

A New Generation Arises

Acts 18:22-19:7

Introduction:

Two interesting events occur:

- An event concerning one man, Apollos
- An event concerning 12 men.

Both are in need.

- Apollos is *a Christian* who needs a deeper understanding of Christ's saving work
- The 12 are sincere *non-Christians* who have not understood the purpose and sequel to John's ministry. Both need help

Apollos will be vital to the founding of Ephesus and the growth of Corinth, and a recognized leader to the next generation.

The 12 will be the foundation for the evangelistic outreach from Ephesus to all of Asia. The next *central* church of Christianity. There are three:

1. Jerusalem – the 12; Peter, James
2. Antioch – Paul
3. Ephesus – Timothy

These 2 stories begin an era that continues till today. The Post-Apostolic Era. Of Christians correcting non-Christian errors and completing the gaps in the faith of well-meaning Christians.

v.22 Up to Jerusalem... headquarters... de-briefing then down to Antioch for...

v.23 ...rest. But not retirement.

Again Paul returns to the churches of the first missionary journey to "complete what is lacking" in their faith.

v.24 Then he heads to Ephesus for further missions.
But God has gone before him and has a man in place

A leader is in place – Apollos

1. A Jew
2. In Gentile surroundings
3. Gifted, eloquent
4. A Jewish scholar
5. From the place of a Gentile library *Does he sound*
6. A follower of John the Baptist *like the second*
7. And "Christ," the Lord *coming of Paul?*
8. Fervent in spirit
9. But incomplete in his faith

The way of John

- That of piety
- Reform
- Looking to Christ who would *rule*.

He needs to understand the cross to which Priscilla and Aquila enlighten him.

And it appears Apollos took on a new power
as O.T. and N.T. became clearly understood.

- On to Corinth; he becomes the first itinerant preacher.
- And note the church affirmed and endorsed him
"remember the Jerusalem Council"...men to whom we gave no instruction.

But in a sense we all get to do this. To aid, "complete what is lacking."

Then Paul arrives

v.19:1 Paul comes to 12 other “disciples” i.e. apparent Christians

- After conversation Paul recognizes, “something is missing here” a more serious “gap”
- So Paul asks a telling question, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”
 - i.e. “Did you hear the true full gospel message as preached from Jerusalem?”
- Answer? “We have never heard of the Holy Spirit”
Meaning, they could not see what place the Holy Spirit had in salvation.
- So, “What did you believe?” or “into what were you baptized?” as it certainly wasn’t the full gospel message.
- Answer. “John the Baptist”
They had not come to a full messianic possession. Unlike Apollos, they needed to understand Jesus.
There are 12 well-meaning uninformed non-believers.

v.7 laying on of hands, the sign of tongues.

This has not been the norm. It has happened only 4 times.

- Acts 2 to Jerusalem
- Acts 8 to Samaria
- Acts 10 to the first Gentile
- Acts 19 to Ephesus

It is as if each movement outward is “initiated” by God, though these signs and the laying on of hands was not the norm.

These 12 become the foundation of the gospel in Ephesus.

Conclusion: