



## All Citizens Christian Church

**Bible Study:** Thursday, November 17, 2016.

**Topic:** Acts 19

**INTRODUCTION:** It appears Paul's first assignment when he landed at Ephesus was to ensure that the believers in Ephesus were balanced. True to it he found that there was an imbalance as the disciples were baptised unto John. He corrected this anomaly and baptised them in the name of Jesus.

As usual with Paul he proceeded to the synagogue but when he met stiff resistance, he left taking the disciples with him. Thereafter he ministered daily for two years at the lecture hall of Tyrannus and this resulted in the explosion of the word of God throughout the province of Asia. God sealed the ministry of Paul with signs and wonders such that even the cloth taken from his body was healing the sick.

From here the scripture discussed an encounter between the sons of one High priest called Sceva and a demon possessed man. These children of the High priest were trying to imitate Paul. The devil did not take this encounter lightly with them and he pounced on them and beat them up thoroughly.

The Chapter rounded up with the riot at Ephesus where a Silversmith named Demetrius tried to raise his fellow tradesmen against the work of Paul. Initially it appeared as if he was succeeding until the Mayor of Ephesus intervened and with great wisdom steered the people away from the path against the disciples. The main contention looked like it was Artemis but the real issue was the business of Demetrius and his fellow tradesmen.

## Discussion

**19** While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup>“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them.

“No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

<sup>3</sup>“Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked.

And they replied, "The baptism of John."

<sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus."

<sup>5</sup>As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues<sup>[b]</sup> and prophesied. <sup>7</sup>There were about twelve men in all.

Why did Paul become very concerned about the disciples and the Holy Spirit:

John 14:16, 25, 15:26, 16:27, I Cor 2:10-13

Note the words the Helper.

Without the Holy Spirit, a believer is limited.

What is the probable reason that these disciples did not know anything about the baptism of Jesus?

Jesus picked His disciples very early in His ministry to train them. Matthew 4:18-20

What is the effect of Proper training in discipleship in the ministry? Luke 9:1-6, Mark 4:33-34, II Kings 2:13-14. Matthew 4:19

Why did the disciples believe Paul?

What process should the modern church adopt in the training of disciples?

Why are some people willing to take up the mantle?

Why are some unwilling to take up the mantle?

How did Paul set out to correct this anomaly? Rom 10:14, Mark 16:15-16, I Tim 4:2, I Tim 4:13.

Were these disciples Born Again and did they know about Jesus?

Explain the difference between the two types of Baptisms: John 7:39, Acts 2:38-39.

What would some of us do today if we came across Christians that have incomplete knowledge and what will the believers with incomplete knowledge do? I Cor 3:4-6.

## Paul Ministers in Ephesus

<sup>8</sup>Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup>But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus.<sup>10</sup>This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia—both Jews and Greeks—heard the word of the Lord.

Why did Paul's persuasive argument not change not change the people who became stubborn? II Cor 4:3-4.

In the same manner, do you expect everyone will accept your view on an issue? I Cor 9:22, Acts 15:36-39. Do we sometimes have grey areas in some issues in life?

What do you do when people refuse to accept your view point although you are actually correct? Matt 10:14, Rom 12:18, Matt 18:15-17.

When Paul left Macedonia, he left Timothy and Silas but when he withdrew from these people, he took the believers with him? Why do you think he did this?

1. They were still young in the Lord Eph 4:14, I Cor 3:1-2.
2. To avoid them been confused. Publicly speaking against the way ( To remove them from unbridled controversies) II Tim 3:16, Titus 3:9, I Tim 6:20

Is the word still spreading today the way it was spreading then? Is the spreading of the word slowing? If yes why?

<sup>11</sup>God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. <sup>12</sup>When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled.

The power for unusual miracles came from whom and why? Rom 15:18-19.  
Acts 5:12.

Can we still experience unusual miracles in our days? Heb 13:8, Mal 3:6,  
Rev 1:8

What is often the result in our days if people manifest these types of unusual  
miracles? Zech 4:6

<sup>13</sup>A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" <sup>14</sup>Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. <sup>15</sup>But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup>Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

<sup>17</sup>The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to Jews and Greeks alike. A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored. <sup>18</sup>Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. <sup>19</sup>A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. <sup>20</sup>So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

<sup>21</sup>Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit<sup>[d]</sup> to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. "And after that," he said, "I must go on to Rome!" <sup>22</sup>He sent his two assistants, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia.

In what ways do you think people are taking the name of the Lord in vain?

What are the dangers in making vain or maligning the name of the Lord?

Exodus 20:7, II Kings 5:20

Is this the same as dishonoring the servants of God?

Could people who play with God's name today suffer the same plight as the Sons of Sceva?

How should the church react when God's name is maligned or used in vain and how can the church stop or reduce this within and outside it?

Examine the effect of miracles on the propagation of the gospel?

1. The body of Christ is emboldened, encouraged and God is acknowledged Acts 3:12. 4:13-14
2. It brings people closer to God
3. The fear of the Lord increases Acts 5:11, 19:17,
4. It helps to differentiate between the fakes and the real.
5. It brings more fear especially to unbelievers. Acts 2:6, I Cor 14:22,

What is the effect of manipulated miracles on the church?

## The Riot in Ephesus

<sup>23</sup>About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way. <sup>24</sup>It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis.<sup>[e]</sup> He kept many craftsmen busy. <sup>25</sup>He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows:

"Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. <sup>26</sup>But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't really gods at all. And he's done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! <sup>27</sup>Of course, I'm not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis—this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!"

<sup>28</sup>At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" <sup>29</sup>Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia.<sup>30</sup> Paul wanted to go in, too, but the believers wouldn't let him. <sup>31</sup>Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater.

<sup>32</sup>Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. <sup>33</sup>The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander forward and told him to explain the situation. He motioned for silence and tried to speak. <sup>34</sup>But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for about two hours: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

<sup>35</sup>At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. "Citizens of Ephesus," he said. "Everyone knows that Ephesus is the official guardian of the temple of the great Artemis, whose image fell down to us from heaven. <sup>36</sup>Since this is an undeniable fact, you should stay calm and not do anything rash. <sup>37</sup>You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess.

<sup>38</sup>"If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once. Let them make formal charges. <sup>39</sup>And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly. <sup>40</sup>I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won't know what to say." <sup>41</sup>Then he dismissed them, and they dispersed.

Examine the cunning nature that Demetrius used to get his fellow tradesmen and eventually others to join him against the disciples.

What is the difference between the counsel of the believers who asked him not to go in and those of the province officials who were his personal friends. Vs 30-31.

What was the first statement made by the mayor which he used to dismissed this case and why was it very valid- Hint Vs 37. What does this tell us about how to approach the business of the gospel in places where our God is not yet worshipped? Acts 17:22-26