

"Aquila and Priscilla"

CHRISTIAN LIVING

"Letter - 3"

THE MASTER'S TOUCH

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Dearly Loved Friends,

Have you ever been to an auction where an item put up for sale did not get even one person interested? Imagine the awkwardness of the situation.

We recently heard of a country auction in which just such a thing occurred when an old violin was put up for auction. When it was taken out of its dusty, beat up old case, the strings hurriedly were plucked by the rushed auctioneer. It was badly out of tune (to say the least) and sounded just terrible. He held up the well used bow – with its loose horsehair hanging sadly. This, of course, made the whole instrumental package look even more pathetic. Minutes ticked by as the auctioneer tried in vain to spark even a wee bit of interest.

To the surprise of the audience, an elderly gentleman quietly walked to the front of the podium, picked up the old violin from its case, quickly looked it over and (without saying a word) carefully began tuning its strings. The audience watched in hushed amazement, wondering just what he intended to do. Next, he tightened the loose bow hairs, applied the needed rosin, put the violin under his chin, and slowly began to play. Soon a lovely melody was heard soaring throughout the room. The music was so incredibly beautiful that the audience sat there enthralled and transfixed that such a gorgeous celestial sound could come from that old timeworn violin! When he finished playing, you could have heard a pin drop. There was an

overwhelming silence. Many people were profoundly moved – some felt as if they had been sitting in church, while others as if they had shared in a rich spiritual experience. Several women were even seen dabbing at their eyes.

Not wanting to miss his opportunity, the auctioneer was quick to grab the gavel, pounded it strongly and jumped in to start the bidding. "A thousand," he shouted: "Who'll give me two?" As the hands went up, he shouted: "Who'll give me three?" On and on it went until the old violin sold for six thousand dollars! A man piped up from the back of the room, asking: "What's happened here? What made the difference?" The auctioneer slowly scratched his head, took a deep breath and quietly – in a solemn voice said – "Well, I figure it was . . . 'the master's touch.'"

We're relating this story to you because, you see, we all were once just like that old violin. God – before calling each one of us to conversion and baptism – began taking us out of our old banged-up lives. He dusted us off and started to slowly stretch our strings, so we, too, could be finely tuned – by Him. God in his mercy, kindness, and infinite love made it possible for us to comprehend His wonderful truths more and more. Once He began working with us, we too became capable of being involved in the production of beautiful celestial music in our lives – for the benefit of others, and for His glory. By His Holy Spirit in us, God has been producing fruit in our lives – making us into new and different instruments in His hands.

It's interesting and valuable to consider that just as a good violinist tunes his instrument before playing, we too must strive daily to be in tune with God -- living in harmony with His wonderful way of life.

God tells us in Ephesians 1:4-5 that He called each one of us before the foundations of the world were laid.

Before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his in Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him. Because of his love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would bring us to himself as his sons – this was his pleasure and purpose.
(Ephesians 1:4-5 – TEV – Today's English Version)

What a marvelous thing to contemplate! He planned many, many things concerning us, including when would be the very best time for each of us to be born. God called every one of us who are living now in these latter days for specific purposes and for a marvelous destiny – that of being heirs together with Christ in the Kingdom of God when it is established on the earth.

Let's all be encouraged to live this year with a renewed sense of purpose and zeal for God and His Truth as revealed in His Word. As we go about living our lives daily, let us resolve to let "The Master's Touch" be a vital and integral part. Also let us determine no matter what jobs we are called upon to do in this life, that we will accomplish them to the best of our ability, no matter how small or insignificant they might seem to us. Let us do them with all our might as we are led and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God.

And finally: If we're parents or grandparents – then work at setting the best teaching and most loving godly example. If we're employees in demanding jobs – strive to be the best employees. If we're students – then study with a thirsty appetite to learn. If we're called to be voices in the choir – then sing out! If we're called to be small voices in expressing the Truth of God – call it out! If we're called to be the "salt of the earth" – then let's be the best loving servants around, and let the salt pour! If we're called to be a witness for God to a hurting world – let it show! And, if we are all truly soldiers of Christ – then let us march in step forward together to the tune that is being played through each one of us by... "The Master's Touch!"

May God guide, help and bless you so that through you, as a fine instrument in His hands, He will produce beautiful "*music*" for the benefit of others and for His glory.

Aquila and Priscilla

"Aquila and Priscilla" is a column on Christian Living, produced by the mutual efforts of long-time Church of God members, James and Martha Morrison – a k a – Aquila and Priscilla.

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