**AQUILA AND PRISCILLA**

**COMPANIONS OF PAUL #3**

Today we will be looking at a husband and wife team. These companions of Paul played a major role in the formation of the Early Church. This couple lived in Rome until they and many other Jews were expelled from there by Emperor Claudius in 49 AD. From there they ended up in Corinth. It is here that they will meet Paul in about 51 AD. This couple is mentioned in 6 NT verses. We will examine that account today. We begin with:

1. **Paul meets this couple in Corinth – Acts 18:1-3 -.** After Paul arrives in Corinth from Athens, he meets Aquila and Priscilla. It is believed that Paul lived with this couple and worked in the same trade (tentmakers). It is clear that this couple not only worked with Paul as tentmakers but also worked with him in the ministry. It must have refreshed Paul’s soul to enjoy a close knit relationship with this couple not only in physical work but also in ministry work. The best relationships you can have are close knit relationships with other believers who also serve the Lord. How these three must have encouraged each other!
2. **Aquila and Priscilla leave with Paul – vs. 18-21 -.** During this 18 month relationship with Paul, Aquila and Priscilla decide to leave with Paul to continue doing ministry work. We see in verse 19 that Paul left them in Ephesus on his way to Jerusalem. We will see that God had a plan for this couple in Ephesus even though they had no idea. If a believer is walking with and serving the Lord, you can rest assured that “**the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord” – Ps. 37:23.**
3. **Aquila and Priscilla instruct Apollos – vs. 24-28.** In the upcoming verses, we will see why God directed Aquila and Priscilla to Ephesus. God would use them to help a Jew named Apollos to come to a complete understanding of what God was doing through the Apostles in that early part of the Church Age. Apollos was saved but did not fully know what God was now doing. Aquila and Priscilla would take an interest in him and help to educate him in greater ways. Every mature Christian should seek out less mature believers and help them grow in the Lord – vs. 24-28 -.
4. **Aquila and Priscilla return to Rome – Romans 16:1-5.** It appears that sometime after the death of Emperor Claudius in 54 AD and the lifting of the edict to expel the Jews from Rome was lifted, that Aquila and Priscilla returned to Rome.

The timing of this book to the Romans would have been around 57 AD. We note several wonderful facts about this couple from these verses:

* **Paul considered them his “helpers” in Christ Jesus – vs. 3 -.** Every pastor or leader considers it a joy when he has “helpers” in the ministry. A ministry cannot be run by one person; help is needed. Help is needed in evangelism, funding of the church, filling key positions, encouraging and praying for the leadership, helping to keep the unity in the body, sniffing out and exposing false teachers and those who seek to divide etc. What can you do to help?
* **They risked their lives for Paul –** **vs. 4 -.** We do not know the incident in which Paul speaks but we know that whatever they did, they risked their lives doing it. Paul also tells us that all of the churches owe them a sense of gratitude. We are living in age where most Christians cannot take a simple stand for their faith much less risk even greater. Perhaps this couple risked their lives to save Paul which allowed him to continue ministering to all the churches. How much risk are you willing to take?
* **They had a church in their house –** **vs. 5 -.** In those early days, there were no such thing as big beautiful church buildings; believers met in house churches. Aquila and Priscilla continued their ministry in helping churches by opening up their home for a church. It appears from 1 Cor. 16:19 that Aquila and Priscilla are with Paul in Ephesus at the time of this writing and also has a church in their house there – **1 Cor. 16:19** -. Looking back at all that they accomplished, how much of a blessing it was for this couple to have been forced out of Rome 10 years earlier. Had they not, they likely wouldn’t have met Paul and developed a love and devotion for ministry and the churches. God used a great negative to produce an even greater positive.

1. **Aquila and Priscilla are still serving at the end of Paul’s life – 2 Tim. 4:19 -.** The year would be around 68 AD and Paul is Rome in the Mammertine prison awaiting execution. He sends these letters to Timothy who is in Ephesus as are Aquila and Priscilla. We know that because Paul asks Timothy to greet them. They have now been serving the Lord since 51 AD; that’s 17 years of faithful service. Tradition states that Aquila and Priscilla were martyred for their faith. That tells us that they had staying power. This character trait is sadly lacking among Christians today. We need more Christian couples like Aquila and Priscilla.