

AQUILA AND PRISCILLA: PAUL'S CO-WORKERS
Romans 16:3-5

Introduction:

1. Next to obeying the Gospel, one's most important act in life is choosing his marriage partner.
 - a. One's marriage partner can influence him for either good or evil.
 - b. One's marriage partner may lead him to Christ or away from Christ.
2. The Bible tells of married couples who encouraged one another in sin.
 - a. Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30,31).
 - b. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
3. The Bible also tells of married couples who encouraged one another in righteousness.
 - a. Zachariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5,6).
 - b. Joseph and Mary (Matthew 1:19; Luke 1:26-28).
4. Aquila and Priscilla are an example of an outstanding Christian couple.
 - a. They assisted Paul in establishing churches in Corinth and Ephesus.
 - b. They taught the Lord's way to a talented but mistaken preacher.
 - c. They practiced hospitality to the Lord's people.
 - d. They risked their lives on behalf of the apostle Paul.
5. They are a wonderful example for Christian couples to follow today.

Discussion:

- I. **AQUILA AND PRISCILLA ASSISTED PAUL IN ESTABLISHING THE CHURCH IN CORINTH.**
 - A. When Paul came to Corinth, he was discouraged (Acts 18).
 1. He had left Thessalonica because of persecution (Acts 17).
 2. His work in Athens had not been very fruitful.
 3. He probably was in need of money for he soon began working to support himself while he preached.
 - B. Paul most likely met Aquila and Priscilla in the synagogue.
 1. They were Jews who had come from Rome because the Emperor Claudias had expelled the Jews (Acts 18:1-3).

2. Suetonius, a Roman historian, said he expelled them “because the Jews at Rome caused continuous disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus” (The Twelve Caesars).
3. Paul probably converted them in his synagogue preaching.

C. Paul lived and worked with them for they were all tentmakers.

1. Though highly educated, Paul had learned a trade.
2. Hebrew fathers commonly said: “He who does not teach his son a trade teaches him to be a thief.”

II. AFTER MORE THAN 18 MONTHS IN CORINTH, PAUL MOVED TO EPHESUS.

A. Aquila and Priscilla accompanied him (Acts 18:8).

1. He left them there to prepare the ground while he went on to Antioch (Acts 18:18-23).
2. Apollos, an eloquent and educated Egyptian Jew, came to Ephesus and preached in the synagogue (Acts 18:24-28).
 - a. He “taught accurately the things of the Lord though he knew only the baptism of John.”
 - b. Apollos did not know the baptism of Christ had replaced John’s baptism (Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
 - c. Aquila and Priscilla privately “explained to him the way of God more accurately” (Acts 18:26).
 - d. Priscilla helped her husband in this private teaching, but she did not teach over men publicly (1 Tim. 2:11,12).

B. When Paul returned, he spent two years and three months preaching in Ephesus (Acts 19:8-10).

1. Aquila and Priscilla joined him in sending greetings to the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 16:8, 19).
2. The church in Ephesus met in their home (1 Cor. 16:19).
3. They were very hospitable opening their home both to Paul and to the church.

III. AQUILA AND PRISCILLA WERE A TEAM FOR THE LORD.

A. They were truly one in marriage.

1. God’s original plan for marriage was that one man and one woman become one for life.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined this wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24).

- 2. Jesus taught that God’s original purpose for marriage had not changed (Matthew 19:4-6).**
- 3. Paul taught that Christ and His church are one just as a husband and wife are one in marriage (Ephesians 5:28-31).**
- 4. Aquila’s and Priscilla’s names are always mentioned together (Acts 18:2,3,18-24; Rom. 16:3-5; 1 Cor. 16:19; 2 Tim. 4:19).**

B. They were one in occupation; both were tentmakers (Acts 18:3).

- 1. Apparently, Aquila and Priscilla had no children.**
- 2. “Tentmaker” described those who spun the wool as well as those who sewed the tents.**

C. They were one in Christ.

- 1. The church met in their home in Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:19) and later in Rome (Rom. 16:3-5).**
- 2. They were “given to hospitality” for they took Paul into their home (Acts 18:3).**
- 3. They taught Apollos the way of the Lord more accurately (Acts 18:18-24).**
- 4. They helped Paul establish the church in both Corinth and Ephesus.**
- 5. Apparently, they moved to Ephesus with this purpose in mind.**

D. As Christians, they were one in hope (Titus 1:2; Rom. 5:1,2).

- 1. What a blessing to live a long life together!**
- 2. What a greater blessing to be together forever with the Lord!**

Conclusion:

- 1. “Aquila” was a common Roman name meaning “Eagle.”**
- 2. “Prisca” was a Roman name meaning “old fashioned virtue;” the diminutive of Prisca is “Priscilla” which can be translated “little old lady.”**
- 3. Aquila and Priscilla are a wonderful example of a Christian couple that is worthy of emulation today.**
- 4. Aquila and Priscilla became Christians when they heard and believed the Gospel of Christ (Acts 18:8).**

