

A Work in Progress

July 12, 2020

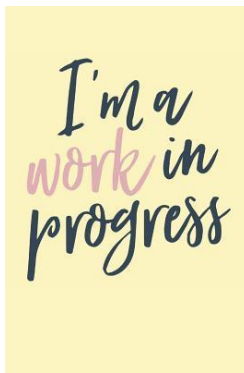
Acts 18:24-28

SOOKE BAPTIST CHURCH, SUNDAY, JULY 12, 9AM AND 11AM
7110 West Coast Road, Sooke

work in progress

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Facebook Live Stream, 9am; YouTube, 11am



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Coffee/question:
In what ways are you a work in progress?

Facebook Live Stream, 9am; YouTube, 11am

Read Acts 18:24-28.

In this passage we meet Apollos who played a significant role in the early church.

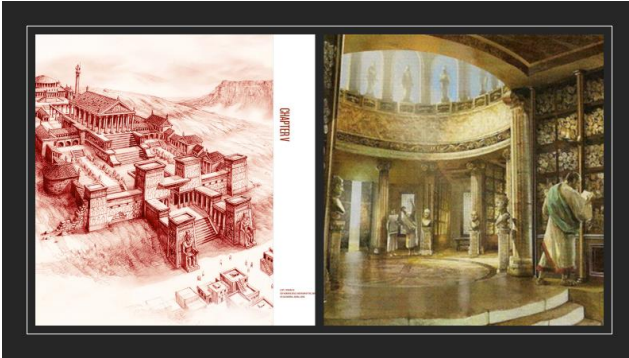
What are we told about him?

Apollos was a Jew from Alexandria – v.24





Apollos was a learned man – v.24



He was a scholar.

Apollos had a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures – v.24

The word translated “thorough” in v.24 is the Greek word “dunatos.” It is also used in Luke 24 and Acts 7.

In both instances the word “dunatos” is translated powerful.

Luke 24:19

Jesus of Nazareth...was a prophet, powerful (dunatos) in word and deed before God and all the people.

Acts 7:22

Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful (dunatos) in speech and action.

Apollos was powerful in the Scriptures, like Jesus...and like Moses... because he had thoroughly read, studied, memorized, and integrated the Scriptures into his mind and heart.

Apollos was a fervent and bold communicator – v.25-26.

The word fervent is the Greek word “zeo.”
It literally means “to be hot; to boil.”



Today we use the word “passionate” more than fervent.
But what Dr. Luke communicated here about Apollos was that as he spoke it was crystal clear to all who heard him - he had been gripped by the truth he announced – it burned within him.

Apollos was an instructed man – v.25.

This is different than him being... a learned man.
Someone had taught Apollos the way of the Lord.

The Scripture says that...



The evidence of God’s existence and power is clearly seen in the creation – see Romans 1.

Is it the same with Jesus?

Look at what **Romans 10:13-17** says:

Romans 10:13-17

¹³ “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?

As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” ...

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

The gospel of Jesus is a revealed knowledge; it is not something we intuitively know.

Apollos taught about Jesus accurately – v.25.

The word accurately in the Greek is “akribos.”

The same word is used in other NT passages.

Herod said to the Magi, Matthew 2:8:

“Go and make a careful search for the child...”

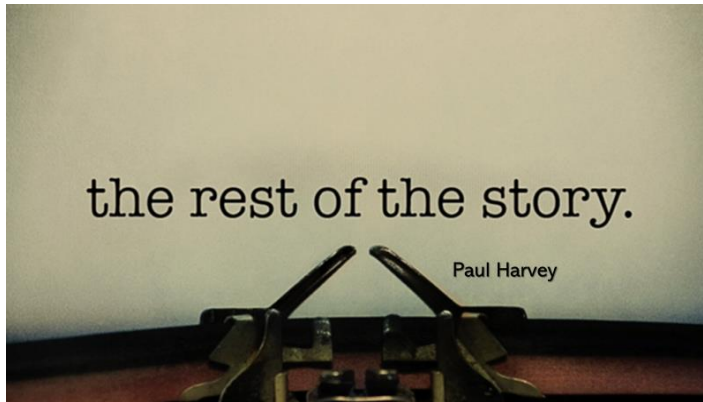
Ephesians 5:15

“Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Apollos taught accurately in the sense that he carefully and precisely... spoke the truth of who Jesus is and what he had said and done.

However, an important footnote at the end of v.25 tells us that Apollos’ knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ was incomplete... “*he knew only the baptism of John.*”

Apollos didn’t know, as Paul Harvey used to say...



What did Priscilla and Aquila do when they heard him speak in the synagogue?

v.26b – “...they invited him to come home...” with them, where they...

v.26c – “...explained to him the word of God more adequately.”

What does that phrase mean – “more adequately?”

The same word used in v.25 – accurately... is used in v.26.

The only difference is that in verse 26 it is compounded.

Acts 18:25 – ‘accurately’...

Acts 18:26 – more ‘accurately’...

They provided for Apollos the missing piece.

I see here in these verses a very significant application to our own lives.

When we believe in Jesus and receive him into our life we are **born of the Spirit.**

This miracle of God’s grace creates in us new life...and initiates in us a life-long process of transformation – in which we are actively involved.

Philippians 2:12-13

“...**work out your salvation** with fear and trembling, for it is **God who works in you** to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

When it comes to our spiritual growth and development, the teaching of scripture is that we are to be actively involved...in working out our salvation.

The other thing scripture teaches us is that spiritual growth and maturity is a process....



- a. We don't know everything there is to know about Jesus the moment we put our trust in him, nor do we...
- b. immediately live like Jesus in every aspect of our life.

