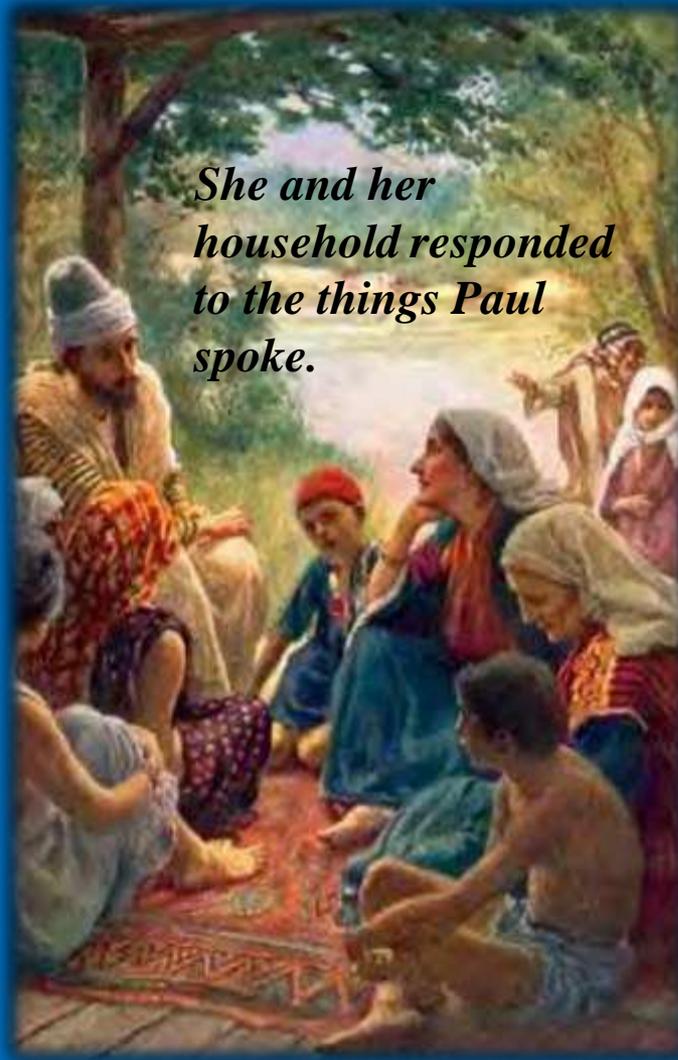


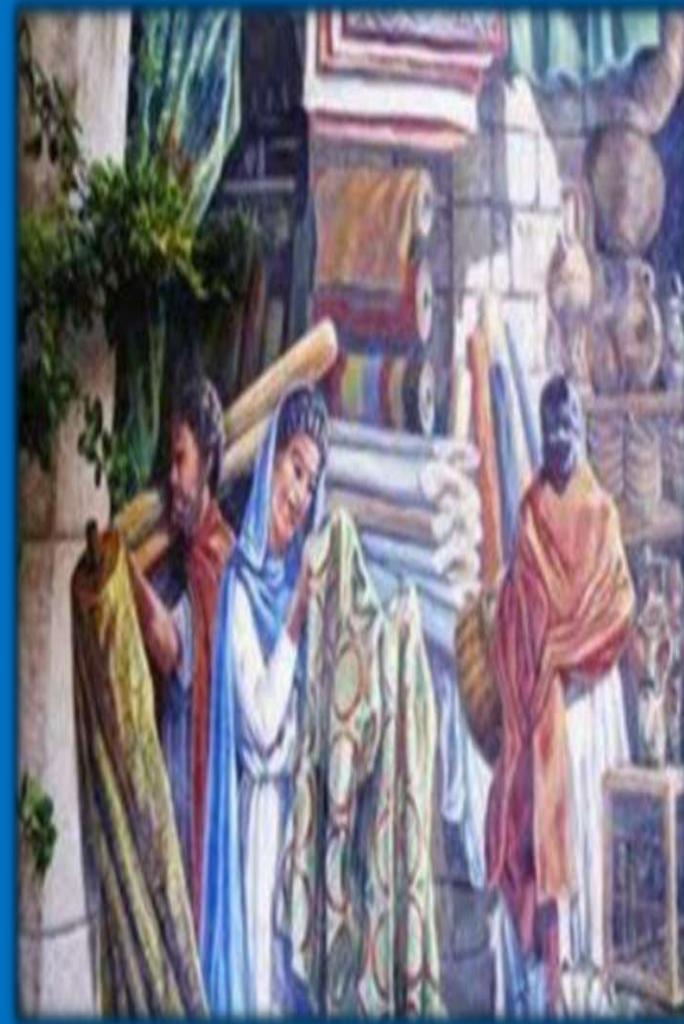
Sentinels of Truth

A seller of purple fabrics

Lydia from
Thyatira;
Acts 16



She and her household responded to the things Paul spoke.



