

The Acts of the Apostles

Chapter 19

The Securing of Ephesus

Memory Verse: Titus 1:5

“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:”

I. Introduction

- A. The work of the Holy Spirit in this day and age involves a battle between the forces of God and Satan.
1. In the Book of Acts, we are witnessing the battlegrounds where beachheads were landed and taken by God's soldiers.
 2. We will see today the fall of Ephesus to the Gospel by the establishment of the Ephesian church by the apostle Paul.
- B. Recently we have covered:
1. Chapter 13 “God's Call to Service”
 2. Chapter 14 “Suffering While Serving”
 3. Chapter 15 “Settling New Testament Salvation”
 4. Chapter 16 “The Second Missionary Journey”
 5. Chapter 17 “Searching the Scriptures”
 6. Chapter 18 “Spiritual Overdrive”

II. Background

At this point in Acts, we leave Apollos in Corinth and pick up Paul:

- A. He is starting his *Third Missionary Journey* (see 18:23)
- B. He is approaching the city of Ephesus
- C. He is alone again - shouldn't be this way, but it is sometimes

III. Lesson - "The Securing (Conquest) of Ephesus"

A. Re-born and Re-baptized (19:1-7)

1. Paul meets some “disciples” (19:1-4) of _____ in this city of Ephesus some 700 miles away from Israel! The Bible, and its message has always been well-read throughout the world. The principle of “waves of influence” (O.T., John the Baptist, then N.T.)
2. Paul says, “Have ye received the _____ since ye believed?”
 - a. This chapter is a charismatic favourite!
 - b. Notice that everybody “believes” something. It is _____ you believe that matters
 - c. According to the charismatic crowd, the following is true:
 - 1) A person can be “saved” but not have the “_____” (Cf Rom 8:9) - referred to as the second blessing
 - 2) You can receive the “HOLYGHOST,” but you must have _____ of it
 - 3) The definitive evidence of the “HOLYGHOST” is speaking in _____ (what Scripture they use I do not know!)
 - 4) We will deal with more of this in a minute
3. The disciples reply with “Who is this Holy Ghost?” The Holy Spirit is not clearly identified in the Old Testament (see Gen 1:2; Ps 51:11)
4. Paul now attempts to find out just “what” these disciples believe:
 - a. Questions their baptism! “Unto WHAT then were ye baptized?”
 - b. They respond, “Unto John the Baptist's baptism”
 - 1) A baptism of _____ (Mt 3:11)
 - 2) Preparing people's hearts **for** the _____. Not sufficient in itself! It didn't save anyone, just _____ them.

DOCTRINALLY: These men only knew and believed what John the Baptist taught - that the Messiah was coming very soon, and people had better get ready for Him. But John's baptism was not enough! Questioning them about the Holy Ghost helped them see their need for the Saviour!

EXAMPLE: God asking Adam “Where are you?” in Gen 3:9. God knew where Adam was, but the question was whether ADAM knew where he was?

5. Paul re-baptizes the disciples (19:5) - not every disciple is saved!
- a. These disciples " _____ " the good news about Jesus the promised Christ, and become "born-again", not just religious (i.e., following a man).
PRINCIPLE: They had no pride about what they believed when it was compared to the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross! They accepted that **they were wrong**, and that God was right! Oh, give us a nation of surrendered hearts!
 - b. They were then "re-baptized"
 - 1) Their first baptism was just "getting wet" It did not count!
 - 2) Your baptism identifies what you believe, and who you are following (1 Cor 10:1) - Israel believed God was working through Moses, and that they were to follow him!
 - 3) So, who needs to be "re-baptized"?
 - a) Anyone who believes that Jesus Christ was not sufficient to save you from sin and hell, but that a person must work his/her way to heaven!
 - b) Anyone who was baptized as an infant without a full understanding of even "WHAT" they believe!
 - c) Anyone who did not believe that Jesus is God in the flesh when they were baptized! Includes someone who denies the virgin birth, and total deity of Christ.
 - d) Anyone who was not truly "born again" when they were baptized before.
- PRINCIPLE: Baptism identifies you with what you believe just like a military uniform identifies a person with what branch of the military they are serving in (Rom 6:1-6)! Make sure you are truly born again, and correctly baptized!
- False Baptisms:
- a) A baptism performed by yourself - must be by a mature Christian, considered an elder or Pastor
 - b) A baptism done in secret - must be public
 - c) A baptism done as part of your salvation - not of works!
 - d) A baptism done when you are a part of a church that denies the Bible in part or in whole, and therefore denies the Gospel in part or in whole

