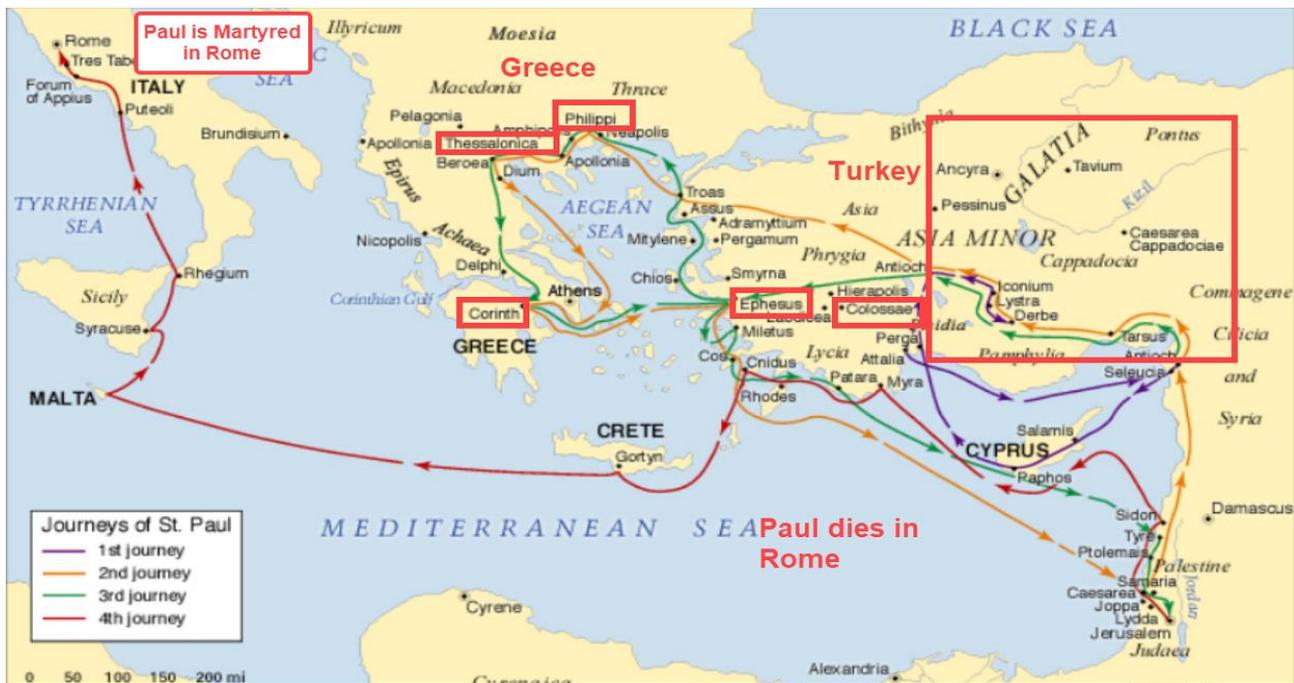


The Gentile Church – Acts 16 to 19 (22/04/2021)

Pauls 2nd Missionary Journey and a Portion of his 3rd



“The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia — your faith in Christ has become known everywhere” (1Th 1:8).

This was the true secret of the early spread of the Gospel: it did not rest on the shoulders of key men like Paul alone. Enthusiastic evangelism was a ministry shared by all.

“Spiritual Climate”

The world was ready to hear the Gospel. Why? There was a religious and moral climate which made the world ready for “The real message of Salvation” All the bogus idol worship and false religions...none of this was working.

“Cultural and Political Climate”

Remember Week 2, “The Silent Years”

Alexander the Great

Roman Empire

Universal language

No Borders

Relative peace due to enforcement by Roman Empire (no war zones to avoid)

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

Act 16:1 AND [*Paul*] went down to Derbe and also to Lystra. A disciple named Timothy was there, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer [*she had become convinced that Jesus is the Messiah and the Author of eternal salvation, and yielded obedience to Him*]; but [*Timothy's*] father was a Greek.

Act 16:2 He [*Timothy*] had a good reputation among the brethren at Lystra and Iconium.

