

Acts Chapter 19 Handout

Paul keeps his promise by returning to Ephesus where he spends at least two, and maybe even three, years.

v.1-7 – While Apollos was at Corinth Paul eventually comes to Ephesus in the province of Asia. He first encounters twelve disciples baptized unto John's baptism: a baptism unto repentance but not of identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Incomplete knowledge, just as Apollos' knowledge was. They probably had not heard of the promise fulfilled on the day of Pentecost of the Holy Spirit, although John had spoken of the Holy Spirit and the Old Testament spoke of the Holy Spirit. Paul pointed them to Jesus the Christ, they were baptized in the name of the Lord, then Paul laid hands and they received the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and prophesying. (Acts 2:4; 8:16,17; 10:44-48; 19:5,6)

v.8-10 – As usual, Paul first went to synagogue and spent three months disputing and persuading, but when "that way" was rejected, he left them, separated disciples, and continued persuading in the school of TYRANNUS. From there gospel was spread throughout Asia. This continued the space of two years. One manuscript say Paul ministered from 11am to 4pm (from fifth hour to the tenth hour)

v.11-20 – And God worked "special miracles" (unusual) so that from his body were brought handkerchiefs and aprons to the sick and diseases and evil spirits went out of them. Vagabond Jews (traveling around) were doing exorcisms (common practice at the time), but some began to use the name of the Lord Jesus, commanding spirits to come out. Seven sons of a high priest named Sceva were doing this, but when they tried to command the spirit out, the spirit spoke and said he didn't know who they were; and the spirit came on them, beat them up, and lead them into the street "naked and wounded". USING JESUS NAME WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP. Fear fell on Jews and Greeks and some believed, bringing their books and charms and burning them publicly. The word of God grew mightily and prevailed.

v.21-41 – Paul sends Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia, probably to collect money for needy saints in Jerusalem. He would also receive monies in Achaia. His plan is to go to Jerusalem and finally get to Rome. Ephesus was the home of the Temple of Diana (Artemis), one of the 7 wonders of the world. Silversmiths made money by making miniatures of that temple. Paul's preaching that these God's were not real and that there is only one true God was going to harming their business. Demetrius, probably head of the silversmiths guild, publicly protested, provoked a mob by saying, Temple of Diana is despised and her magnificence destroyed, and our craft is in danger. Companions of Paul, Gaius and Aristarchus, were seized. Friends of Paul, Asiarchs (v.31) convinced him not to go into the theatre. Alexander was put forward by the Jews to issue a disclaimer, but when crowd discovered he was a jew they chanted for Diana. The town clerk, responsible for maintaining order and not wanting them to lose their status as a free city, declared crowds action as illegal and made them disperse. After this Paul would leave and go into Macedonia.