6. God brings about a change in those disciples (19:6,7)
- a. Paul lays his hands upon them... Uh Oh! Here come them charismatics again!
 - 1) A supposed "proof text" for Healing meetings, miracles, signs and wonders, etc...
 - 2) "Place your hands upon the radio, or TV and FEEL the power of God as it..."
 - b. The Holy Ghost comes upon them at the time of their salvation.
 - 1) They spoke in *true* tongues (See 1 Cor 14:22) - understood languages (as those spoken in Acts 2 and 10), not "unknown" gibberish! They SPOKE-UP (were not ashamed)
 - 2) They prophesied (began to witness) - told the future, "People are headed for hell"
 - 3) In other words, a change had taken place in their lives! These guys had been religiously waiting for the Messiah, but were now saved and on fire for the Lord!

PRINCIPLE: Salvation is "SOMEBODY MOVING INTO YOUR LIFE." Therefore, your life should change.

EXAMPLE: Marriage. Somebody "moves into your life" and "cleans it up" AMEN, and makes it better than before!!!

B. The Revival at Ephesus (19:8-20)

1. By way of background, revival starts with the consistent _____ of the Gospel, and Bible truth! Doesn't come out of "thin air!"
 - a. Paul goes to the Jew First (right to the synagogue in Ephesus) - tries to teach the Bible to them - they reject it. Notice the effort to persuade people (Cf 26:18) - there is urgency and striving
 - 1) People can either become soft, or hardened under the gospel
 - 2) These Jews ended up disgusted with it - their own choice
 - b. Paul then goes to the Gentile (he rents out a school building to keep teaching the Bible)
 - 1) To dispute is to _____ - challenge what people believed
 - 2) It is sad when no one wants to think - want it done for them
 - 3) Paul taught this Bible EVERYDAY for ___ years -
 - 4) From that little schoolroom went preachers, and missionaries that spread out into all of Asia minor! That is the normal result of believing this Book - action (1 Thes 1:5-8)!
2. Revival always has _____ associated with it - maybe not these kind of miracles, but miracles nonetheless! These were special miracles by a special man with a special ministry (19:11,12; 9:15,16)