GOOD REPUTATION IS HELPFUL TO BE ACCEPTED

Pro 22:1 A GOOD name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Pro 3:3 Let not mercy and kindness [shutting out all hatred and selfishness] and truth [shutting out all deliberate hypocrisy or falsehood] forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them upon the tablet of your heart. [Col_3:9-12]

Pro 3:4 So shall you find favor, good understanding, and high esteem in the sight [or judgment] of God and man. [Luk_2:52]

Qualifications for Overseers

1Ti 3:7 Furthermore, he must have a good reputation and be well thought of by those outside [the church], lest he become involved in slander and incur reproach and fall into the devil's trap.

Act 16:3 Paul desired Timothy to go with him [*as a missionary*]; and he took him and *circumcised him because of the Jews that were in those places*, all of whom knew that his father was a Greek.

SOMETIMES WE MUST DO THINGS IN ORDER NOT TO CAUSE OFFENSE TO OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOM WE WANT TO REACH WITH THE GOSPEL

1Co 8:8 Just remember that God doesn't care whether we eat it or not. We are no worse off if we don't eat it, and no better off if we do.

1Co 8:9 But be careful not to use your freedom to eat it, lest you cause some Christian brother to sin whose conscience is weaker than yours.

1Co 8:10 You see, this is what may happen: Someone who thinks it is wrong to eat this food will see you eating at a temple restaurant, for you know there is no harm in it. Then he will become bold enough to do it too, although all the time he still feels it is wrong.

1Co 8:11 So because you "know it is all right to do it," you will be responsible for causing great spiritual damage to a brother with a tender conscience for whom Christ died.

Rom 14:20 Do not let the work of God come to nothing on account of food. All things are certainly clean; but it is evil for that man who by taking food makes it hard for another.

Rom 14:21 It is better not to take meat or wine or to do anything which might be a cause of trouble to your brother.

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have it to yourself before God. Happy is the man who is not judged by that to which he gives approval.

Act 16:4 As they went on their way from town to town, they delivered over [*to the assemblies*] **for their observance the regulations decided upon by the apostles and elders who were at Jerusalem.**

Act 16:5 So the churches were strengthened *and* made firm in the faith, and they increased in number day after day.

EVEN THOUGH PAUL WAS CALLED BY GOD DIRECTLY...HE WAS STILL OPERATING UNDER THE COVERING OF THE CHURCH IN JESRUSALEM

The Macedonian Call

Act 16:6 And Paul and Silas passed through the territory of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Word in** [*the province of*] Asia.

Act 16:7 And when they had come opposite Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the **Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.**

EVANGELISM EFFORTS MUST BE LEAD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT
Ref Verse Act 16:14

Act 16:8 So passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

Act 16:9 [*There*] a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man from Macedonia stood pleading with him and saying, Come over to Macedonia and help us!

Act 16:10 And when he had seen the vision, we [*including Luke*] at once endeavoured to go on into Macedonia, confidently inferring that God had called us to proclaim the glad tidings (Gospel) to them.

The Conversion of Lydia

Act 16:11 Therefore, setting sail from Troas, we came in a direct course to Samothrace, and the next day went on to Neapolis.

Act 16:12 And from there [*we came*] to Philippi, which is the chief city of the district of Macedonia and a [*Roman*] colony. We stayed on in this place some days;

Act 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the [*city's*] gate to the bank of the river where we supposed there was an [*accustomed*] place of prayer, and we sat down and addressed the women who had assembled there.

Act 16:14 One of those who listened to us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (See the Letters to the 7 Churches Rev 2:18), a dealer in fabrics dyed in purple. She was [*already*] a worshiper of God, and the Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. NB – SEE THE WORKING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Act 16:15 And when she was baptized along with her household, she earnestly entreated us, saying, If in your opinion I am one really convinced [*that Jesus is the Messiah and the Author of salvation*] and that I will be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay. And she induced us [*to do it*].