She worshipped God.

16:14 (2 Corinthians 8:12). Light for Those Who Are Willing.--God's Spirit can only enlighten the understanding of those who are willing to be enlightened. We read that God opened the ears of Lydia, so that she attended to the message spoken by Paul. To declare the whole counsel of God and all that was essential for Lydia to receive--this was the part Paul was to act in her conversion; and then the God of all grace exercised His power, leading the soul in the right way. God and the human agent cooperated, and the work was wholly successful (Letter 150, 1900).

Aquila and his wife Priscilla went to Corinth after the Roman Emperor Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome.

*Aquila
in
Corinth;
Acts 18*

Paul stayed with Aquila while he preached the word in the synagogue in Corinth.



18:1-3 (2 Corinthians 10:1, 7, 8; see EGW on Acts 20:17-35). The Apostles Counseled Over Methods of Labor.--When Paul came to Corinth, he solicited work from Aquila. The apostles counseled and prayed together, and decided that they would preach the gospel as it should be preached, in disinterested love for the souls who were perishing for lack of knowledge. Paul would work at tentmaking, and teach his fellow laborers to work with their hands, so that in any emergency they could support themselves. Some of his ministering brethren presented such a course as inconsistent, saying that by so doing they would lose their influence as ministers of the gospel. The tenth chapter of Second Corinthians records the difficulties Paul had to contend with, and his vindication of his course. God had placed special honor upon Paul. He had given him his credentials, and had laid upon him weighty responsibility. And the apostle writes, "I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you,"-- because he humbled himself to do mechanical work--"but being absent am bold toward you" [2 Corinthians 10:7, 8 quoted] (RH March 6, 1900).

(Ch. 20:33, 34; 1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:8.) Paul Resorted to His Trade.--Paul . . . abode with them [Aquila and Priscilla]; and having in his youth learned their trade of making tents, which were much used in that warm climate, he worked at this business for his own support. . . .Paul was highly educated, and was admired for his genius and eloquence. He was chosen by his countrymen as a member of the Sanhedrim, and was a rabbi of distinguished ability; yet his education had not been considered complete until he had served an apprenticeship at some useful trade. He rejoiced that he was able to support himself by manual labor, and frequently declared that his own hands had ministered to his necessities. While in a city of strangers, he would not be chargeable to anyone. When his means had been expended to advance the cause of Christ, he resorted to his trade in order to gain a livelihood (LP 99, 100).

Although feeble in health, he [Paul] labored during the day in serving the cause of Christ, and then toiled a large part of the night, and frequently all night, that he might provide for his own and others' necessities (YI Feb. 27, 1902).

A Skilled Workman.--Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles, learned the trade of tentmaking. There were higher and lower branches of tentmaking. Paul learned the higher branches, and he could also work at the common branches when circumstances required. Tentmaking did not bring returns so quickly as some other occupations, and at times it was only by the strictest economy that Paul could supply his necessities (RH March 6, 1900).

An Educator.--Paul was an educator. He preached the gospel with his voice, and in his intelligent labor he preached it with his hands. He educated others in the same way in which he had been educated by one who was regarded as the wisest of human teachers. As Paul worked quickly and skillfully with his hands, he related to his fellow workers the specifications Christ had given Moses in regard to the building of the tabernacle. He showed them that the skill and wisdom and genius brought into that work were given by God to be used to His glory. He taught them that supreme honor is to be given to God (RH March 6, 1900)

18:2 (ch. 8:4; Romans 1:7, 8). Opposition Did Not Silence Gospel.-- After the ascension of Christ, the apostles went everywhere preaching the Word. They bore witness to Christ's work as a teacher and healer. Their testimony in Jerusalem, in Rome, and in other places was positive and powerful. The Jews, who refused to receive the truth, could but acknowledge that a powerful influence attended Christ's followers, because the Holy Spirit accompanied them. This created greater opposition; but notwithstanding the opposition, twenty years after the crucifixion of Christ there was a live, earnest church in Rome. This church was strong and zealous, and the Lord worked for it. The envy and rage of the Jews against the Christians knew no bounds, and the unbelieving residents were constantly stirred up. They made complaints that the Christian Jews were disorderly, and dangerous to the public good. Constantly they were setting in motion something that would stir up strife. This caused the Christians to be banished from Rome. Among those banished, were Aquila and Priscilla, who went to Corinth, and there established a business as manufacturers of tents (RH March 6, 1900).

