

A Brick Short of a Full Load

"The Life of Paul" episode 29

Acts 18:24-19:7

"Before the narrator returns to Paul's synagogue preaching in Ephesus we are told about Apollos and about some anonymous 'disciples' who had not received the Spirit. The two sections are linked by the indications that Apollos and the 'disciples' had received only 'the baptism of John' (18:25; 19:3) . . .

"The narrative shows the continuing effect of John's work, while presenting two different pictures of the result. Apollos is presented much more favorably than the 'disciples' encountered by Paul in 19:1. Both know only the baptism of John, but they differ at two significant points:

(1) The effect of the Spirit is manifest in Apollos' speech, but the disciples in Ephesus have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit (19:2).

(2) Apollos, 'knowing only the baptism of John,' is nevertheless able to teach 'accurately the things concerning Jesus.' In contrast, Paul must instruct the other group that John's baptism of repentance was meant to prepare the people for faith in Jesus, the one coming after John (19:4). In the case of Apollos, John's baptism led him to teach about Jesus because he accepted John's testimony about the Coming One and recognized Jesus as its fulfillment. However, the response by the so-called disciples to Paul's first question in 19:2 seems to lead him to doubt whether they even know about Jesus and the need for faith in him (19:4)."

R.C. Tannehill, *The Narrative Unity of Luke-Acts*

☐ Even the s_____est Christian may be a brick short of a full load.

So never stop learning more about God, 18:24-28
and never stop analyzing what you hear.

☐ Even the s_____est Christian can add a brick to someone's load.

So add a truth brick to the load of a _____, 18:24-28
and change the world through him.

☐ Even the most _____ person may just be lugging a load of straw.

So don't just ask people to say no to Sin; 19:1-7
ask them to say yes to Jesus.