



# **What Would You Have Said to Apollos?**

**Acts 18:24-28**

# The Error of Apollos


- **Acts 18:24-28**

- Paul is on his way to Ephesus (3<sup>rd</sup> journey)

- Apollos comes to Ephesus and teaches accurately “the way of the Lord”


- But “he knew only the baptism of John”

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# The Error of Apollos

- **Acts 18:24-28**

- Aquila and Priscilla take him aside and “explained to him the way of God more accurately”
  - From that day, Apollos taught the truth
  - He then goes to Achaia (Corinth)
  - Paul arrives in Ephesus and remains 2-3 years
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# The Error of Apollos

- **Acts 18:24-28**

Whether or not you view Apollos as a false teacher, he was teaching error.

- Likely, it affected others (**cf. Acts 19:1-5**)

- And his error needed to be dealt with

- Aquila and Priscilla helped him see the complete truth

# The Error of Apollos

## HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- We are living in a time of great compromise and hyper-sensitivity
  - You cannot tell someone the truth if it is “politically incorrect” or hurts their feelings
  - Often those concerned about truthfulness are bullied or guilted into silence

# The Error of Apollos

## HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- And the religious world is not exempt. In some instances, it is intensified. Like NT times, there are efforts to silence proclaimers of gospel truth.
  - That is what the council tried to do to the apostles, to Jesus and Paul.

# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But he is such an eloquent man**
  - Eloquence does not equal accuracy (**cf. Acts 24:1-9** – Tertullus)
  - Moses was not eloquent (**Exodus 4:10**)
  - Paul's speech – **1 Corinthians 2:1-2**

# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But he is such an eloquent man**
  - Timothy was told to preach the truth – **2 Timothy 4:2-4**
  - While we weigh our words carefully (**Colossians 4:6**), truthfulness has to be at the forefront.
  - How many will let error go because, “He is out of my league”?



# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **He is right on so many other things**
  - They will overlook error because he is so often teaching truth
  - Among brethren, we have “fellowship” issues because of this

# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **He is right on so many other things**  
- **Error is error!**

**Galatians 1:6-9**

**2 Timothy 2:17-18** – Hymenaeus  
and Philetus

- **James 2:10** – 1 point!

# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But he is sincere**
  - Understand that sincerity is always important – **James 1:27, 3:17**
  - But you can be sincere and wrong. And it matters! **Acts 23:1**
  - I have NO doubts about Apollos' sincerity, but it was NOT a reason to ignore his errors

# The Error of Apollos

## HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But he is so zealous**
  - Like sincerity, zeal is always important – **Titus 2:14, Romans 12:11**
  - Some might reason, “I don’t want to discourage his zeal, so I will just let this error go” or find another way to deal with it!

# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But he is so zealous**
  - Consider: His zeal could be leading other souls to eternal condemnation!
  - You can be zealous and wrong –  
**Galatians 1:14, Romans 10:1-2**

# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error  
of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But he is so zealous**
  - To ignore someone who is zealous is an egregious error! Zeal influences!!!
  - I do not want to stifle zeal either BUT consider what could be accomplished if that zeal was redirected!

# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But I like him**
  - Many say nothing out of fear of losing a friend or family member
  - Are we putting friendship above truth? **Cf. Matthew 10:37-38**
  - This is the same as a parent not disciplining their child – **Prov. 13:24**

# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error  
of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But I like him**

- Why do we discipline?

Because we care - **Cf. Hebrews 12:9-10, 1 Corinthians 5:1-7**

- God cares and disciplines: **Hebrews 12:5-11**



# The Error of Apollos

HOW would you have handled the error of Apollos?

- Some today would have reasoned: **But I like him**
  - **Proverbs 27:5-6** – Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed...
  - A TRUE friend of Apollos was Aquila and Priscilla because they cared enough to tell him the truth

# The Error of Apollos

## The Solution:

- Aquila and Priscilla did the right thing
  - **Acts 18:26** – they took him aside privately and explained the truth to him. THIS demonstrated a love for God and truth and him
  - Jesus loved the rich ruler (**Mark 10:21**)
  - Paul loved as he wrote – **Galatians 4:16, 2 Corinthians 12:15, etc.**

# The Error of Apollos

## The Solution:

- Understand **TRUTH is TRUTH!**  
To be wrong, even on one point, is to still be wrong!
  - Error can lead to one being lost –  
**2 Peter 2:1-2**  
**Matthew 15:14** – blind leaders  
**2 Thessalonians 2:9-11** – they did not receive the love of the truth
  - **Proverbs 23:23** – Buy the truth

# The Error of Apollos

## The Solution:

- Damage is done when we do not correct error

Consider **Acts 19:1-6** – believers in what Apollos taught.

False teaching does not only affect the teacher, but all he influences (**2 Peter 2:1-3**)

# The Error of Apollos

## The Solution:

- Damage is done when we do not correct error

False teaching does not only affect the teacher, but all he influences

**2 Peter 2:1-3, 3:17** – do not be led away by the error of the wicked

Continually, NT writers warned against false doctrine and its teachers

# The Error of Apollos

## The Solution:

- Consider the results of Apollos being corrected!

He powerfully defends the truth –

**Acts 18:27-28**

He goes to Corinth and strengthens brethren there – an influence!


NOTE: 7x in **1 Corinthians** Apollos is mentioned (in leadership roles).

# The Error of Apollos

## The Solution:

- Consider the results of Apollos being corrected!
  - What might have happened if Apollos had he not been corrected? Would others have been lost as he continued teaching his error? If we know one is teaching error, how will we respond? **James 5:19-20, Galatians 6:1**

Do you love the Lord and  
His truth enough to  
defend it?





Let us pray!