

Apollos

Apollos [abbreviation of Apollonius] was an Alexandrian Jew [Acts 18:24].

Apollos was from Alexandria in Egypt, the second most important city in the Roman Empire, and the home of a great university and library. There was a thriving Jewish population in Alexandria.

Apollos' education and natural abilities caused him to convince many in Greece of the truth of the gospel message.

Apollos used the gifts he had received from the Creator God, especially his ability in logic and debate, to bring many to God. What gifts have we received from the Creator God that He wants us to use to bring glory to Him by many people acknowledging Him as their Creator and worshipping Him?

Apollos came to Ephesus in AD52 during Paul's hasty visit to Palestine, [Acts 18:21-24].

Apollos had accurate knowledge of the life of Jesus Christ, which may have come to him at Alexandria from Galilean disciples of Jesus Christ.

He combined natural gifts of eloquence or learning with a profound understanding of the Old Testament, and was enthusiastic in proclaiming such truth as he knew it, [Acts 18:25].

Apollos' conspicuous gap in his knowledge concerned the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the consequent rite of Christian baptism.

This was made good by the patient instruction of Priscilla and Aquila, [Acts 18:26].

From Ephesus, Apollos went on to Corinth where he showed himself to be an expert at Christian apologetics in dealing with the Jews, [Acts 18:27-28].

At Corinth there sprang up factions in the names of Paul, Apollos, Cephas and Jesus Christ, [1 Corinthians 1:12]. Paul seeks to show that it was not due to himself or Apollos who were both working together under the hand of the Creator God, [1 Corinthians 3:4-6].

The factions were probably due to the preference of some to the polished eloquence of Apollos compared to that of Paul, [1 Corinthians 2:4].

Apollos' desire to lessen the controversy may be the reason for his not returning to Corinth despite Paul's request, [1 Corinthians 16:12].

Apollos is mentioned finally as making some sort of journey in Titus 3:13.

Although his natural abilities could have had Apollos proud, he was willing to learn, because Apollos was willing to be a student he became an even better teacher.

How much does your willingness to learn affect the Creator God's efforts to help you become all He wants you to be?

Lessons from Apollos' life –

Effective communication of the gospel message includes our humbly seeking the truth through the active presence of the Holy Spirit in us, [John 16:13].

A clear verbal defence of the gospel message can be a real encouragement to believers while convincing non-believers of its truth, [**1 Peter 3:15-16**].