

Aquila and Priscilla

Introduction

1. Many times our studies focus on Bible characters for the lessons we can learn from them.
 - a. Such Old Testament people as Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David and Daniel and New Testament characters as Peter and Paul are major characters whose lives we often study to help us live as we should before God.
 - b. There are others, though, we tend to overlook because they seem to be minor characters.
 - 1) But their lives are also exemplary.
 - 2) Their accounts are compelling, serving as role models for us today.
2. Two people who may be considered minor characters are Aquila and Priscilla.
 - a. Yet, there is much to learn from them—they are not “minor” in any respect.
 - b. They seem to be an ideal couple.
 - c. They are the type of couple a church needs.
 - d. They were appreciated in their day and they would be appreciated today.
 - e. They are the type of people who are the hope of a congregation surviving and prospering.
3. Six passages in the New Testament mention Aquila and Priscilla. In this lesson, we will look to those passages in order to:
 - a. Understand the lives of Aquila and Priscilla.
 - b. Gain profitable lessons from Aquila and Priscilla as we apply their situations to our own.

I. Acts 18:1-3

- A. When we first meet Aquila and Priscilla they are in Corinth.
- B. Aquila is a Jew born in Pontus, the northern portion of Asia Minor.
- C. Having lived in Rome, they were banished from there with all other Jews by emperor Claudius (41-54 A.D.).
- D. They were tentmakers, the same profession as the apostle Paul.
- E. With this meeting of Aquila and Priscilla with Paul, we have the beginning of one of the dearest friendships in Scripture.
- F. Were Aquila and Priscilla already Christians at this time?
 1. Probably.
 2. If not, they were before leaving the city of Corinth.

II. Acts 18:18-19

- A. The apostle Paul departed from Corinth and went to Ephesus.
- B. Aquila and Priscilla accompanied Paul to the city of Ephesus and remained there when he journeyed on to Jerusalem. (v. 21)

III. Acts 18:24-28

- A. While in Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla heard a preacher named Apollos “who knew only the baptism of John.”
- B. After hearing Apollos, “they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”
- C. From this incident we can learn:
 - 1. They knew the truth Apollos at this time did not know.
 - 2. They were courageous enough to endeavor to teach him that which he taught in error.
 - 3. They taught him in such a manner not to embarrass him.
 - 4. They could distinguish eloquence from truth.
 - 5. They loved souls to the extent that they took the time and effort to teach him the truth.
- D. What would you have done?
 - 1. What do you do now when you are confronted with teaching that is inconsistent with truth? Do you:
 - a. Adopt the course of least resistance and say nothing thinking, “It wouldn’t do any good anyway?”
 - b. Make a scene? Get angry? Call names?
 - c. Lovingly seek to correct? (Gal. 6:1)
 - 2. As Aquila and Priscilla, we must stand for truth and seek to correct error.

IV. I Corinthians 16:19

- A. When writing to the Corinthians from Ephesus in 53-54 A.D., the apostle Paul extended greetings from Aquila and Priscilla.
 - 1. They knew members at Corinth.
 - 2. No doubt they too were eager to see the church at Corinth to be more spiritually-minded.
- B. That there was a church in the house of Aquila and Priscilla implies:
 - 1. Their home was open to Christians—it could even be used for a meeting place.
 - 2. They were not so concerned with their house but that they could experience inconveniences by permitting the church to meet there.

V. Romans 16:3-5

- A. As Paul closes the Roman letter, he sends greetings to Aquila and Priscilla in Rome.
 - 1. They had obviously moved from Ephesus back to Rome.
 - 2. They did not leave their religion behind—they had not forsaken the truth, the church or Paul.
- B. Notice what Paul had to say about them.
 - 1. “My fellow workers in Christ.”
 - 2. “Who risked their own necks for my life.”
 - 3. He was thankful for them as were all the churches of the Gentiles.
 - 4. “Greet the church that is in their house.” As it had been in Ephesus, a church was meeting in their house.
- C. Everything said about them was highly commendable.
 - 1. They loved the truth.
 - 2. They loved the Lord.
 - 3. They loved the truth.
 - 4. They loved people.
 - 5. They were loved by others.

VI. 2 Timothy 4:19

- A. This is the final mention of Aquila and Priscilla in Scripture.
- B. In this brief statement, Paul saluted them in Ephesus: “My fellow workers in Christ.”
- C. This was Paul’s last letter, yet, amid all that was happening in his life and on his mind, he took the time and space to remember them.

VII. Lessons to Be Learned

- A. The oneness God desires in marriage.
- B. Their industriousness.
- C. Their friendship with and support of a preacher of the gospel.
- D. Their house was open to Christians.
- E. They took their religion with them wherever they went.
- F. They knew the truth and were courageous enough to contend for it.

Conclusion

- 1. Is the spirit of Aquila and Priscilla in you?
 - a. If not, why not?
 - b. The Lord and this church needs such couples.
- 2. Why not determine to be such ideal Christians as Aquila and Priscilla.