

and knowledgeable about many things, he was wrong on this absolutely critical subject (cf. Galatians 1:6-9; 6:1; Romans 10:1-3). Thankfully, the Christian husband and wife Aquila and Priscilla loved him enough to take him aside and teach him the truth: *"And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly"* (Acts 18:26).

Apollos apparently had a good heart and accepted the truth they taught him, because after this Apollos was mentioned in a very favorable manner: "And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ" (Acts 18:27, 28). Paul also wrote favorably concerning Apollos: "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Corinthians 3:6); "As touching our brother Apollos, I greatly desired him to come unto you with the brethren..." (1 Corinthians 16:12); "Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them" (Titus 3:13).

Apollos is a prime example of a humble man with great potential who truly sought the Lord's will, not his own. When he found out he was wrong, pride did not keep him from repentance and forgiveness. It is implied that he repented, corrected his error, and began teaching the truth.

Interestingly, while Apollos was in error, he spoke boldly in the synagogue (Acts 18:26). This tells us that he was very confident in what he was preaching. Apparently his conscience was not bothering him, even though he was teaching error. Like Apollos before he was converted, there are many preachers and teachers in the world today who teach error on subjects such as baptism, yet they speak boldly and eloquently, and their conscience may not be bothering them (cf. Acts 23:1; 26:9-11). They need to be taught the truth by someone motivated by love for them and those they teach (Ephesians 4:15). The question is: Will the false teachers of today heed the truth like Apollos did after he learned the truth, or will they continue in fatal error? (Galatians 1:6-10).

Some Seem to Know God Better Than He Knows Himself

By Victor Eskew

It has always interested me how individuals like to do their own thing rather than doing things God's way. When confronted, these individuals seem to know God better than God knows Himself.

God loves me. God understands. God knows my heart. God will forgive me. God will overlook this. God does not want to punish me. God knows there are others worse than I am. God is a God of mercy and grace.

Yep, it sure seems these individuals know a lot about God. They know all of the in's and out's that will get them out of sin and into His good graces. They know all of the things that will enable them to escape hell and experience the joys of heaven. It is telling that they never mention many other things about God.

God is Lord, that is, the supreme authority, over all. God is holy. God has revealed a standard of judgment, His Word. God is just. God is a God of wrath. God will hold all men accountable. God is not a respecter of persons.

Most people only want "part" of God rather than desiring ALL of Him. They want the positive side, not the negative side. They want the side that saves, not the side that condemns. They want the side that accepts, not the side the rejects.

When individuals love sin, are unfaithful, and reject their roles in the body of God, they only look at the side of God that will keep them in His good graces. They don't want the side of God that would condemn their actions. If you mention the other side, they will respond as if they know God better than He knows Himself.

Perhaps we all need to keep Galatians 6:7-8 in mind. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."