Paul and Silas in Prison

Act 16:16 As we were on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who was possessed by a spirit of divination [*claiming to foretell future events and to discover hidden knowledge*], and she brought her owners much gain by her fortunetelling. OCCULTISM WAS AN ASPECTY OF THE ROMAN RELIGIOUS CLIMATE

Act 16:17 She kept following Paul and [*the rest of*] us, shouting loudly, These men are the servants of the Most High God! They announce to you the way of salvation! THIS STATEMENT IS 100% TRUE....SATAN DEFINITELY KNOWS WHAT IS THE TRUTH AND HE KNOWS THE WORD

Act 16:18 And she did this for many days. Then Paul, being sorely annoyed and worn out, turned and said to the spirit within her, I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her! And it came out that very moment. JUST LIKE THAT...

Act 16:19 But when her owners discovered that their hope of profit was gone, they caught hold of Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities in the forum (marketplace), [*where trials are held*]. **TODAY, THE WORLD IS STILL CONTROLLED BY MONEY....**

Act 16:20 And when they had brought them before the magistrates, they declared, These fellows are Jews and they are throwing our city into great confusion.

Act 16:21 They encourage the practice of customs which it is unlawful for us Romans to accept or observe!

Act 16:22 The crowd [*also*] joined in the attack upon them, and the rulers tore the clothes off of them and commanded that they be beaten with rods.

Act 16:23 And when they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely.

Act 16:24 He, having received [*so strict a*] charge, put them into the inner prison (the dungeon) and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Philippian Jailer Converted

Act 16:25 But about **midnight**, as Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the [*other*] **prisoners were listening to them**,

WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR REACHING THE LOST, SATAN HAD A PLAN...GOD TURNED HIS PLAN ARROUND.....

Rom 8:28 And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans.

Act 16:26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the very foundations of the prison were shaken; and at once all the doors were opened and everyone's shackles were unfastened.

Act 16:27 When the jailer, startled out of his sleep, saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was on the point of killing himself, because he

supposed that the prisoners had escaped.

Act 16:28 But Paul shouted, Do not harm yourself, for we are all here! **WHY DID THE PRISONERS NOT RUN AWAY.....?**

Act 16:29 Then [*the jailer*] called for lights and rushed in, and trembling *and* terrified he fell down before Paul and Silas.

Act 16:30 And he brought them out [*of the dungeon*] and said, Men, what is it necessary for me to do that I may be saved?

Act 16:31 And they answered, Believe in the Lord Jesus *Christ* [*give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping*] and you will be saved, [*and this applies both to*] you and your household as well.

Act 16:32 And they declared the Word of the Lord [*the doctrine concerning the attainment through Christ of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God*] to him and to all who were in his house.

Act 16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night and bathed [*them because of their bloody*] wounds, and he was baptized immediately and all [*the members of*] his [*household*].

HAHA...ANOTHER EXAMPLE WHERE SATAN'S PLAN WAS TO PERSECUTE AND SHUT DOWN THE GOSPEL, INSTEAD IT SPREAD!!!!

Act 16:34 Then he took them up into his house and set food before them; and he leaped much for joy *and* exulted with all his family that he believed in God [*accepting and joyously welcoming what He had made known through Christ*].

Act 16:35 But when it was day, the magistrates sent policemen, saying, Release those fellows *and* let them go. **HOW DID THIS CHANGE OF HEART SUDDENLY HAPPEN....?**

Act 16:36 And the jailer repeated the words to Paul, saying, The magistrates have sent to release you *and* let you go; now therefore come out and go in peace.

Act 16:37 But Paul answered them, They have beaten us openly *and* publicly,

without a trial *and* uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now thrust us out secretly? No, indeed! Let them come here themselves and conduct us out!

Act 16:38 The police reported this message to the magistrates, and they were frightened when they heard that the **prisoners were Roman citizens;**

Saul's Early Life



Born in the port city of Tarsus to wealthy Jewish parents
Important trading centre

Gentile city and "strange place" for pious Jews

Financially successful family and won Roman citizenship
(NB)

Not only a Jew, but also a Roman citizen (its like having a British or USA passport today...the whole world is open to you...)

Act 16:39 So they came themselves and [*striving to appease them by entreaty*] apologized to them. And they brought them out and asked them to leave the city.