Gallio
in
Corinth;
Acts 18

Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia just as Paul was being blasphemed by the Jews to whom he was preaching in the synagogues.

Paul, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

The Lord told Paul to stay in Corinth and continue to preach, and he will be protected.



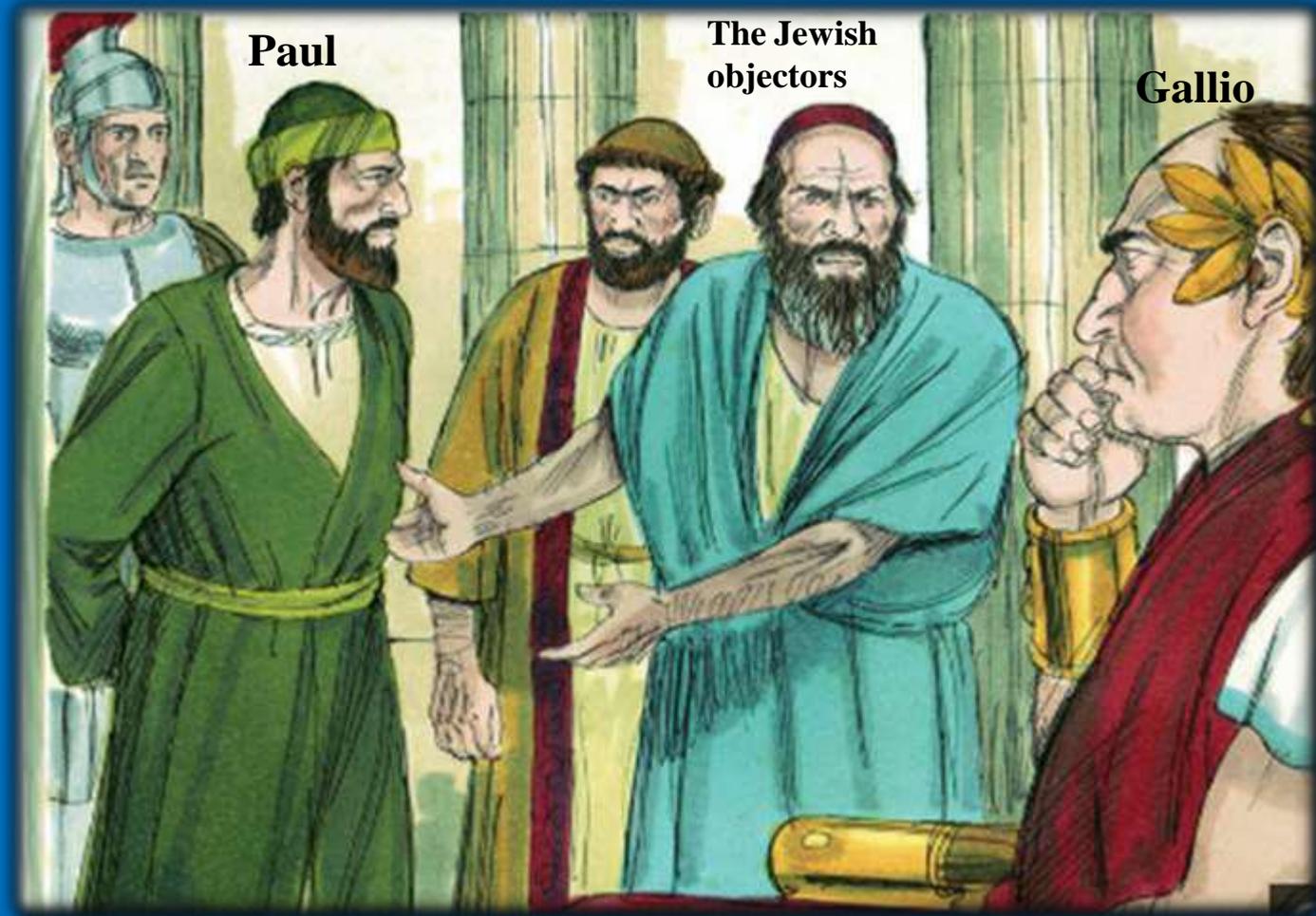
The Jews in Corinth with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the Roman Governor Gallio.