- a. God was doing the miracles through Paul, not every Christian!
 - b. With the apostles, there almost was a “free-for-all” where just about anything they did would work (see Matt 10:1) - not today!
3. Revival is always in _____ to the devil and his counterfeits (19:13-16):
- a. Vagabond Jews were outcasts, not accepted as Jews - weird, cults - the cults were expanding (as they are today)
 - b. *Exorcists* are _____ that pretended to “free people from evil spirits.” Sometimes, they tap into some real power using different incantations, and medicines (drugs) - using names, sayings.
 - c. These “exorcists” tried out the name of _____ - they had been to one of Paul’s meetings, and instead of repenting and receiving Christ, they thought to just USE Him - still standard today - people only want to USE Jesus (fire escape, Genie service)!
 - d. The head honcho of the group of vagabond Jews is named Sceva - he has seven sons who try out this new “formulae” first on a well known demon possessed man.
 - e. To *adjure you* is to command. This is where charismatics got it!
 - f. But it all backfires (19:15,16) - God teaches the entire city some things about devils, and about messing with them:
 - 1) The devils know Jesus - every demon knows and fears Jesus (James 2:19)
 - 2) The devils know Paul - what a great thing!
 - a) Do the devils know _____ name!
 - b) Does YOUR prayer life shake heaven and hell?
 - c) Heaven and hell knew all about Job - that’s what they talked about in Job 1 and 2
 - d) Heaven and hell knew all about Simon Peter (Lk 22:31)
 - 3) Supernatural _____ is associated with demon possession (Mk 5:1-4)
 - 4) These 7 sons had only been dabbling in exorcism - *it would be like a couple of kids trying to take on Arnold Swartzenegger* - Demons are very powerful
 - 5) Don’t mess with Oui-ja boards, Tarot cards, Fortune tellers, Horrorscopes, etc! You will only end up wounded, and more empty (19:16)!
4. What is Revival?
- a. **Coming alive** after a long sleep, or even death - resurrection
 - b. Examples include: _____, _____ on the day of Pentecost and following weeks, and _____ here.
 - c. It is when people who are spiritually dead, are quickened (come to life) by being truly saved by Almighty God’s grace (Eph 2:1)
 - d. Revival can happen to just one individual, or to an entire community - it all just depends upon the number of people who have been prepared (ie, the harvest depends upon how much ground has been plowed).
5. The Five Signs of Real Revival (19:17-20) - It comes when we have:
- a. **The Fear of God!** (19:17) - This is the most important key!!!
 - 1) Godly fear is _____! The right kind of fear can save a person's soul from hell (Jude 21-23; Acts 10:2)! And it can keep them out of trouble!
 - 2) We normally only fear _____ (Prov 29:25; Gen 20:11)
 - 3) But there comes a time when we forget about man (John 12:42,43), and submit only to God because we realise:
 - a) Only He is GREAT in _____ (Ex 14:31) as at Red Sea, and in comprehending creation (Heb 1:1-3)!
 - b) Only He is _____ (Eccl 12:13,14; Mt 10:28)
 - c) Only He is _____ (Isa 43:11) - Don’t try and bypass His great love that He has presented us!
 - 4) The fear of God is shown in our:
 - a) Respect of His _____ (Isa 66:1,2) - being in awe of it!
 - b) Respect of His will (James 1:22) whether we do it, or just say it (Mt 15:8,9) - opposite is being stubborn
 - c) Love back to God - not living in terror of Him, but knowing Him - the fear of God gives us a right balance
 - d) Disgust of sin - true fear will keep you from sinning. If you have a problem with sin, it is because you feel nothing will happen if you sin anyway!
 - 5) How fear should be part of your life:
 - a) In your _____ - realise you have no rights, and so all the more depend upon Christ
 - b) In your struggle with _____ - realise that God WILL chastise us when we sin (Prov 8:13; Heb 12:9,11)

- c) In your presentation of the _____ - not to be all “love, love, love,” but explain the reason for their need to be SAVED - sin sends us to hell (Rom 6:23)!
- d) In your _____ - learn to not be afraid of anybody, except God - be a God-fearing man, or woman, and people will respect you greatly, and God will honour you highly (Ps 112:1)
- b. **Jesus Christ being magnified** (19:17; Ezek 36:23)
- 1) The fear of the Lord (Acts 19:17) produces a healthy respect for the Name of the Lord (Acts 19:13; Ex 20:7)!
 - 2) What is important in your home; in your heart; on your job? Money, prestige, accomplishment? For the Christian, it is the magnification of ___ NAME above all others - Jesus!
 - a) Above all rock stars - Spice Girls, Michael Jackson, etc
 - b) Above all movies stars
 - c) Above all money makers and successful business people
 - d) Above all goals, and desires, and hopes
 - e) Above yourself, and even above your needs
 - 3) Not just dealing with the name “___” which is really a title. Everyone (even devils) believes in God, and talks about God (which ‘god’ I am not always sure). Yet everyone has a problem with *the Name of Jesus* - from presidents, on down to newspaper editors! And even ministers now don’t want to offend anyone by using that name - as generic as possible!
 - 4) Not dealing with _____ of Jesus on walls in homes, or on buildings in Cuba, but with the person and Name of Jesus! What happens when the name **Jesus** is spoken in your home? Is it a curse word, or only used in desperation?
 - 5) What is so special about that Name?
 - a) It is a _____ name (Acts 3:6; 4:10; Philp 2:9-11)
 - b) It is a _____ name (Acts 4:12; Rom 10:13)
 - c) It is our authority in prayer (John 14:13,14; 15:16; 16:23,24) - His name is all we need to refer to!
 - d) It is the only name we _____ (Acts 9:15; 1 Cor 1:22,23) - all Scriptures point to Christ!
 - e) It is the name we _____ (Mt 18:20)! Any religion that places the emphasis on ANY other name than Jesus is of the devil - period!
 - 6) The name of the Lord must be magnified (Ps 34:3; Phil 2:9-11), glorified, projected BIG - How?
 - a) In your confidence in _____ - all because HE promises, and because of the power that is simply in His name! Not as in a magical spell, but in a sweet surrender to the One that **will** supply your every need!
 - b) In your _____ as an open testimony - All glory should go to His name - like an athlete representing his or her country - their country should receive the glory - where Christ’s name proudly like a runner does the name of their country on their jersey.
 - c) In your _____ - they are to reflect His heritage, His investment - they should proudly carry Christ’s name as they do yours! Your children carry Christ’s name better than you usually because they do it with no fear!
 - d) In your _____ - that name is HOLY, and should be praised as often as possible, and used in thankfulness.
- c. **Sinners confessing their sin publicly** (not to some priest!) (19:18; 2Chron 7:14; 1Jn 1:9) real humiliation, real repentance!
- 1) Salvation occurs in the following stages
 - a) First there is a realization of sin’s power and design
 - b) Then there is a _____ of God
 - c) Then a repentance of heart - hatred of sin and self
 - d) Then the receiving of God’s gift of forgiveness
 - e) Then the _____ of what happened (Rom 10:9-11) - they have an openness of life - their old life is dead now anyway, and they don’t want to keep it around, so it is proudly dumped!
 - 2) Confession means _____ *out our sins*! Don’t be general! Some of the sins we need to confess:
 - a) _____ (Rom 1:21)- complaining, and disrespectful
 - b) _____ - not willing to trust God
 - c) Neglect of _____ duties (Hab 2:5; Tit 2:3-5)
 - d) Our _____ (1 Tim 5:13)
 - e) Our _____ (Col 3:5; Heb 13:5,6)
 - f) Our _____ (Prov 6:16-19)! Self-righteousness
 - g) _____ in our hearts (Mt 5:28) - dreaming about someone else to replace our one-and-only!
 - 3) Confession means _____ *about your sin* - not trying to cover it (Prov 28:13), but the free release of it.

