

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Acts 18:24-28](#).
- B. It's a "crime" to do something one way, and not know there is a better way.
- C. For example:
 - 1. I'd rather use a tiller than a spade to turn soil.
 - 2. I'd rather use an electric, than a hand crank ice cream freezer.
 - 3. I'd rather use a calculator than do math long hand.
 - 4. I'd rather open the trunk with a button than getting out of the car.
- D. May we always remain open minded to new things, and especially better ways of doing the same job.

I. DEFENSE MECHANISMS.

- A. But more often than not, when new things are presented to us we put up defense mechanisms and fight change.
- B. Some of these are:
 - 1. "I'm established, well-liked, financially stable, why should I change?"
 - 2. "All my friends and neighbors do it this way, so why should I stick out like a sore thumb?"
 - 3. "My parents instructed me this way many years ago, and to do something different would be like slapping them in the face."
 - 4. A religious example is of the Jews, "we have had the Law of Moses for centuries, it is from God, it is good enough."
- C. But in all of these cases, it was CHANGE ITSELF, that is the real problem. We like our ruts!
- D. One cannot be taught more perfectly, if they put up defense mechanisms.

II. A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF A MAN WHO CHANGED.

- A. Apollos had many things going for him. Acts 18:24-25 tells us much about his life. He was:
[Now a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;](#)
 - 1. A Jew (had a rich family tradition).
 - 2. An Alexandrian (well educated in secular things).
 - 3. An eloquent man (talented beyond others).
 - 4. Mighty in the Scriptures (a specialist in the Law & prophets).
 - 5. Instructed in the way of the Lord (current).
 - 6. In the synagogue (in the right places).
- B. How great Apollos was! He was educated, talented, had a rich heritage, a specialist, current, and in all the right places.
- C. Yet, he needed to be taught more perfectly. Priscilla & Aquila took him off privately (not publicly) and taught him more perfectly (Ac. 18:26b).
[But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.](#)
- D. No matter who you are, where you've come from, what you do, or how you do it; without JC you need to be taught more perfectly!

III. EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT MORE PERFECTLY.

- A. According to Eph. 4:11-16, the church is to grow up, mature in all things according to X. This means each one in the body has some changing to do! Each one needs to be taught more perfectly!
- B. Elders need to get away and attend workshops to be taught more perfectly.

- C. Preachers need to go to lectureships, summers to go to school so they can be taught more perfectly.
- D. Members need to attend gospel meetings, training workshops, so they can be taught more perfectly.
- E. Apollos had every excuse he needed, NOT TO LISTEN TO Priscilla and Aquila. But by listening he became of greater service to X.

IV. GOOD AND BAD RESULTS.

- A. Good results from being taught more perfectly:
 - 1. Apollos did a greater work in Corinth than he did in Ephesus.
 - 2. Apollos powerfully refuted the Jews (Ac. 18:28).
for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.
 - 3. The difference between fair and good or even good and great is the humbleness to be willing to be taught more perfectly.
- B. Bad results from not being taught more perfectly:
 - 1. Spiritual stagnation and possible death (stagnate water begins to stink after awhile).
 - 2. One might begin to believe tradition rather than the Word.
 - 3. Ignorance breeds superstition not truth.
- C. Paul said that his task was to present every man mature or complete in X. This can only be done with an attitude of being willing to change (Col. 1:28).
And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. I have said it so many times before, but it's still true; Xianity is largely a matter of attitude. The commands of the NT are not burdensome (see 1Jn. 5:3).
- B. Do you desire to better yourself, by willing to be taught more perfectly?
- C. Do we have an Apollos' in our audience who needs to respond?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.