The Jewish Objector:

- This man has been persuading men to worship God contrary to the Law.

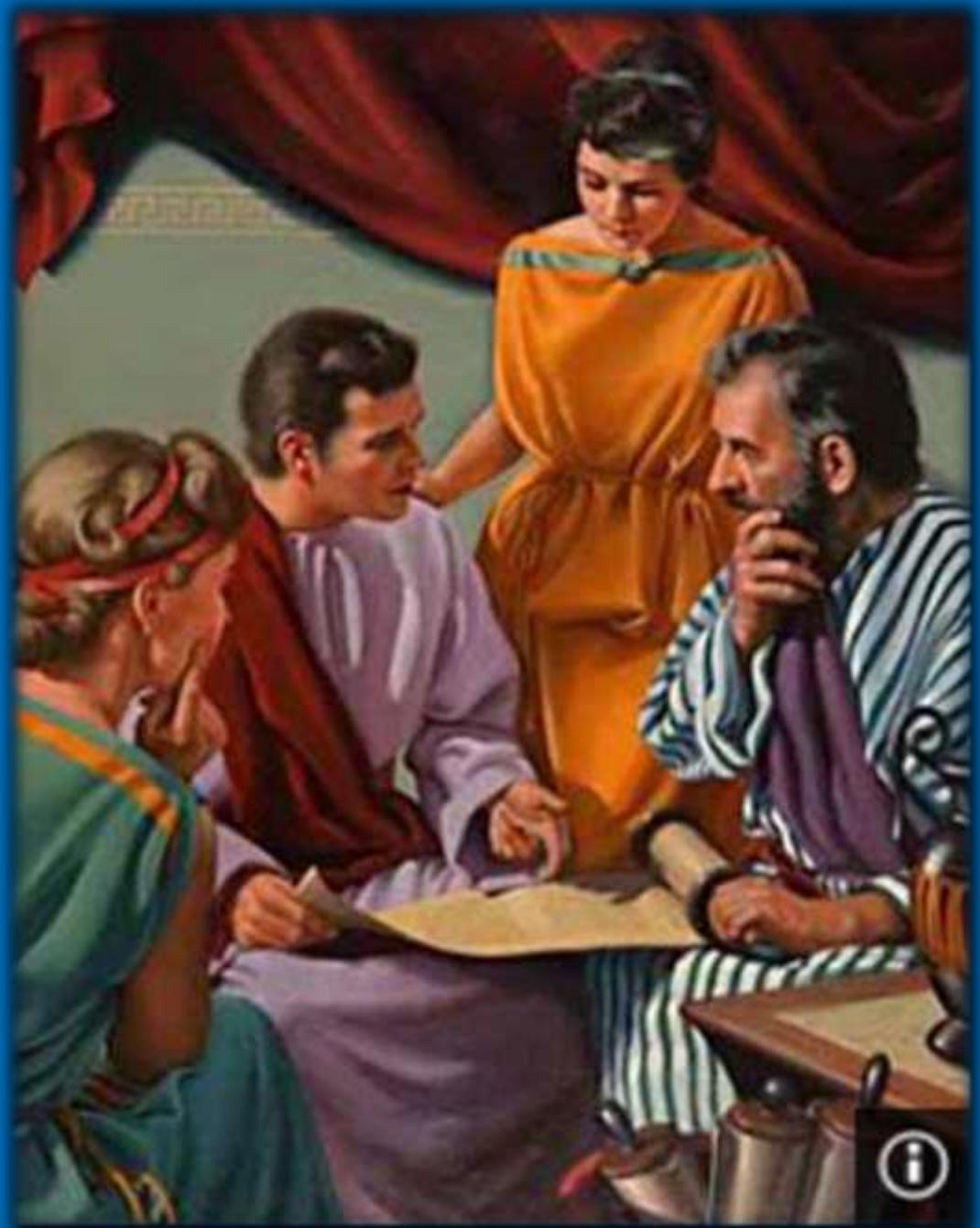
Gallio, the Roman Governor, (para)

- “If this was a simple right or wrong, or vicious crime, I’d easily put up with you. But if its about words, names, your law, then I am unwilling to judge.”

