



A just weight  
and balance



are the  
LORD'S.

Thus saith the Lord...

- **Acts 19**

Paul goes to  
**Ephesus,**

- Its temple of  
**Diana**

was one of the  
**seven wonders of the world;**

- In the time of Paul,  
**it was reckoned**  
**the glory of all Asia.**

- Two thousand years ago, Ephesus was the major port of modern-day Turkey,
- And the Romans called the city the crown jewel of Asia Minor.
  - At its peak, 400,000 lived there,
- And the international trade that arrived daily made it one of the most famous cities in the world.

- Into this pagan, metropolitan environment walked Paul.
  - And there had been **no advance team** preparing the people for his message.
  - He certainly had **no guarantee** that anyone would listen to his message.

- He had, after all,  
**struck out in Athens,**  
just across the sea,  
in Greece.
- In cities like  
**Thessalonica** and **Philippi**,  
his stay had been extremely brief.
- With so many people in Ephesus,  
**it would appear take a miracle**  
to get the message to the masses.

- Acts 19 tells us that  
**"all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord,"**  
**(Acts 19:10)**
- Undoubtedly, many of the travelers who passed through Ephesus took **Paul's message to their next destination.**
  - From Ephesus, Paul had an **international ministry.**

- Acts 19:1-41
- This chapter tells of Paul's wonderful ministry in Ephesus and relates his contacts with three groups of people.
  - I. Paul and Twelve Ignorant Disciples  
(Acts 19:1-12)
  - II. Paul and Seven Jewish Pretenders  
(Acts 19:8-20)
  - III. Paul and the Silversmiths  
(Acts 19:21-41)

- # 1 Twelve Ignorant Disciples  
**(Act 19:1-12)**

**Acts 19:1**

**And it came to pass,  
that, while Apollos was at Corinth,  
Paul having passed through  
the upper coasts came to Ephesus:  
and finding certain disciples,**

**These men are called  
“disciples”**

**because they were,  
like Apollos,  
to a certain extent  
instructed concerning Jesus.**

**But it did not make them Christians!**

- These men are called “disciples” because they were, like Apollos,  
to a certain extent had been instructed concerning Jesus,
- And what they already knew  
drew them to listen to Paul who came to teach the disciples and preach the gospel.

- Now be careful here with the word "**disciples**."
  - It doesn't mean they were "**Christians**."
    - It's obvious from this passage **that they weren't.**

- The word disciples means that they were "**learners**"
  - Those who "**followed the teachings**."
  - They were following **the teachings of John the Baptizer**
    - But this was **incomplete** to become a Christian.

- The point is,

**don't mistake this word**  
**“disciples”**

as indicating that  
these people were  
Christians.

- **Acts 19:3**

**And he said unto them,  
Unto what then were ye baptized?**

**And they said,  
Unto John's baptism.**

• **Acts 19:3 (KJV)**

And he said unto them,  
**Unto what then were ye baptized?**  
And they said,  
**Unto John's baptism.**

• **Act 19:3 (ASV)**

And he said,  
**Into what then were ye baptized?**  
And they said,  
**Into John's baptism.**

• The Greek  
is better translated as  
**Into what** (*eis tōi*).

{RWP,VWS}

- John's baptism lasted only until **Pentecost**;
- But the persons who had submitted to it while it was in force were **not required to be re-baptized**,
  - Hence the conclusion that the disciples here were baptized unto John's baptism at a time when it was **no longer valid**.

- John declared that **forgiveness of sins** is possible only on the **basis of repentance**.
- Thus there was no longer any need to bring a **sacrifice** or **offering**.
  - That was a **startling message** to these Jews.

- They had previously been required that forgiveness of sins **required an animal sacrifice.**
- The blood of the animal **was shed on their behalf.**
  - Thereby **God temporarily passed over their sins.**

- Thus allowing the the blood of the animal to provide

**temporary forgiveness.**

But John came  
**with the startling news.**

- John 1:29

**Behold the Lamb of God,  
which takes away  
the sin of the world.**

- Both John's baptism and Christ's baptism  
were preceded by repentance.

- Remission of sins  
was the result of both.

- However, the baptism of the great commission puts the believer into Christ.

- Whereas the baptism of John

didn't

after the church was established.

