

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 5

2008

## AN IDEAL COUPLE

The Scriptures reveal an ideal couple and we have in mind Aquila and Priscilla. We are familiar with them to some extent; however, we fail at times to appreciate the entirety of what the scriptures relate concerning them. This type of couple is what the church needs. Just think of what people like Aquila and Priscilla mean to congregations! Such people are the hope of some congregations surviving and prospering in the sight of the Lord. There are six passages in the New Testament books which mention Aquila and Priscilla. As we observe these passages, we can understand their lives and in turn gain profitable lessons as we apply their situations to our own lives.

**1. The first mention of them is in Corinth.** (Acts 18:1-3) Aquila was a Jew born in Pontus, a northern portion of Asia Minor. They had lived in Rome from which they had been banished with all Jews by Claudius. There is no evidence that the banishment and tribulations involved had caused them to be bitter toward God. Comparable things have caused many to be extremely bitter toward life. There is no evidence of such in the life of this couple. They had come to Corinth as tentmakers and were found by Paul who was of the same craft. Here was the beginning of one of the dearest friendships in the Scriptures. Were they Christians at this time? Probably -- if not, we conclude that they were before leaving Corinth.

**2. The next mention of them is in Ephesus.** (Acts 18:19) Paul departed from Corinth and went to Ephesus. Aquila and Priscilla accompanied him and remained there while Paul went on to Jerusalem. In Ephesus, they heard an eloquent preacher named

Apollos, who in spite of his attainments and ability, knew only the baptism of John. (Acts 18:24-28). After hearing Apollos, they took him unto them, *“and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”* (Acts 18:26). From this account, we are able to conclude: (a) they knew the truth about John’s baptism that Apollos at this time did not know. (b) they were courageous enough to endeavor to teach Apollos concerning his false teaching regarding the baptism of John. (c) they were not worshippers of eloquence. They could distinguish eloquence from truth. (d) they loved the souls of men to the extent that they took the time and effort to teach Apollos the truth that his error in teaching might be corrected. What would you have done if you had stood where Aquila and Priscilla stood? What are we doing today when confronted with the exponents of false teaching? So many of us adopt the course of least resistance by saying it wouldn’t have done any good and go on our merry way, singing how we love Jesus and His truth!

**3. The next mention of this faithful couple is in 1 Cor.16:19.** Salutations were sent by Paul from this couple to the church at Corinth. Aquila and Priscilla knew members in Corinth and no doubt were eager to see the church at Corinth be more spiritually minded. There was a church in their house at this time. Such implies: (a) their home was open to Christians. The facilities of their house could be used as the meeting place of the church. (b) Priscilla was not so concerned with her house but what she could experience inconveniences by permitting the church to meet there. It is difficult now to find members who will open their homes for a Bible Study to be conducted. How unlike the spirit manifested by Aquila and Priscilla! They could endure what some call an inconvenience...what about us?

**4. The fourth mention of them is in Romans 16:3-5.** Greetings are sent to them in Rome. They had doubtlessly moved from Ephesus to Rome. They had not forsaken the truth or Paul, the truth’s servant. *“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus: who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the gentiles.”* Notice these statements concerning them: (a) my helpers in Christ Jesus. (b) for my life laid down their own necks. (c) Paul was thankful for them and so were all the churches of the Gentiles. We notice also vs. 5: *“Likewise greet the church that is in their house.”* As in Ephesus, there was also in

Rome, a church meeting in their house. Everything said about them was highly commendable. They loved the truth and were faithful to it.

**5. The last time they are mentioned is in 2 Tim.4:19.** In this brief statement, Paul saluted Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus. They had returned to Ephesus from Rome. This probably was the apostle's last letter; yet, among the important items, he had space to remember Priscilla and Aquila.

**CONCLUSION:** Let us profit from this couple. They were industrious. They had friendship for a humble servant of the Lord. The church could meet in their house. They took their religion with them wherever they went. They knew the truth and were courageous enough to contend for it. Is the spirit of Priscilla and Aquila in us? Why not? Don't we desire to go to heaven? **As we said before, so say we again: What congregations need today are members of the Lord's church who have the attitude of this faithful couple rather than hearts being filled with pride and vanity of this world!**

✍ Bobby K. Thompson



## Intolerance

Author John J. Pullen wrote:

*"The word intolerance, in today's usage, has unjustly come to be considered reprehensible per se. Once this dreadful word is applied to an individual, few people even stop to consider the relative merits or demerits of whatever it is the accused person is accused of being intolerant of. Far from being too much intolerance, we have too little! For if we are to have craftsmanship, we must be intolerant of bungling. If we are to have learning, we must be intolerant of ignorance. If we are to have beauty and poetry, we must be intolerant of vulgarity. If we are to have excellence in anything, we must be intolerant of non-excellence."*

Pullen's observations are correct. They apply in science and industry; in education and medicine; and in an hundred other fields of endeavor. They also apply in the realm of religion. There is, perhaps, no other area where men have come to believe so thoroughly in "tolerance." We are told that we must never condemn another

man's religion. We are warned against ever saying that a certain teaching or practice is wrong or sinful. People, it seems, will tolerate anything but intolerance!

Yet, the result of all this "tolerance" is non-excellence in religious service. These days anything goes. All sorts of unauthorized acts are practiced in the name of religion. It is a shame. God is NOT pleased!

God's word speaks of "pure" and "undefiled" religion (James 1:27). In order to have it, we must be intolerant of any departure from God's holy revealed word. Are you standing firmly for His truth?

✍ Greg Gwin



**Remember, only two more weeks until our meeting with Greg Gwin. I am convinced that Greg will do his job well. Let each of us be working diligently for the success of this effort. Invite your friends and neighbors to come. Make your plans to be present at every service. Pray for Greg and for the success of the meeting.**

<b>Belleville church of Christ</b>	
5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258	
<a href="http://www.bellevillechurch.net">www.bellevillechurch.net</a>	
<b>Schedule of Services</b>	<b>Elders</b>
Sun. Bible Study. . . . . 9:30 a.m.	Charles Carpenter. . . . . (317) 839-3873
Sun. Morning Worship. . . . . 10:30 a.m.	James Hahn. . . . . (317) 745-1507
Sun. Evening Worship. . . . . 5:00 p.m.	
Wed. Bible Study. . . . . 7:00 p.m.	
<b>Evangelist</b>	<b>Deacons</b>
James Hahn. . . . . (317) 745-1507	Leon Nevins. . . . . (317) 272-2966
	Don Perry. . . . . (765) 676-5825
	Alvin Stanley. . . . . (317) 831-3514