsure of what to do and you can offer them guidance from God's Word.**

**We are called to be eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.**

**This is a worthy endeavor beloved. Helping those who have believed through grace is a work worthy of the highest and greatest experience.**

**Notice that Apollos helped others because he himself had been helped.**

**We owe our service to the church of God. If you have believed through grace, God provided the means for you to hear his gospel through a preacher, or another believer.**

**We should consider it an honor to minister to one another and it's a great gift to have learned by experience how to sympathize with others.**

**Maybe you've struggled with depression or anxiety and the Lord has helped you and comforted you through the encouragement, guidance, and prayers of other believers.**

**Then give yourself to helping others who have the same struggles.**

**Maybe you don't think you can do a whole lot to help others because you don't feel especially gifted or you don't have many experiences of life to draw from.**

**You don't know what you can do until you try, and the Lord can use the most inexperienced and young believer to edify the saints.**

**The Lord often uses the weak, the lowly, to do great things for His kingdom!**

**Get to work helping one other despite your weaknesses. Maybe you feel that you're not good with words. Share the gospel the best way you know how because it's the gospel that God will bless and not your strength of words!**

**If all you can do is talk in the most simplest words about Jesus, then do that!**

**And what you think might be weakness of speech may be a source of strength as God uses it mightily.**



## **Acts 18:24-28 - Apollos the Apologist By Pastor Mike Clark 02/05/24**

**And so, Apollos, this fervent, brilliant OT scholar exploded like a bombshell on Corinth's unconverted community.**

**Like Stephen and Paul before him, Apollos powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.**

***John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.***

**He refuted all counter arguments that the Messiah of whom the Scriptures spoke must be identified with Jesus of Nazareth.**

**These people had their objections fully answered and their mouths were stopped.**

**He heart was on his preaching and wanted to see people saved!**

**He preached Christ to them! That is our business, to preach Christ!**

**If we are going to help those who have believed in Christ, our conversation with them must be full of Christ!**

**We need to be able to not only preach the truth, but to prove it and defend it, with humility, yet with power.**

**The Greek word for refuted is an intense double compound word that has the idea of Apollos being so effective in his discourse that he crushed his opponents, totally disproving them at every point. He absolutely overwhelmed them!**

**This reminds me of people in our day like Ben Shapiro or Jordan Peterson who have an unbelievable ability to destroy and just wreck people's arguments!**

**Interestingly Apollos means "destroyer."**

***Revelation 9:10-11 - <sup>10</sup> And they (demons) have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. <sup>11</sup> They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.***

**The NIV adds "that is Destroyer" at the end of the verse. So, Apollos destroyed the oppositions arguments!**



**Acts 18:24-28 - Apollos the Apologist  
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His devastating performance in the public debates made a profound impression on the Corinthian church.

They soon held him in the same high esteem in which they held Peter and Paul – 1 Cor. – 1:12; 3:4,6.

Paul spoke of him as watering the seed which he himself had sown.

And it must have pained him to have one of the developing Corinthian church's factions identify with him.

His successful transition from Old Covenant believer to NT saint was an immense blessing for the church!

And so, we've seen how growth can occur in the church. Priscilla and Aquila minister to and encourage Apollos in his new ministry.

They instruct him and he is open to their instruction and these ministers encourage each other in a task they know they share.

They were aware that it's a task much bigger than any one of them.

And this encouragement extends to letters of recommendation so that people will be more likely to receive what he says.

This kind of mutual cooperation and encouragement in pursuit of a theologically faithful ministry enables the church to carry out its mission.

And so may the Lord grant that kind of growth in our church here at Highlands as we minister to and serve one another as well as those outside the church.

As I close, if you have not believed in Christ by grace, listen to –

**Isaiah 45:22** - *“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.*

May the Lord, by His grace, constrain and enable you to turn to Christ and be saved. To Him be the glory forever and ever, Amen!