

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,  
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•

- **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**

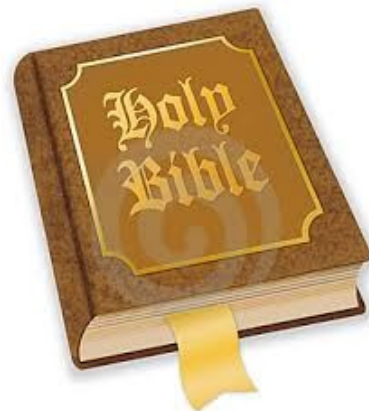
**This *is* the word of the LORD  
saying,  
Not by might,  
nor by power,  
but by my spirit,  
saith the LORD of hosts.**

- **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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