Introduction: Acts 18 continues with Paul’s missionary journey. Acts 17 he goes to Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. Now he enters Corinth. In this lesson we want to focus on a couple he meets there, Aquila and Priscilla. **Acts 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. 2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. 3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.** My mind goes back to many couples Regena and I have known in our travels at various congregations. Some where the man was serving as an elder or deacon or preacher. Others where the couple simply used their home to be a base for young college students, welcome visitors, entertained strangers.

**I) Background – Priscilla and Aquila at Corinth.**

**A) What we know about the couple**

1. Aquila was a native of Pontus, a Roman providence in Northern Asia Minor.

a. Jews from Pontus are listed being present on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 2.9

b. There were Christians in Pontus later on.

**1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,**

2. Claudius is the Roman Emperor, the only Emperor mentioned twice in Acts.

**Acts 11:28 Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar**.

a. Secular writers tell of an imperial banishment of the Jews from Rome around 49 AD.

b. The Jews ‘indulging in constant riots at the instigation of Chrestus”.

c. Some believe this is a reference to a disturbance among the Jews at the preaching of Christos or Christ.

3. Therefore this couple would have been forced to leave their home and relocate.

**B) A lot we don’t know about them.**

1. Were they already Christians before Paul met them?

2. Did Paul convert them? Not mentioned by Paul as one he baptized at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 1.14-16.

**II) Their Picture From the Scriptures**

**A) They worked**

1. As tent makers- they had a craft much like those Apostles who were fishermen, Jesus being a carpenter’s son, Lydia a seller of fine purple.

2. Jews were expected to teach their sons a craft so as to provide for their families.

a. “He who does not teach his son a trade, teaches him to be a thief.”

b. Christians are expected to work in order to provide for their families and help others.

**1 Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.**

**Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.**

**B) They worked together**

1. Before getting married a person should ask “Will this person work for and with me or against me?”

2. The traits given in Ephesians 5 of godly husbands and wives describes a couple who are on the same team.

**C) They worked together and with Paul**

1. Both making tents and in the spread of the Gospel.

2. What was Paul, a tent maker or an Apostle? What we Aquila and Priscilla, tent makers or Christians? What would they had said?

3. Goes back to the question: Can a person be a teacher and be a Christian and go to heaven? Or a policeman, or a soldier, or a farmer, etc. No. But a person can be a Christian and be a teacher, policeman, soldier, etc. and go to heaven.

**D) They worked together with Paul in his travels.**

**Acts 18:18 So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. 19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.**

1. They were forced to leave Rome and now they leave Corinth to go to Ephesus.

2. Their religion traveled with them. Some Christians leave their commitment when they go elsewhere. Throughout their travels we see a couple involved in the Lord’s work.

**E) They worked together for the truth**

**Acts 18:24 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**

1. Apollos was an accomplished speaker, but he was limited in his knowledge.

2. Notice how they took him aside and explained to him the things of the Lord.

3.We all need friends like Priscilla and Aquila to help straighten us out when we are wrong.

**F) They worked with devotion**

**Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.**

1. They risked their lives for Paul. Don’t know the exact circumstances, was it at Ephesus or elsewhere? It is one thing to risk your life and another to risk the lives of those you love. Deep devotion i

2. The “church in their house” the church which met in their house.

a. Have you ever been to a place where the meeting place was in a common residence?

b. One congregation I tried out for, many years ago, had converted a house to their meeting place. The idea was, I would live there in the back two room and use the kitchen for my personal meals. But I got to thinking of what it would be like to have the brethren there three times a week.

c. Imagine the inconvenience and danger of the church meeting in their house.

**2 Timothy 4:19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.**

3. They were some of the last people on Paul’s mind before his death. Which shows how much Paul valued and loved them.

Conclusion: Congregations needs single Christians, young and old Christians, and married couples working together. The Bible does not list the qualifications for elders wives, or deacons or preachers wives. It does speak of godly women and and men serving God together. Their value is immeasurable and congregations are blessed because of them.