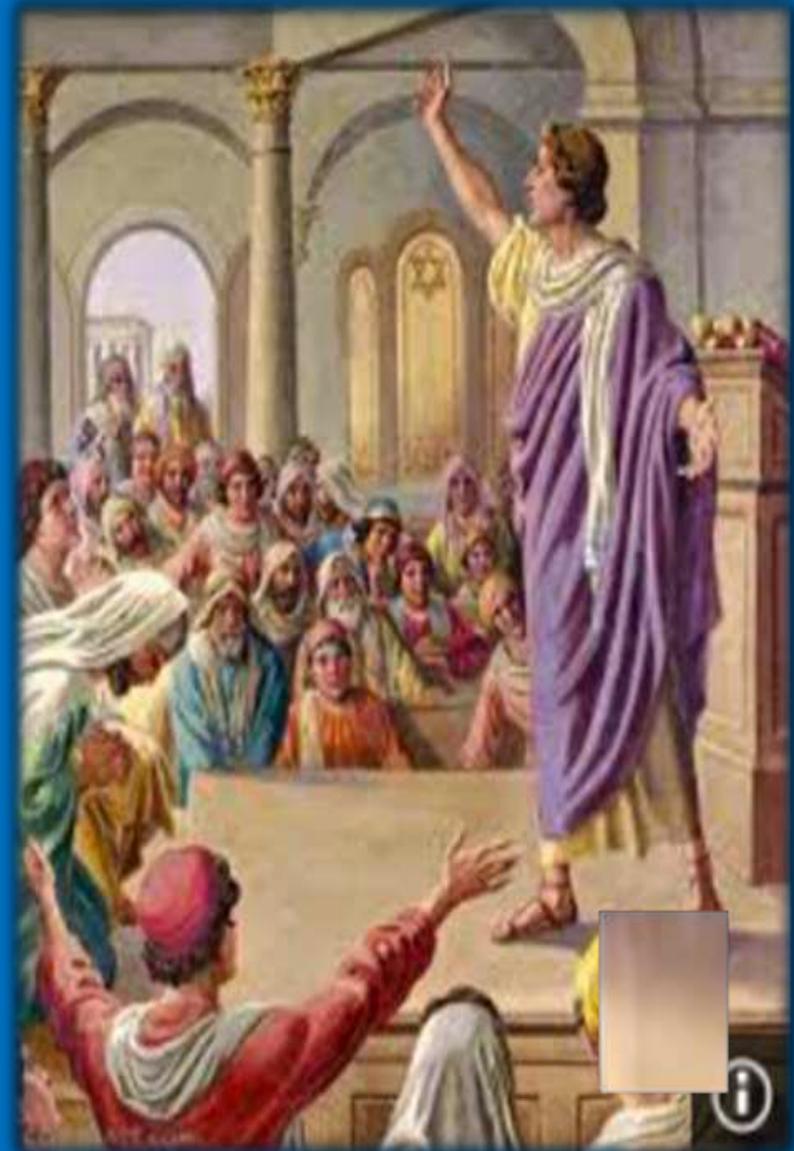


Apollos in Ephesus

Apollos, an eloquent man mighty in scriptures; he had been instructed in the way of the Lord; being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching the things concerning Jesus. He would speak out boldly in the synagogue to many listeners.



Priscilla and Aquila heard
Apollos preaching.