- And John insisted that their repentance **had to be real.**

- **Luke 3:8**

**Bring forth therefore fruits**

**worthy of repentance,**

**and begin not to say within  
yourselves,**

**We have Abraham to *our* father:**

- **for I say unto you,**

**That God is able of these stones**

**to raise up children unto Abraham.**<sup>20</sup>

• Luke 3:9

And now also  
the axe is laid unto  
the root of the trees:  
every tree therefore which brings  
not forth good fruit is hewn  
down, and cast into the fire.

3:10 And the people asked him,  
          saying,  
What shall we do then?

- That is, their actions  
**had to demonstrate that**  
**they really meant what they said**  
and would indeed  
turn from their evil.
- Then they were baptized  
**“unto repentance”**

- **Acts 19:3**

**And he said,**

**Into what then were ye baptized?**

- Paul recognizes that they were baptized “into” something;
- He implies that scriptural baptism is “into” something; hence, his question.
  - They very promptly answered:  
**“Into John’s baptism.”**
  - **This is the last mention**  
in the New Testament of  
John the Baptist.  
**{John the Baptizer}**

- They had been baptized by some of John's disciples

**after John's baptism had ceased;**

- Hence, their baptism  
**was not valid.**
- John's baptism was  
**out of date;**
- It was **only** in force during John's ministry, and was not to be continued.

- Acts 19:4
- The difference between "John's baptism" and "Christian baptism" is indicated in this verse.
- When John baptized a man he was required to believe on Christ who was to come.

- **But now John was dead and Christ had come**  
when Apollos was preaching,
- Hence it was **unscriptural** to use John's baptism.
  - Both baptisms were **"for the remission of sins,"** and both had to be **preceded by repentance** (**Mark 1:4; Acts 2:38**).
  - **But the latter was by the authority of Christ** which put the believer **into** His name.  
**(Matthew 28:19-20)**

- Acts 19:5

When they heard this,  
they were baptized  
in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- Acts 19:6

And when Paul  
had laid *his* hands upon them,  
the Holy Ghost  
came on them;  
and they spake  
with tongues,  
and prophesied.

- Let us not assume that we are to suddenly start speaking in tongues  
**following our baptism.**

- **Mark 16:20**

And they went forth,  
and preached every where,  
the Lord working with *them*,  
**and confirming the word**  
**with signs following**

- All examples in the New Testament of anyone receiving the Holy Spirit came through the “laying on of hands” by the Apostles.

- Acts 8:18 (ASV)

**Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands**

**the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,**

- And the only  
“outpouring”  
of the Holy Spirit  
was at Jesus baptism  
and  
the apostles  
on Pentecost.

(Matthew 3:16, Acts 2:3-4)

- Our next event:
- II. **Paul and Seven**  
**Jewish Pretenders**  
**(Acts 19:8-20)**

## Acts 19:13

Then certain of the vagabond Jews,  
exorcists, took upon them to call over  
them which had evil spirits the name of  
the Lord Jesus, saying,  
We adjure you by Jesus  
whom Paul preached.

19:14 And there were seven sons of one  
Sceva, a Jew, *and chief of the priests,*  
*which did so.*

## Acts 19:15-19

**And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?**

**19:16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.**

- This is a vivid bit  
of local color  
from the Ephesian scene.
- In those days everyone believed  
that illness and disease,  
and especially mental illness,  
were due to evil spirits  
who settled in a man.
  - Exorcism was  
a regular trade.

- If the exorcist  
knew the name of  
a more powerful spirit  
than that which had  
taken up residence  
in the afflicted person,  
by speaking that name  
he could overpower  
the evil spirit  
and make him depart.

- The human mind  
is a strange thing

and ever misguided  
and superstitious

- Jeremiah 17:9

**The heart is deceitful  
above all things,  
and desperately wicked:  
who can know it?**

•Acts 19:17

And this was known to all the Jews  
and Greeks also dwelling at  
Ephesus; and fear fell on them all,  
and the name of the Lord Jesus  
was magnified.

19:18 And many that believed  
came, and confessed,  
and shewed their deeds.

• Acts 19:19-20

Many of them also  
which used curious arts  
brought their books together,  
and burned them before all *men*:  
and they counted the price of them,  
and found it fifty thousand  
pieces of silver.