- a) These Ephesian Christians showed HOW they deceived people into following them by coming clean on the “tricks of the trade” - showing that most of it was a lie, but that the other was demonic!
 - b) They acknowledged that there was NOTHING good about their old lives - it was dumped!
 - c) They let everyone in on all their secrets about how they tricked people into following idols and false worship (i.e., astrology, hypnosis, magic tricks, drugs - all playing on the mind, and all to get your money)
 - d) If your sin is behind you, you will have no problem discussing it, and hating it - not always talking about it, but publicly taking sides when necessary!
- 4) Confession means _____ (19:19; Prov 28:13)
- a) They burned the stuff that was demonic and sinful
 - b) They did it publicly - just like baptism - burying the old life, and setting out on the new one!
 - c) They benefited nothing off of it - did not sell it, or even give it away - they destroyed it by fire!

It would do us a world of good if we had a bon-fire of all the records, CDs, and videos that plague our homes - the demonic books and magazines that have no place in our lives!

b. **The "burning of bridges" (19:19)**

- 1) They had a book burning. The *right kind* of book burning!
 - a) Got rid of the things that had kept them away from God
 - i) Books on magic, tarot cards, hypnosis
 - ii) Books on the strange and unusual (UFOs, ESP)
 - iii) Books on drugs - all religions have _____ men
 - b) Resisted the devil's influence in their lives and community! Were not going to _____ it anymore - that's where it all starts - with a tolerance with rock music, drink, drugs (legalized drugs), etc!
 - c) Made their commitment to God a public matter! Public baptism begins this commitment!
- 2) If today, then it would have included records, and CDs, and Magazines, Videos, Satellite frequencies, MMDS boxes!!!
 - a) Realize our natural tendency to _____ (Acts 7:39)
 - b) Stop being _____ of where you came from (Heb 11:14-16; Cf Ps 40:2)
 - c) Pay the price - make a visible presentation of your vow (that's what baptism is - a visible representation of what happened on the inside):
 - 1. Don't try to hide your sins under a rug (Ex 32:20)
 - 2. Don't think things won't affect you (Dt 7:25,26)
 - 3. Don't hold onto things that keep you from being what Christ wants you to be (Mt 5:29,30)

PRINCIPLE: Burn the _____ back to those "old ways" of yours that kept you away from serving and loving God. Don't retain tempting materials! Too many people get “saved,” but keep old Elvis, Beatles, and Oasis albums; old beer bottle collections; keep the Satellite dish up, etc.

People end up keeping a way “back” to the old life, and seem to keep ending up back where they came from!

