

Acts 19.1- 20.1

No Little Disturbance

Dr LUKE paid by Wealthy Patron: Theophilis > Examine Jesus/followers

Extensive Research > 2 Vols Bold Conclusion: Jesus TRUE > Follow

As we've tracked Paul's Travels > Ancient Cities DOMINANT Religion

Statue goddess Athena – High on Parthenon at highest pt of ATHENS

Corinth Skyline massive hill, Temple of Aphrodite – goddess of Love

Ephesus: goddess Diana R / Artemis G – Temple 4 X's larger Parthenon

120 yrs Build: Center of Education, Economy, & Religion – **7 Wonders**

**Multi-Tasking goddess producing Industry after Industry**

Huge Sporting Games > held every Year in Shadow of Temple

Banking, Learning, Worshipping, Thinking, Tourism Dominated by Diana

Greatest CATHEDRAL of Paganism in Ancient World > Roman Empire

Paul Wanted be in Ephesus for Long Time: Most Influential City Asia

Paul and his companions...having been *kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.*  
Acts 16.6

They arrived at Ephesus...Paul...went into synagogue & reasoned with the Jews. When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. But as he left, he promised, "I will come back if it is God's will"  
Acts 18.19-21

NOW God's Time: Continuous, Extensive Ministry in Strategic City

v. 1 Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus.

Take Place of Antioch > Ephesus become Center of GENTILE Mission

3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Library in World – Ephesus Intellectual Center of Asia

Antiquity Slang 'Ephesian Writings' = Magic Chants, Incantations, Spells

1. People Need the Spirit (vs. 1-7)

End Ch 18 ...a Jew named Apollos... he spoke with great fervor & taught about Jesus accurately, though *he knew only the baptism of John - 24,25*

DID much w/ Little Knowledge of Gospel, More most w/ Whole Bible!

Ch 19 – 12 Others knew ONLY Baptism of John – Converts of Apollos?

v. 1 While Apollos was at Corinth...Paul...found some disciples

DISCIPLES = FOLLOWERS – On the Road, Not yet Arrived at JESUS

Acts: Luke uses word 'DISCIPLE' - Not Always Mean SAVED Xtian

v. 2 "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

Basic Assumption: Those who Believe Already Have the Holy Spirit

Reason give Water Baptism because Already Received SPIRIT Baptism

v. 3 Paul "what baptism did you receive?" "**John's baptism**" they replied

Not What Denomination? Worship Style? Bible Translation? Podcast?

What Baptism: Most Fundamental Identity of Believer > BAPTISM

*Subliminal Advertisement – Having Baptism @ KEOKEA August 25!*

Baptism PRE-Pentecost: NOT Father, Son, Holy Spirit: Xtian Baptism

“They were still living in the Old Testament” John Stott

v. 2 "we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Holy Spirit Taught in Hebrew Scriptures AND John's Preaching

NOT Know Promised Holy Spirit ALREADY been POURED OUT!

2 8 10 19  
4<sup>th</sup> Outpouring of Spirit Acts – Pentecost – Samaria – Cornelius – Ephesus

If Not KNOW you have the Holy Spirit – You probably are NOT Saved

If you do not WALK in the Power of the Spirit – You need to be FILLED

Being Filled w Spirit NOT Optional – Not Upgrade – Command for All

Every Believer is Pentecostal – Gifted, Empowered by Spirit

“if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ” Romans 8.9

## 2. People Need the Scriptures (vs. 8-10)

No Change in Paul's Tactics > Enters New City for Jesus > JEW First...

**Just Days after Meeting Jesus:** At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God  
Acts 9.20,22

10 Chapters LATER in Acts – 20 Years LATER – NOW in Ephesus

v. 8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

“he believed the gospel to be true, he was not afraid to engage the minds of his hearers.. he marshaled arguments to support and demonstrate his case...the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and he brings people to faith in Jesus not in spite of the evidence, but because of the evidence...he opens their minds”  
John Stott

a. Arguing Not Attacking v. 8 spoke boldly...arguing persuasively

Some: WRONG – UNCHRISTIAN – UNCARING - ARROGANT

Word ‘**spoke boldly**’ 6 X’s in Acts > All Done by PAUL / All to JEWS

DIFFERENT OPINIONS – STRONG Disagreement – NEVER HATRED

NO FORCE or VIOLENCE – Can PEACEFULLY Co-Exist in World

v. 9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them.

