

Aquila & Priscilla: A Team for Christ

⇒ **I. TRAITS OF AQUILA & PRISCILLA**

⇒ **A. They were industrious**

○ **See Acts 18:1-3**

○ Here was a time when Paul was badly in need of a method of supporting himself, for he was in an area where he did not choose to permit the people to support him with offerings, and he needed a job.

- Priscilla and Aquila were tentmakers, and as was the custom with all professional men in that day and time, Paul had been taught a trade.

○ There was a saying among the Jews; "He who fails to teach his son a trade teaches him to be a thief."

- All Jewish families tried to teach their children two ways of making a living. Paul was trained as a lawyer and also as a tent maker.

⇒ **B. They followed the man of God.**

○ **See Acts 18:18-19 - Ephesus A.D. 54**

○ Paul had felt that it was time for him to leave Corinth and go across to Ephesus.

- Perhaps he asked Priscilla and Aquila to follow him or perhaps the Lord led them to follow; in either case, they were following the man of God.

- Since God first gave the Word, it has been His method of instructing one person and the remainder following the leadership of the one.

⇒ **C. They were careful teachers.**

○ **See Acts 18:26 - Ephesus A.D. 54**

○ Priscilla and Aquila had gone to the synagogue to hear a visiting speaker, for they had heard of his eloquence.

- They came to be taught of him.

- They found that there was something lacking in that which he was teaching, and then they had the opportunity to help a teacher who needed some help in his doctrinal position.

⇒ **D. They protected their preacher.**

○ **See Romans 16:3-4 - Rome A.D. 60**

○ .Paul writes commending those who had been helpers, who had been real blessings to him.

- In Romans 16 there are 26 people mentioned who were helpers, but Paul begins the list with "Greet Priscilla and Aquila" and then says, "Who have for my life laid down their own necks:..."

- There are many people who perhaps would lay down their life for Jesus, but how many people would be willing to lay down their lives for another human being?

- What a tremendous example of Christian fidelity, of real Christian friendship, of deep respect and love from one person for a preacher of the Gospel!

⇒ **E. They were cherished by their preacher.**

- o **See II Timothy 4:19 - Ephesus A.D. 66**
- o **II Timothy 4** is the last writing that we have from Paul, who well knew that he was going to die.
 - **II Timothy 4:6**, he says, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."
- o He writes in **II Timothy 4:19** and says, "**Salute Prisca and Aquila.**"
 - What a touching time for the old man of God, knowing that it was time for him to go to be with the Lord, to take this moment and give the greetings to some people he remembered as having helped him!
 - You will note in the same chapter in **verse 14** he tells of one who did not help him but was opposed to him.
 - If the time came for your preacher to go to be with the Lord, how would he regard you as he looked back over his life?
- ⇒ **II. TRAITS OF PRISCILLA.**
- ⇒ **A. Priscilla was an old fashioned lady.**
 - o The word "Priscilla" is a diminutive or a nickname for "Prisca," which means "ancient or antique."
 - This is not alluding to the fact that she was an old lady but to the fact that she was a lady who adhered to the old ways.
 - She was not swayed by every modern trend that came-along.
 - There are some old-time characteristics that should never be changed.
 - A lady has the highest compliment paid to her when someone calls her an "old-fashioned lady."
 - We might also take a moment here to reflect on the fact that names connote something.
 - o We should be most careful in the naming of our children.
 - For instance, how many children have you ever known whose name was "Judas?"
 - By the same token, there are other names that have good connotations, and we should be most careful to decide which to use in naming the children.
 - Discuss the various qualifications such as cleanliness, quietness, courtesy, staying at home, and all of the attributes that are recognizable as being those of an old-fashioned lady.
- ⇒ **B. She did not let persecution stop her from serving.**
 - o Priscilla and Aquila had been run out of Rome because the Roman rulers felt that Christians were upsetting their city.
 - They were "displaced persons," and either Priscilla was a Roman citizen or she had lived in Rome so long that she had accepted a Roman name.
 - It was usual for a Jew living in Rome to accept a Roman name, but only after many years of residence.
 - So this lady probably considered herself a native of Rome.
 - She was caused to be removed from her native city because of persecution.

- Yet, when the time came for her to suffer other persecution (as in Ephesus), as Paul mentions in Romans 16, she was willing to lay her neck down once again.
 - When Paul met them in Corinth, it would have been very easy for her to have refused to accept him into her household, for she did not want to be mixed up with controversy once again.
 - Yet she was willing to accept him.
- ⇒ **C. Priscilla was a spiritual, smart lady who let her husband lead.**
- o Priscilla is never mentioned apart from her husband, and yet you see in the Scriptures for today's lessons that Priscilla was the more outspoken of the two.
 - Most commentators believe that she was the more spiritual of the two.
 - Yet everywhere she went, he also went.
 - She was a lady knowing more than her husband but not telling him all the time that she knew more.
 - She served the Lord no matter what his spiritual condition was.
 - (Dwell for a moment on the fact that we dare not let anybody else determine our spirituality.)
- ⇒ **D. She had church in her home wherever she went.**
- o If you were asked today to have a church service in your home next Sunday what would you have to do before you could have a service?
 - What would you have to do before you would be willing to invite a group of Christians into your home?
- ⇒ **E. She was courteous and tactful.**
- o Note that in **Acts 18:26** that she and Aquila knew that Apollos needed some instruction.
 - It would have been so easy to have gone to others and to have said, "This fellow is making mistakes in his teaching."
 - Or it would have been so easy for them to find Apollos in a crowd and say, "You need to be saved!" or "We want to tell you where you made a mistake."
 - She and her husband called the teacher aside quietly and privately and said, "Let us show you where we may help you."
- ⇒ **F. She was faithful to services and loved preaching.**
- o She would never have known that Apollos needed help had it not been her custom to go to hear the outstanding men who came.
 - I doubt seriously that she went to the synagogue to look for mistakes.
 - She went there to learn something on her own.
 - Not all of us can be preachers or teachers, but all of us can learn from these by a simple, old-fashioned Christian lady in helping others through the years of her Christian experience.