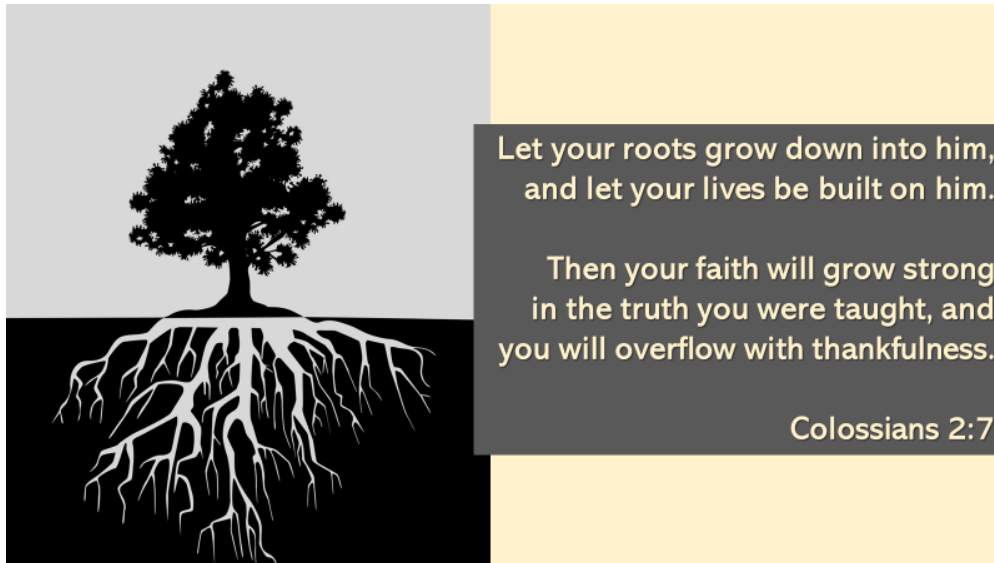
1 John 2:12-13

“I write to you, dear **children**, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. I write to you, **fathers**, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.”

John in his first epistle addresses believers who were...

- children...fathers...young men...

Look at how Colossians 2:7 describes this process of growth.



While this happens individually... this passage is speaking to the church.
It is something we do together.

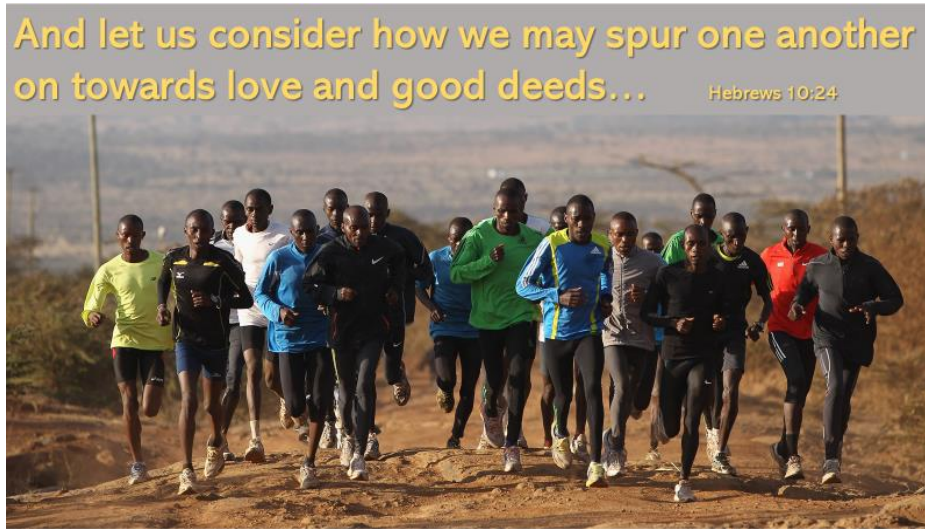
The word “let” is very important – we are to cooperate with God...
So also, is the word “then” important – faith grows... as our minds and
hearts are filled with truth.



The Spirit of God using the word of God... not only grows faith in us...he also
progressively dismantles any false narratives that have shaped our
understanding of who God is and who we are and which may have
influenced our manner of living.

And here again, as we see from our passage, the Lord uses other believers
to do this.

When Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos home with them, what they did was not something rare and uncommon.
Speaking the gospel to one another is a biblical practice....



This picture beautifully illustrate what we've been talking about.

The Christian life is not a solitary run.

It is done in community.

Together...we pursue after Jesus..helping one another... through our words, through our actions, through our presence... to go the distance and stay in the race.

Example of running with my brother-in-law.

- I'd get tired and he'd urge me on
- he'd get tired and I'd urge him on
- we actually ran faster together

What Priscilla and Aquila did also reminds us that when we speak the gospel to one another, we are to do so...always ... with grace.

Let your conversation
be always full of grace,
seasoned with salt,
so that you may know
how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:6



The passage doesn't say it...but we also are to listen with grace.

In the home of Priscilla and Aquila there is no mention of Apollos debating or challenging the instruction Priscilla and Aquila gave him. He received what was shared with him.

The proof that Apollos listened carefully and with humility... was evidenced by what the church in Ephesus did – see v.27.

The letter of commendation given to Apollos by the church and the manner in which the Spirit of God used Apollos' life in advancing the kingdom of God – look at v.27 – “he was a great help to those who by grace had believed”... also confirms his teachable spirit.

Dallas Willard sums up our challenge as we take what we have learned from this passage and put it into practice.

DALLAS WILLARD



**“The greatest issue facing the world today,
with all its heartbreaking needs,
is whether those
who are identified as ‘Christians’ will become disciples -
students, apprentices, practitioners – of Jesus Christ,
steadily learning from him
how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens
into every corner of human existence.”**

The Blessing

1 John 5:12 says, *“The one who has the Son has life.”*

May God be at home in your life,
so that his life permeates and animates yours.