

## ACTS: Building on a Firm Foundation

(Acts 18:24-28)

### Enter Apollos (v. 24-25)

- Jewish in heritage, training, and faith
- From Alexandria, Egypt
  - One of the largest cities of the Roman Empire
  - A Jewish center for study and learning
- Well-spoken
- Highly educated in the Scriptures
- “Had been instructed in the way of the Lord”
  - Could mean that he was a Christian
- Fervent in spirit
  - May be that he was a zealous person
  - But used elsewhere to mean “energized by the Holy Spirit” (see Rom. 12:11)
- Taught accurately about Jesus
- It seems that Apollos was a fervent follower of Jesus who had the Holy Spirit
  - But he had one error in his understanding: Baptism
    - He was familiar with John the Baptist’s preparatory rite
    - But did not know baptism in the name of Jesus
      - The outward expression of faith in the saving work of Christ
      - The imagery of inclusion in Jesus’ death and resurrection (Rom 6:3)

### Needed Clarification (v. 26)

- Upon noticing his error, Priscilla and Aquila pull Apollos aside privately
  - Perhaps to their home
- They correct his misunderstanding to bring clarity
  - Not to shame or belittle him
- However, there is no call for Apollos to be rebaptized (see Acts 19:5)
  - The Spirit is already active in his life
  - He is a genuine follower of Jesus

### Building on a Firm Foundation (v. 27-28)

- The fruit of Apollos time with Priscilla and Aquila leads him to want to strengthen the Church in Achaia
  - Specifically, Corinth (see Acts 19:1; 1 Cor. 1:12; 3:4-6, 22; 4:6; 16:12)
- His skill at using the Scriptures (OT) to point to Jesus would prove to be an asset in ministering to the unconverted Jews that opposed Paul

### Different Gifts, the Same Gospel

- Paul and Apollos had different ways of ministering, but the same goal: Making Jesus known
- God used them both to accomplish building up the Church (1 Cor. 3:4-11)
- Likewise, we all have different gifts and approaches

- God wants to use them all to make Jesus known and to build up His Church

### **So What?**

- Are we using our gifts to make Jesus known?
- Are we encouraging others to do the same, even if it is different than us, so the Church can be built up?

**Meditation Verse:** *1 Corinthians 3:6*