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## *Gifts, Training, and Mission*

*Acts 18:24-28*

Every Christian is called to be a minister of the gospel. Not a single child of God is called to be a mere spectator or passive in the work of the ministry (2 Cor. 4:5-7; Matt. 28:19). God does not call all Christians to become pastors employed by a local church or full time missionaries, but He does call each of us to preach the gospel in whatever capacity we are able. Sharing the gospel is important (Matt. 6:10; Rom. 10:14-15) and every Christian should desire to grow in the sharing of their faith (Philemon 6).

**1. *The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Minister* (v. 24-26)**

In verse 24 we're introduced to a man named Apollos who travelled to Ephesus to preach the gospel. We learn that he is a gifted preacher (Rom. 12:4-7; Eph. 4:4-8, 11-12). His success and zeal in the ministry is due to the fact that he is a devoted student of the Scriptures (v. 24-25). If we desire for the LORD to effectively work through us we must dedicate ourselves to the study of His Word (Acts 17:10-11; Ps. 119:12-16). Passion is what captures the essence of Apollos. His passion manifests itself through his preaching ministry (v. 25-26), and he even began his ministry in a very difficult place, the synagogue. Despite the antagonism and persecution from the Jews (Acts 17:13, 18:5-6, 12), Apollos was still faithful to his calling from God.

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**2. *The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Minister* (v. 25-26)**

Seminary degrees are not required for Christians to participate in God's kingdom work. God's calling upon the Christian's life is what qualifies him or her to be God's partner in the ministry. Apollos was a passionate man who was very knowledgeable about the Scriptures, but Luke tells us that he was only familiar with the baptism of John (v. 25; Acts 19:2-4; Matt. 3:11). Upon hearing him preach, Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and explained to Apollos the way of God more accurately (v. 26; Rom. 6:3-6). In this instance, Apollos modeled exemplary humility which is necessary for God to bless one's ministry (v. 27-28).

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**3. *The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Minister* (v. 27-28)**

After humbly receiving Priscilla and Aquila's constructive criticism, the apostle Paul had a complete arsenal. When the Spirit was leading Apollos to travel to Corinth, Achaia to minister the gospel he had the blessing of the Ephesian church; they even wrote a letter of recommendation for him (v. 27). Apollos would continue to grow in his skills as a preacher and teacher of God's Word and he even make an effective apologist or a defender of the Christian faith. More is recorded about Apollos in the opening chapters of 1 Corinthians, and the apostle Paul considered Apollos as a strong ally in the ministry (Titus 3:13).

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