19:20 So mightily grew  
the word of God  
and prevailed.

- Acts 19:19
- There were open confessions of following Christ, and of the repentance of sin.
  - Former sorcery devotees publicly burned scrolls valued at 50,000 drachmas.
    - A drachma was a typical day's wage.

- The dramatic ruins of the city's massive library tell us how valued the people considered written material,  
and serve to increase the shocking impact the scroll-burning must have had on those who saw it.

- By the end of two years' work,

Ephesus was being radically changed.

- No wonder Luke tells us that

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

(Acts 19:20)

- # 3 The Silversmiths
  - (Acts 19:21-41)
    - Where Satan  
could not succeed  
in hindering the Gospel  
through the ignorant disciples  
or the Jewish pretenders,
    - He almost succeeded  
with the businessmen  
and merchants of the city.

- Ephesus prided itself on being custodian of the image of the **goddess Diana** that was supposed to have fallen from heaven.

• Acts 19:24

For a certain man  
named Demetrius,  
a silversmith,  
which made silver shrines  
for Diana,  
brought no small gain  
unto the craftsmen.

- Wherever you **find superstition,** you often find the **exhibition and sale of such religious items.**
- True Gospel preaching always runs head-on into such superstitious **money-making schemes,** **and Ephesus was no exception.**

- The guild (or union) of silversmiths  
**pretended that their concern was for the religion of the city,**

But their real worry  
**was loss of business!**

- The Gospel had so stirred the city  
**that people were turning from idols to the true God,**  
and this was hurting  
**"religious"** sales.
  - It is the same old adage:  
**"Follow the money"**

·The theater at Ephesus  
**accommodated 25,000.**

In protest of  
Paul's ministry  
the people gathered here.

·**Acts 19:32**

**Meanwhile the whole meeting  
was in an uproar:  
some people were shouting one thing,  
others were shouting something else,  
because most of them  
did not even know why  
they had come together.**

- The silversmiths  
used religion  
to generate emotion  
among the people,

and the result was a mob.

- The whole city was  
filled with confusion

which proves the situation  
was born of the devil,

(Acts 19:29)

- **For God is not the author of confusion**  
(1Cor 14:33).

- The  
**"town clerk"**  
kept the public records,  
He introduced business  
in the assembly;  
**(Acts 19:35)**
- All correspondence  
to Ephesus  
was addressed to him.
  - He was worried  
at the possibility of a riot.

- The one thing Rome would not tolerate  
**was civil disorder.**

- If there were riots then  
**Rome would want to know**  
**the reason why**

and the magistrates responsible might lose their positions.

- **He saved Paul**  
and his companions
- But he saved them because

**he was saving his own skin.**

- Satan was anxious
  - to prevent the establishing of the Lord's church** in Ephesus.
- This city had been
  - one of his strongholds for years,**with its **superstition, idolatry, and magical practices.**
- **Demonic activity** had prevailed in Ephesus,
- But now the **Spirit of God** was at work.

- Satan did not want a church at Ephesus, yet God established one there;
  - A reading of the book of Ephesians proves that it was a most spiritual church.
  - And this is what Satan did not want.

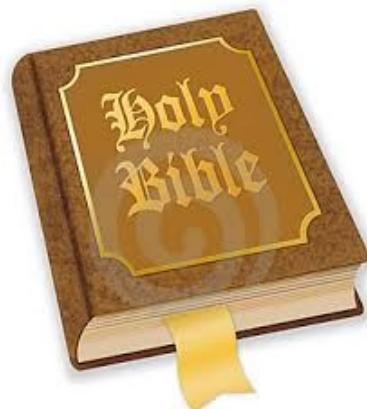
- **Satan still hinders**  
the work of the Lord  
in many ways:
  - **Weak brethren,**
  - **Counterfeits,**
  - **Open opposition.**
- But we may **overcome** the adversary
  - By **trusting** God,
  - And **preaching** the Word of God.
    - **Zechariah 4:6**  
**This is the word of the LORD**  
**saying,**  
**Not by might,**  
**nor by power,**  
**but by my spirit,**  
**saith the LORD of hosts.**

- Think on these things
- Philippians 4:8

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**



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