"And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John." The coming of this remarkable man seemed a God-send to the harassed, persecuted Christians. He was a most able scholar, whose fiery eloquence electrified meetings and confounded the most bitter critics. He seemed to be the answer to the Christians' prayers. Yet while all this excitement prevailed in the hearts of the Ephesian Christians, two thoughtful people recognized that something was wrong with the young preacher. His message was expressed in words of fire; his knowledge of the prophets was far above the ordinary; yet, somewhere, something was lacking.

## The Great Scholar

"He was mighty in the Scriptures." Such great knowledge could not have been acquired in a moment. His parents were probably devout Jews, whose boy had been taught in the Scriptures "from his youth up." When Apollos passed from youth to manhood, the influence of the law and the prophets dominated his entire thought. The coming of Jesus of Nazareth had been the fulfilment of the ancient predictions; the Jewish rejection of their Messiah had been the greatest national mistake, and unless Israel repented of sin, the outpouring of God's wrath would be inevitable. The cry of John Baptist needed to be repeated in every village of the land. Whenever Apollos read his Scripture, every prophetic utterance emphasized the importance of this fact, and finally the young man could say, with Jeremiah, "But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones . . . and I could not stay" (Jer. 20:9).

## The Great Speaker

"He was an eloquent man . . . instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently he thrilling, passionate preaching of this young man seemed a refreshing breeze on a sultry, stifling afternoon. It revived drooping spirits, and gave promise of a new leader whose exploits would lead to greater conquests in the name of the Lord. The Christians were thrilled at the prospect of every new oration, and their hearts readily responded to the way in which he marshalled his prophetic facts. He was a genius, and "mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." Yet all the while, the cross of Calvary represented nothing but the overwhelming folly of Israel. They had crucified their Messiah, and had lost their greatest opportunity. That God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, was a truth unknown to Apollos. His passionate outpourings were expressive of his deep sincerity, but his Messiah was dead; for even if Jesus of Nazareth had risen again, He had now returned to heaven, and Israel's opportunity had gone with Him. Repentance alone could prevent the doom of the nation.

APOLLOS in whose fiery sermons some thing was lacking The Great Saint

"Aquila and Priscilla . . . took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." It is a cause for pleasure that the Scriptures declare that both man and wife helped to instruct this brilliant young man. Undoubtedly the husband led the discussion, but whenever he failed to make a point in a way satisfactory to his wife, she joined in the conversation, and her contributions added charm and value to the evening. Ultimately a new revelation changed the entire outlook of the young preacher, "And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him

." Eventually Apollos reached Corinth, where Paul had founded a Church on the doctrines of redemption. He had determined to know nothing among the people save "Christ and Him crucified." That the Church responded to the preaching of the young visitor proves how well Aquila and Priscilla had done their work. A live coal from off the altar had touched his heart and his lips; he also preached reconciliation through the cross, and was a worthy man to follow in the footsteps of their beloved Paul.

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