Thessalonica – 3 Weeks > EPHESUS in Synagogue 3 MONTHS

Became CLEAR Paul/Pharisee > Presenting Radically different Teaching

REJECTED System of LAWS/Traditions BOUND 1<sup>st</sup> C JEWS

When we enter an area, we need to spread the gospel...But proclamation is not enough. It must be followed by actualization...so people living in the cities will be able to say, “Not only are these Christians speaking the gospel to us, but they are living it too.” James Boice

b. Big Gospel v. 8 “about kingdom of God” / ‘**Kingdom**’ - 7 X’s in Acts

Paul BEAT Same Drum - in EACH CITY – Asian or European! – Jesus!

SAME GOSPEL in Each Venue – Synagogue, Shopping Center, Streets

Pts ALL to Jesus: Slave/Free, Men/Women, Jew/Gentile, Rich/Poor

Jesus fulfilled OT Hopes & Promises > Begins REIGN of God: Kingdom

Point of Spear > SWORD is Scriptures wielded by SPIRIT

v. 26 And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that man-made gods are no gods at all.

v. 9,10 He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Moves to NEUTRAL Building – Open to ANY & ALL in Roman ASIA

Today should GO where People Are – Not just MAKE them Come to US!

Strategic City – Gospel Spread thru Roman Asia / Modern Turkey

7 Churches Revelation > Reached without Paul GOING to Each City

Ephesus 3 yrs / LONGEST Time in One City we Know About

Wrote Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians > Reveal Themes of Teaching

Been Xtian 50 yrs – Visited Many Churches/Countries – Lots of New Things / Gimmicks  
Ministry / Technique / Song / Preacher / Church / New Silver Bullet!

Paul's Gimmick > GOD, Scriptures, Holy Spirit, Jesus

Paul taught BIBLE in Ephesus DAILY > Kalahikiola: 2 X's Keep it Short

Gloss in Text – Scribe NOT Spirit: v. 9 “taught from 11 am to 4 pm”

John Calvin > French Pastor came to EVIL City of Geneva, Switzerland

Preached 2 X's Sun / 1 Mon / 1 Tues / 1 Wed / 1 Thur / 1 Fri / 1 Sat

3 yrs Citizens of Geneva: Stop! No More Bible! Kicked Stassburg/ pastor

Geneva MORE Evil > Strassburg > Begged Calvin Return

ADDED Condition > Daily Preaching AND Wednesday Day of PRAYER

God Blessed > Switz > RICHES, SAFETY, ORDER >> Why?

Being LOST Now by Godless Secularism > PAGANISM gripped Switz

v. 10 “all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord”

10 Yrs LATER > Paul, 30 Years of Gospel Ministry – Last Letter

Writes Faithful Son TIMOTHY – BISHOP of Church in EPHESUS

PAUL in Roman Prison – SOON to be EXECUTED

“everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me” 2 Timothy 1.15

Preached 30 yrs FAILURE? Alone! Might CHANGE Message

“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season... For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching... the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing” 2 Timothy 4.2-8

### 3. People Need Salvation (vs. 11- 20)

v. 13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits...

Ephesus was the waterhole for every kind of magician, witch, clairvoyant, and criminal. Con artists, murderers, and perverts all found the climate of Ephesus unusually agreeable. That city was the Dark Castle of Asia Minor. R. Kent Hughes

Jews had Super-Powerful Magic, Name of their God, Secret, Unspeakable

NEW Preacher with MORE Power > Gaining INFLUENCE in Ephesus

Time for Jews WIN back Clients > Gain Upper Hand in Magic Business

v. 13 ...tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."

