

YOUR NEXT PASTOR

Acts 18:24-28

Int. There is no perfect pastor but Apollos is the kind of man a church needs as a pastor. Like him, your next pastor should be

AN EDUCATED MAN

A Jew by birth, Apollos was “a native of Alexandria” (18:24), the center of Greek learning and culture in the first century. As a Jew he knew the Hebrew Bible; as an Alexandrian he was exposed to Greek learning in the wisdom of his day. He was an educated man.

Education is not everything but it is something. And it is a very important something in the making of a pastor. A man cannot preach what he does not know. He will not know much if he does not read and study. Education is not a function of a diploma on the wall. Many have diplomas but no education. Others get education but have no diploma.

Check to see if your prospective pastor reads and what he reads. Ask to look at his library. And keep looking until you find a man who reads and studies.

AN ELOQUENT MAN

Trained in classical debate, Apollos was a great communicator. He was “eloquent” (18:24). He knew not only what to say but how to say it! No one cares to sit and hear a man if he cannot make his message sound interesting.

Eloquence is a pastor’s friend! Find a man who has mastered the words of men. An eloquent man uses small words all his hearers can understand.

Find a man who can both preach and pastor well. Failing that, find a good preacher who can proclaim God’s word powerfully!

AN EXPOSITORY MAN

Apollos was “able” (18:24) in the use of the scriptures. He had mastered the Word of God. Your next pastor needs to be a man who knows the Bible, believes the Bible and preaches the Bible. The whole Bible, not just the parts in red print.

The best Bible preaching involves taking a passage and, using the topic of that passage (or bringing a topic to the passage), draws the points for the message right out of that passage. It is not just teaching verse by verse but preaching it. There is a difference!

Expository preaching is second only to a well-organized and working Sunday School in growing a church!!!

AN ENTHUSIASTIC MAN

Apollos was “fervent in spirit” (18:25). He spoke and led with fire and passion!

Your next pastor needs to be a man who believes what he says! He ought to get excited about the God he represents and the truth he speaks. No church needs a dull pastor. Find a man who preaches like he is fighting bees!

AN ENDUED MAN

Despite his splendid qualifications, Apollos was missing something. His theology was sound but his experience incomplete until Priscilla and Aquila took him under their wings and explained the way of the Lord more perfectly (18:26). The Spirit took control of Apollos, clothed him with power, filled him and used him mightily.

Whatever else a church needs in a pastor, they need a man who is no stranger to the Holy Spirit!

Con: I have a dream that God has a man like Apollos whom he wants here! I dream that you will settle for no one less and no one else!