

BIBLE STUDY-MARCH 8, 2023
THE BOOK OF ACTS – CHAPTER 19 & 20

19:1-10 In Ephesus

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples.

- Paul met a pocket of disciples who had received John’s baptism but had not _____.
- They represented most of those in the _____ who were at various stages of spiritual knowledge and understanding.

² and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when^[a] you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

- Observe the following about Paul’s question:
 - Paul’s question may suggest that he regarded the Ephesian disciples as _____ who had not yet been filled with the Holy Spirit
 - It refers to the baptism in the Holy Spirit for power and ministry, the same as what happened at Pentecost.
 - Paul recognized that all believers have _____ from the very moment of their belief and conversion.
 - They would have heard about the Holy Spirit but had not heard that the Spirit was being poured out.

⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues^[b] and prophesied.

- When the 12 Ephesians believed in Jesus, they were baptized in His Name, they spoke in tongues and prophesied just as the first Christians did at Pentecost.
- This event took place about _____ after the first Pentecost, but the pattern how they received the fulness of the Holy Spirit is consistent with the normal pattern:
 - They believed in Jesus and were born again by the Spirit.
 - After they were baptized in water, Paul laid his hands on them and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit
 - As the Holy Spirit came on them, they _____ and prophesying.

Questions:

With what sort of "tongues" did they begin speaking when "the Holy Spirit came upon them" (Acts 19:6)?

19:11-20 Miracles Glorifying Christ

12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

- Paul's ministry at Ephesus was marked by extraordinary _____ miracles and _____.
- It was not for _____, but to multiply the empowering that was on him through the tangible means, healing and delivering more people than he could personally touch with his hands.

Questions:

How long did Paul stay in Ephesus?

What was accomplished during Paul's ministry in Ephesus?

Why did Paul go to Ephesus?

¹⁹ A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.

- Witchcraft, black magic, sorcery, spiritism, astrology, fortunetelling, tarot cards, Ouiji boards and all other occult practices are idolatrous, associated with demons and must be repented of and abandoned in order to follow Jesus.
- You can't continue as a true believe in Christ and deal with spirits or attempt to gain contact with the dead or deal with spirits
- God condemns those activities and considers them to be detestable (Deut. 18:9-13)

19:21-41 Riot at Ephesus

²⁷ *There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.*”

- Worshipers of the goddess Artemis would purchase small statues and gifts and _____.

³⁵ *The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Fellow Ephesians, doesn't all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven? ⁴⁰ As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it.”*

- The city clerk of Ephesus was the highest-ranking civic official not appointed by Rome.
- The *Pax Romana* was a declaration of *Peace, or else!* The equivalent of zero-tolerance today
- Knowing that Rome would be forced to step in if there was a disturbance, the clerk had to act.

Question:

Demetrius' business was at stake because of Paul's preaching the truth of Jesus Christ at Ephesus. Have you ever been faced with difficulty or loss of a job because of your faith?

20:1-6 In Greece

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. ² He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece,

- Paul had wonderful God-given abilities to _____ the church to remain strong and committed to truth and the spreading of the gospel.

⁴ He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.

- Paul wanted, needed and looked for the company of _____.
- To live as a Christian is to live in _____.

20:7-12 In Troas

⁷ On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

- The disciples got together on the _____ day of the week (Sunday) and not the seventh day (Saturday) as the Jews did.
- They established the day of _____ as the Christian day of worship.

¹² The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

- The power of Jesus was evident through Paul and this _____ the believers

20:13-16 To Miletus

¹⁶ Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

- Because Jesus fulfilled all the _____, Paul was not under any obligation to keep them, but he was under an obligation to act with integrity toward those who were less spiritually mature in their understanding.

Question:

Why did Paul tell the others to take the ship to Assos while he went "on foot"

20:17-38 Exhorting Ephesian Elders

¹⁹ I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents.

- Paul's tears were not a result of _____, it was a result of his _____.
- Paul saw the lost condition of the human race, the evil consequences of sin, and the distortion the gospel, so his preaching was often accompanied by _____.

²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

- Paul preached what he believed was useful for the salvation of his hearers.

²² "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

- At Paul's _____, the Lord promised that he would show the apostles "how many things he must suffer for my name's sake" (9:16)
- Apparently, the spirit showed Paul some of these things as he approached Jerusalem.

²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

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²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

- Wherever the work of God is progressing, there will be those who _____ it or try to capitalize on it for personal gain.
- It is the responsibility of _____ to speak truth.

³² “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- When it came time for Paul to leave Rome, he _____ the elders o God and the word of His grace.
- They would have to ultimately answer to God and look to Him for _____.

⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

- Paul’s leadership was proven b those who followed him or would have followed him if they had been given the chance.

Question:

Paul knew he wouldn't see the believers at Ephesus again. He prepared and encouraged them for the difficulties that would come their way in the future. He was not concerned with himself in any way. How can you be more mission focused in your life, ultimately following both Jesus' and Paul's example?

SOURCES:

1. <http://www.bibleversestudy.com/>
2. Life Application Study Bible – NIV
3. The Jeremiah Study Bible - NKJV
4. Life In The Spirit Study Bible- NIV