Dangerous: LITTLE BIT of KNOWLEDGE of ELECTRICITY

American Religion > Whatever works – crystals, seances, gurus, mediums, nutritional supplements, herbal remedies, healing workshops, yoga meditation, channeling, sexual experimentation, bits and pieces from Daoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Shinto, Islam, Scientology, astrology...you name it, we will try it.

vs. 14-16 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Dangerously Correct – ‘Jesus, whom Paul preaches’ – Hugely Mistaken Foolish think Could Manipulate Messiah > True Deity not their Dummy Lord Jesus lets Imposters feel CLOSE BRUSH with Power of True God

Today Teachers > Say “Name of Jesus” / “Blood” / Tongues > Incantation Need Jesus? Saved by Blood? YES! – Not Mumbo Jumbo Chant - FAITH Chanting is PAGAN – Taking Name of Lord IN VAIN – Power Socket! Sharp Contrast to Paul – Apostle Serves with HUMILITY & SWEAT

v. 12 ...even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

Awkward > Luke Scholar OUT of Comfort Zone > Foolish? SAW IT! People got in Paul’s Laundry Bag > Smelly Duds POWER from God! UNUSUAL – EXTRAORDINARY / REMARKABLE / AMAZING! Paul NOT PROFITING from MAGIC > PREACHING the MESSIAH Luke’s Point: Not about Paul: Not WIZARD, Just SWEATY WORKER

v. 11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul

Paul / Christians made NO Attempt to STAMP Out MAGIC from Ephesus

POSITIVE Tone of Paul’s Evangelism > Jesus LOVES and SAVES!

“we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”  
Ephesians 6.12

v. 18,19 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. = Millions of Dollars!

Book Burning & Idol Burning NOT imposed by Preachers or Ayatollahs  
 Willing Choice Xtian People under CONVICTION of Sin by God's Spirit  
 Ending SLAVE Trade cost England & US equiv of BILLIONS of Dollars  
 Great Loss \$ RIGHT Thing to DO > DRUGS, PORN, TRAFFICKING

v. 17 When this became known to Jews & Greeks in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor

PRAYER "Revive us beginning with Me!" Really? R U Ready for That!  
 Spirit of God go thru Closets, Finances, Habits, Addictions, Thoughts?  
 When that happened in Ephesus: All ASIA heard Good News of Jesus  
 Kalahikiola – Holy? Or Hypocritical? > Holy begins HUMILITY!  
 Paul's Primary Work in 3 Years in Ephesus – WORD of God

#### 4. People Need to Decide (vs. 21-40)

Before Xtianity becomes Religion of Area > Existing Religion Paganism  
 Different gods with Rival Powers who hold People in Fear and Ignorance  
 People in Kapa'au bowing down to Statue of Kamehameha on June 11  
 Rejecting Jesus & Gospel not Create Empty Vacuum > Invite many gods  
 "When people cease to believe in God, they do not then believe in nothing, but in anything!"  
 G.K. Chesterton

Ch 19 Ends with LONG Account of RIOT in City of Ephesus

Root of Conflict > Economic Impact of Moral Behavior of Believers

vs. 25-27 Paul... says that man-made gods are no gods at all... temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited.. robbed of her divine majesty."

Appealed to Civic Pride & Economic Survival > Great DANGER!

Economic LOSSES – Artisans, Priests, Temple Prostitutes, Butchers

EPHESUS had FESTIVALS – Athletic Games, Orgies, Feasting, Drinking

CRAZY Shouting for HOURS - "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

MANY do NOT Know WHY or WHAT They're SHOUTING!

Roman Authorities WANT Maintain CONTROL > NO Open BORDER

I STOOD in Amphitheater of Ephesus – Still There – Seats 25,000 People

Paul STOOD with BLOOD THIRSTY, Angry Crowd SHOUTING!

PROBABLY thinking of this MOMENT...If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained?  
1 Corinth 15.32

vs. 35-41 The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: "Men of Ephesus... be quiet and not do anything rash...these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess..."

Luke > ROME has NO CASE Against Church of Jesus Christ

v. 17 ...the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus...were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

v. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Need to Wisely & Winsomely make Clear "Jesus Christ is Lord and God!"

PRACTICE our PROFESSION with UNCOMPROMISING LOYALTY to Him

People Need the Spirit / People Need the Savior / People Need the Scriptures

People Need to Decide

### **Congregational Prayer**

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! 2 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" 3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. 5 They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. 6 They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. 7 They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. 8 Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them. 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

### **Glory to our God! Ask Him to reveal Himself to you, so that you can share Him with others.**

12 The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; 13 he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great. 14 May the LORD give you increase, you and your children! 15 May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth! 16 The heavens are the LORD's heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man. 17 The dead do not praise the LORD, nor do any who go down into silence. 18 But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

(Psalm 115.1-18). Amen and Amen