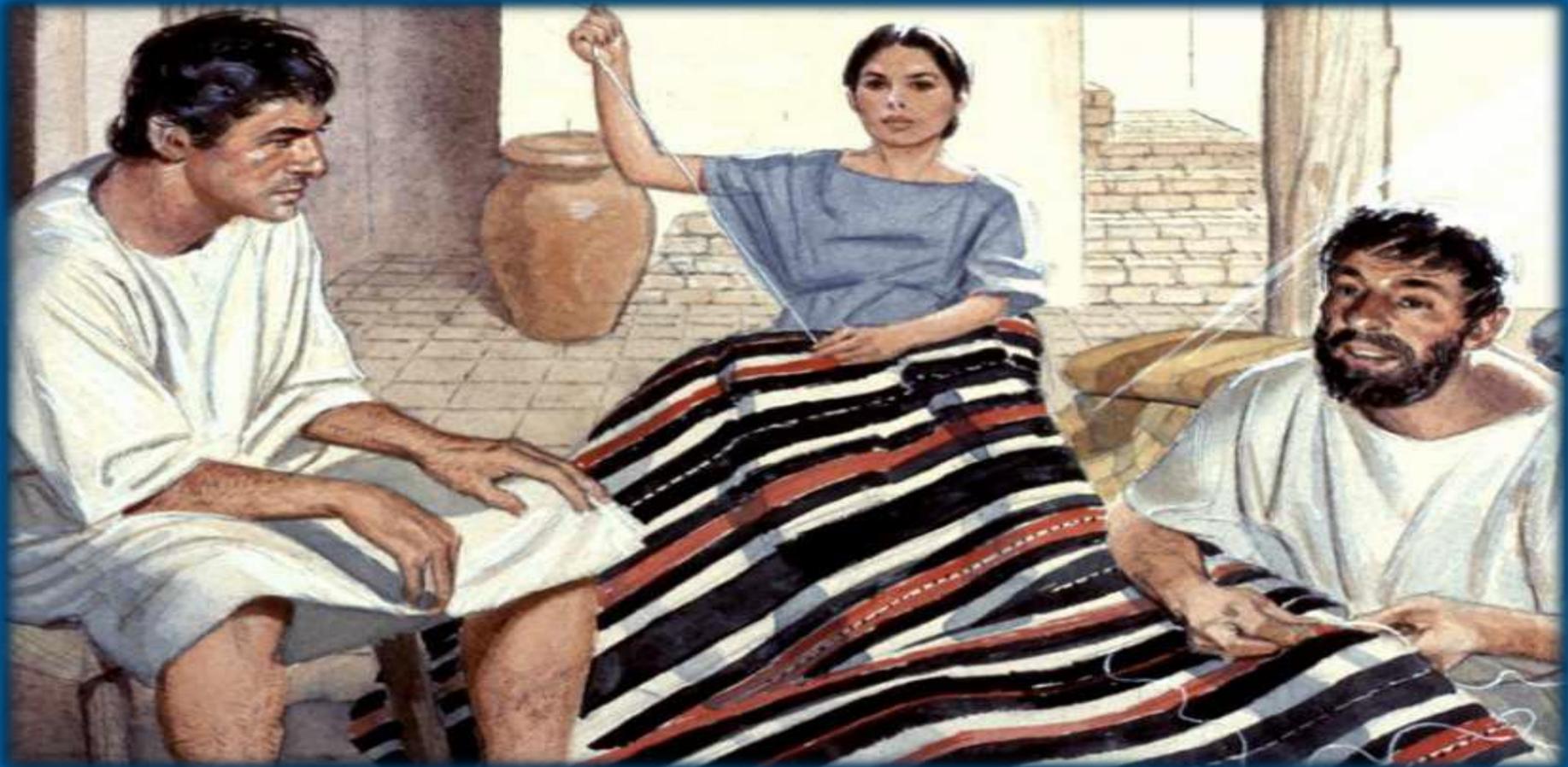


Question # 1:

Apollos was apparently preaching successfully in the synagogue. Why did Priscilla and Aquila take Apollos aside when he was doing so well?

Priscilla and Aquila;
Acts 18: 26b

“...they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.”



18:24-26. Learned Apollos Instructed by Humble Tentmakers.-- Apollos . . . had received the highest Grecian culture, and was a scholar and an orator Aquila and Priscilla listened to him, and saw that his teachings were defective. He had not a thorough knowledge of the mission of Christ, His resurrection and ascension, and of the work of His Spirit, the Comforter which He sent down to remain with His people during His absence. They accordingly sent for Apollos, and the educated orator received instruction from them with grateful surprise and joy. Through their teachings he obtained a clearer understanding of the Scriptures, and became one of the ablest defenders of the Christian church. Thus a thorough scholar and brilliant orator learned the way of the Lord more perfectly from the teachings of a Christian man and woman whose humble employment was that of tentmaking (LP 119).

Watching & Waiting

- Luk 12:37 Blessed *[are] those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.* 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *[them] so, blessed are those servants.*

Watching & Waiting

- A blessing is pronounced upon those who maintain their watch through the second and third watches. Watching therefore indicates
 - That the servants are desiring the Master's return more than anything else.
 - That the servants are prepared for the Master's return when ever He does return.
 - That the servants are aware of the Master's movements.
 - That the servants are aware of the Master's activities.
 - That the servants are not distracted by other issues.
 - That the servants know what the Master will do and when He will do it.