- 3) Other things we hold onto that belong in the bin:
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____

c. **The prevalence of the word of God (19:20).** The word of God was growing, and **prevailing** in every home over the TV, newspaper, radio, football games, lottery winnings and video games!

- 1) People _____ to know what God said, and what God thought, and what God wanted! Tired of all the hype about “self” and fashion, and soaps, and shapes, etc!
- 2) Started in every _____ - you cannot legislate total morality (some legislation is needed: pornography, theft, etc), but you can change a world one house at a time, one family at a time! Just work on one person!
- 3) Spread throughout each city and village (Acts 13:49)

NOTE: Nowhere does anybody speak in tongues, get healed, or prophesy! This was real revival!

- 4) The word of God _____ mightily, not the word of men (Acts 6:7; 12:23,24; Isa 55:11; 2 Thes 3:1). That is **THE** characteristic of true revival!
 - a) It had the _____ that the people had been looking to the other books for

- b) It had the _____ to modern spiritual ills - not in drugs, or in education, or in leadership and politics, but in trusting the promises and obeying God's commands!
 - c) It had something about it that was majestic and powerful - not wimpy and empty - the word of God (Mt 4:4)
 - d) It was the power behind _____ - no longer vain repetition, but confidence because you knew God's will!
- 5) So, what are the enemies to the word of God?
- a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____
 - d) _____
 - e) _____

C. The Retaliation of the Devil (19:21-41)

1. Paul has got to be on his way to Jerusalem. He just can't stick around and enjoy "the blessings" - He has work to do that beckons him on!
 - a. He has a long-term vision: the call of starting churches (plural) - can't just sit around and enjoy growing old!
 - b. He needed to gather an offering for the struggling Christians (saints) in Jerusalem (famine)
2. Beyond Jerusalem lies _____, Paul's final destination, with a detour to Spain and maybe even England (Rom 15:24,28).

PRINCIPLE: Mountaintop experiences can lead to some deep dark valleys, as we shall see here.

3. The Riot (19:23-34)
 - a. The Gospel and big-business don't mix. Yet, _____ and big-business DO! (Christmas, Easter Bunnies, Halloween)
 - b. Demetrius calls his union officials together and organizes a stand-off against these economic trouble-makers (vss 24-28)
 - 1) Silversmiths - primarily _____ makers (Barbies, Spice-Girl dolls, posters, pornographic magazines - all idol-makers)
 - 2) Paul's message was ruining the custom, the trade of these silversmiths - how? By stealing silver? No!
 - a) By transforming the hearts and hunger of individuals!
 - b) The only way to completely ruin the drug culture is one _____ at a time!
 - c) God's word destroys liquor shops, pubs, adult shops, Sky movies, music, MTV, etc, etc! Amen!
 - d) Paul's message attacked their god (Phlp 3:18,19) Amen
 - c. The whole city goes into a state of _____ (19:29-32).
 - 1) The world loves a demonstration!
 - 2) Yet most who participate in riots and demonstrations don't even know WHAT they are demonstrating against or for! (See the Middle East for instance)
 - d. People rarely deal with facts - only with fear and shouting!
 - 1) "GREAT IS _____ OF THE EPHESIANS!" Really should be "GREAT IS OUR INCOME BY DIANA"
 - 2) Diana was not the goddess of hunting, but the goddess of the _____! She was the power of fertility (love), and was portrayed as a hunter that went out to strike with a love dart - she was a sex goddess, and was pornographic in design - and all Ephesus loved her, worshipped her, and had idols of her! She is still around today as female singers and models!
 - 3) 25,000 screaming Ephesians fill the theatre as two of Paul's helpers are seized and placed in the centre of the mob!
4. The conclusion of the riot. God handled things through a lost man! The _____ (19:35-41)
 - a. Paul attempted to face the crowd - he wanted to do *something*!
 - b. But many influential people who were now Christians worried about Paul's life - did not know what was right to do.
 - c. Alexander, an unbelieving Jew, attempts to explain that the Jews had nothing to do with this "_____" - but he is shut-out too!
 - d. For _____ hours the shouting continued!
 - e. Then a simple town-clerk arrived and kicked everybody out!

PRINCIPLE: Sometimes you don't even have to speak for God to get you out of tough situations! You just keep faithful to God and God will keep faithful to you!

VI. Conclusion - Review of the Principles

IV. Study Questions