

# Sunday School Lesson



Subject: Apollos: A Learning Teacher  
August 1, 1982

**Lesson**  
Sincere but Ignorant  
Equipped and Effective  
Leader in Perspective

**Scripture**  
Acts 18:24, 25  
Acts 18:28, 28  
I Corinthians 3:5-9

**Background Scripture**  
Acts 19:7; I. Cor. 1:10-17; 4:6; Acts 18:24-26

### Lesson Background

The apostle Paul had been preaching Christ at Thessalonica, Berea and Athens. Departing from Athens he went to Corinth where he met Aquilla and Priscilla who were tentmakers. While Paul labored with his hands as tent maker, he also preached.

He was encouraged in a vision by a voice saying, "Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace." So he remained there 18 months teaching the word of God. The majority of the Jews rejected his message, but he continued his ministry to the Gentiles in the home of a man named Justus (Acts 18:6-7).

Aquilla and Priscilla later sailed with Paul to Ephesus. "And he left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews." (vs. 19). They wanted him to remain longer, but he explained that he needed to go to Jerusalem to keep the Jewish Feast there. He promised to return.

### Lesson Explained

Acts 18:23 tells us that after Paul had visited his home church in Antioch, he began to plan his third missionary journey. But then Luke interrupted that narrative to introduce Apollos. Apollos was a Jew, born in Alexandria, Egypt. He went to Ephesus to speak in the synagogue about the Lord. But when he spoke, some Christian Jews noted that he knew "only the baptism of John. He had missed the meaning of Christian baptism as reflected the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. He did not know about the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. But note, his ministry was soon to take on a new dimension, (vss. 24, 25).

When Aquilla and Priscilla, Paul's fellow workers from Corinth, heard him speak, they were impressed by his knowledge and eloquence, but were concerned about his limited knowledge of the Scripture. They therefore took him into their own home to teach him "the way of God more perfectly." (vs. 26).

When Apollos had increased his knowledge about the way of God he wanted to move on to the Greek Peninsula in Corinth. So his friends in Ephesus wrote a letter to the followers of Christ there, urging them to accept him as a brother in faith, Apollos was able to strengthen believers' faith through encouragement. Because he was willing to learn, he became more effective in declaring the complete gospel of salvation by grace, (vss. 27-28).

In the last part of our Scripture we find Paul continuing his argument for togetherness in the Christian church. While both he and Apollos had their followers, they were only "ministers" who had led believers to Christ. They had worked only as God had assigned them, (vs. 5).

Paul had served as the pioneer for the gospel at Corinth; Apollos had come along to develop what Paul had done. But God deserved the glory for the increase in numbers or in spiritual growth, (vss. 6-7).

Emphasis is placed on oneness in service as Paul and Apollos were concerned, because both were working for the same purpose: to preach the gospel in order that it might change the lives and eternal destinies of people. Verse 8 explains that rewards received by individual servants will vary according to his works and the motive underlying his works.

Finally, Paul asserted that the Corinthians had the same status, which seems to be implying that they had no authority to exalt a fellow laborer to a super human status, (vss. 8-9).

### Closing Summary

It is high praise for Apollos, when our lesson title calls him a "Learning Teacher," for "learning teachers" are in short supply. When teachers stop learning, dullness in the classroom results, and some students fail to learn.

We've learned in this lesson that God's people should not sit still for poor leadership.



Davenports Celebrate  
... Surprise appreciation dinner

## Mrs. June Davenport Our Lady Of Consolation Choir Honors Founder

Members of Perpetual Hope Gospel of Our Lady of Consolation Church gathered together, along with friends, for a surprise appreciation dinner recently honoring June Chavis Davenport. Mrs. Davenport is the Founder and Director of the Our Lady of Consolation Church Choir.

Mrs. Davenport has been the director of the choir since it was founded in November 1981, received a beautifully engraved plaque and a bouquet of flowers. The dinner came as a total surprise to the elated Mrs. Davenport.

"I was really surprised," she said. "I never thought that I would be receiving such honors for something that I had a pleasure doing."

Other choir members also received special recognition for their services. They were: Mrs. Diane Alexander-pianist; Mrs. Doris Byars and Willie Thompson-assistant directors.

The festival affair took place at McDonald's Cafeteria under the direction of Ms. Glenda Rollins-chairman, Gladys Hood and Mildred Ledbetter-hospitality committee members.

Perpetual Hope is a unique gospel choir of the Catholic Church. The group seeks to integrate the message and spirit of black gospel and contemporary

music within the Modern Catholic Liturgy. Their Ministry of Christian Unity has sparked interest and invitations for appearances in the Charlotte community and in surrounding cities.

The November 1981 concert received good marks from the Charlotte Observer. The choir has found occasions to sing for the Voter Rights March. Mrs. Davenport recently completed a career of teaching service in the public schools of Washington, D.C. and Lenoir and Charlotte, N.C. Many of her students obtained outstanding awards at the local, regional and state levels in the area of science project competitions.

Mrs. Davenport received an undergraduate degree from Appalachian State University and her master's degree from N. C. Central University, where she actively participated as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

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