Wait For The Lord's Return

- 2T 190 “Jesus has left us word: “Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.” We are waiting and watching for the return of the Master, **who is to bring the morning**, lest coming suddenly He find us sleeping.

Watch And Be Ready

- Mat 24:42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

The Waiting Virgins

- “The ten virgins are watching in **the evening** of this earth's history. All claim to be Christians. All have **a call, a name, a lamp**, and all profess to be doing God's service. All apparently wait for Christ's appearing. But five are unready. Five will be found surprised, dismayed, outside the banquet hall.” COL 412

A Cry At Midnight!

- Mat 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.
- It should be noted that the call at midnight brings stark focus to the bridegroom.
- The message then must be about Christ.

Behold Your God!

- Isa 40:9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift *[it] up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!*
- Those who do not have the message on God's character cannot give the midnight cry the second time.

{COL 415.5}

- “Those who wait for the Bridegroom's coming are to say to the people, "Behold your God." The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is a revelation of His character of love. The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.”

Mr. Spencer & Bulldog

- 1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 5:9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

4 Seasons – 4 Watches

- Mat. 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what **watch** the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.
- In other words, if the husbandman knows what season the figs would come, he will prepare to reap when the season is near.

1844 Summer Experience

- Our hopes now centered on the coming of the Lord in 1844. This was also the time for the message of the **second angel**, who, flying through the midst of heaven, cried, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city." Revelation 14:8. **That message was first proclaimed by the servants of God in the summer of 1844.** As a result, many left the fallen churches. In connection with this message the "**midnight cry**" [See Matthew 25:1-13.] was given: "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him." {LS 59.1}

Second Angel Repeated

- Rev. 18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen**, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

The Harvest is White

- John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and [then] cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Laborers Are Few: Pray

- Matt. 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly [is] plenteous, but the labourers [are] few; 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.
- God is calling men and He Himself is qualifying them.

God is qualifying men to be

- Strong **men**, bold, courageous, forceful, energetic, persevering, faithful, loyal, humble, meek, poor in spirit, merciful, kind, honest, full of integrity, full of the holy ghost, good, holy, virtuous, patient, long-suffering, gentle, loving, joyful, temperate, peaceful, hopeful, men who would set their faces as flint and proclaim the word of the Lord though the heavens fall. **GOD IS QUALIFYING HIS MEN!!!**

What is the True Christian life?

- MH 497: - Christian life is more than many take it to be. It does not consist wholly in gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindness. These graces are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, energy, and perseverance. The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path. To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements, requires men who are more than weaklings. . . .

What is the True Christian life?

- Some have no firmness of character. Their plans and purposes have no definite form and consistency. They are of but little practical use in the world. This weakness, indecision, and inefficiency should be overcome. There is in true Christian character an indomitableness that cannot be molded or subdued by adverse circumstances. We must have moral backbone, an integrity that cannot be flattered, bribed, or terrified.--Ministry of Healing, pp. 497, 498. (1905)

But, Unfortunately

- God's people have always been in the minority. Throughout the ages very few responded to the call. Very few were willing to stand boldly for the truth, for the right. But there were always those who stood against the grain of society and demonstrated the principles of Heaven.

Will You Answer the Call

- After receiving a vision of the Lord Isaiah heard the call.
- Isa. 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here [am] I; send me.

Men Who Leave It All

- {AA 370.1} God is calling for men who are willing to leave their farms, their business, if need be their families, to become missionaries for Him. **And the call will be answered.** In the past there have been men who, stirred by the love of Christ and the needs of the lost, have left the comforts of home and the society of friends, even that of wife and children, to go into foreign lands, among idolaters and savages, to proclaim the message of mercy.

Men Who Leave It All

- Many in the attempt have lost their lives, but others have been raised up to carry on the work. Thus step by step the cause of Christ has progressed, and the seed sown in sorrow has yielded a bountiful harvest. The knowledge of God has been widely extended and the banner of the cross planted in heathen lands.
{AA 370.1}

Our Time Has Come!

- Let us all pray that the Lord of the harvest will find laborers today. When we pray, we very well may hear the call ourselves. **What will your response be?**
 - When He says to leave your country
 - When He says to leave your home
 - When He says to leave your family
 - When He says to leave your job
 - When He says to leave your friends
 - When He says to leave your comforts
 - When He says to leave your life, What will your response be? Let that response be....