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THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 31

SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY – PART 17

APOLLOS

Paul was not the only great teacher of his day. Apollos also played a key role as a great teacher. He was obviously well grounded in scripture and qualified. We first read of him in Acts 18:24 to 19:1 as he travelled the same areas as did Paul. However, he did not have a full understanding of the gospel when he arrived in Ephesus.

Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria in Egypt. Apollos was his Greek name; we do not know his Jewish name. He had been a follower of John the Baptist. He was a very eloquent speaker and quite fervent in spirit, a strong personality.

He arrived in Ephesus and began speaking boldly in the synagogue. Aquila and Priscilla, the pastors of the Ephesian Christian Church, heard his teaching and knew he needed instruction in the gospel of Jesus Christ. They took Apollos aside and taught him the doctrines Paul had taught them. Apollos accepted it and began teaching in line with it.

After a season in Ephesus under Aquila's tutelage, he aspired to cross the sea into Achaia (Greece). The brethren of Ephesus wrote letters of commendation for him so as to assure his acceptance in the church.

Apollos goes to Corinth where Paul had spent a year and a half. He taught the Jews of the synagogue and the gentiles in public areas, showing them by scripture that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Christ, the Anointed One, Messiah. He won many converts who followed his teaching.

In fact, he was such a strong personality that it began to cause some division in the Corinthian Church. Paul had to rebuke the church as seen in I Corinthians 3:3-8 for their carnality in following a man other than Jesus. Some said they were a follower of Paul, while others claimed to be followers of Apollos. Paul said in verse 6, ***"I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."*** And in verse 8, ***"He that planteth and he that watereth are one."*** They were one in purpose and in the gospel and in Christ.

It is clear from other scriptures that Paul had a high regard for Apollos as seen in I Corinthians 16:12 and Titus 3:13. Apollos taught in several of the churches in Asia and Greece where Paul had ministered.

What we saw in the Corinthian church where they gravitated toward following a particular man held up in high esteem is something we still see today as some Christians are followers of certain ministers more so than followers of Jesus. It is human nature to form allegiance to a certain leader, but that is not always a good thing. Focus on Jesus, not the man or woman.