CORRUPT MAGISTRATES FOUND THEM GUILTY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM THE WEALTH ELITE IN THE CITY...THE MEN WHO WERE MAKING PROFITS FROM THE SLAVE GIRL.....

WITHOUT DOING THEIR OWN HOMEWORK AND INVESTIGATIONS, THE MAGISTRATES JUST JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO PLEASE THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY.....

Act 16:40 So [*Paul and Silas*] left the prison and went to Lydia's house; and when they had seen the brethren, they warned *and* urged *and* consoled *and* encouraged them and departed.

Paul and Silas in Thessalonica

Act 17:1 Now they travelled through the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.

Act 17:2 *As was Paul's custom*, he went there to preach, and for three Sabbaths in a row he opened the Scriptures to the people,

Act 17:3 explaining the prophecies about the sufferings of the Messiah and his coming back to life, and proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Act 17:4 Some who listened were persuaded and became converts—including a large number of godly Greek men and also many important women of the city.

Act 17:5 But the Jewish leaders were jealous and incited some worthless fellows from the streets to form a mob and start a riot. They attacked the home of Jason, planning to take Paul and Silas to the City Council for punishment.

Act 17:6 Not finding them there, they dragged out Jason and some of the other believers, and took them before the Council instead. *“Paul and Silas have turned the rest of the world upside down, and now they are here disturbing our city,”* they shouted,

WORD HAS REACHED THIS CITY ABOUT THE REVIVAL.....

Act 17:7 “and Jason has let them into his home. They are all guilty of treason, for they claim another king, Jesus, instead of Caesar.”

Act 17:8 (8-9) The people of the city, as well as the judges, were concerned at these reports and let them go only after they had posted bail.

Paul and Silas in Berea

Act 17:10 That night the Christians hurried Paul and Silas to Berea, and, as usual, they went to the synagogue to preach.

Act 17:11 But the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and gladly listened to the message. They searched the Scriptures day by day to check up on Paul and Silas' statements to see if they were really so.

IT IS IMPORATANT FOR A PERSON TO STUDY THE SCRIPTURES FOR THEMSELVES SO THAT:

- 1) TRUTH AND REVELATION CAN COME TO THEM
- 2) THEY CAN BE SURE THEY ARE NOT BEEING TOLD LIES : DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR.....IT IS LIKE THIS IN EVERYTHING, DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH

Act 17:12 As a result, many of them believed, including several prominent Greek women and many men also.

Act 17:13 But when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching in Berea, they went over and stirred up trouble.

Act 17:14 The believers acted at once, sending Paul on to the coast, while Silas and Timothy remained behind.

Act 17:15 Those accompanying Paul went on with him to Athens and then returned to Berea with a message for Silas and Timothy to hurry and join him.

Paul in Athens

Act 17:16 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere throughout the city.

Act 17:17 He went to the synagogue for discussions with the Jews and the devout Gentiles, and spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there.

Act 17:18 He also had an encounter with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. Their reaction, when he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, was, “He’s a dreamer,” or, “He’s pushing some foreign religion.”

Act 17:19 But they invited him to the forum at Mars Hill. “Come and tell us more about this new religion,” they said,

Act 17:20 “for you are saying some rather startling things and we want to hear more.”

Act 17:21 (I should explain that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest new ideas!)

Paul Addresses the Areopagus

GREAT EXAMPLE OF AN EVANGELISTIC SERMON TO UNBELEIVERS

GOOR YOUTUBE VIDEO OF BILLY GRAHAM MINISTERING TO THE INNER COUNCIL OF THE CHINESE COMUNIST PARTY

The New York Times



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The sanctum of Chinese Communism opened its doors today to the American evangelist Billy Graham, who is visiting China for the first time.

Prime Minister Li Peng, who also is on the five-member Standing Committee of the party, met Mr. Graham today inside the compound that is home to party and Government leaders.

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[Act 17:22](#) So Paul, standing before them at the Mars Hill forum, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious,

[Act 17:23](#) for as I was out walking I saw your many altars, and one of them had this inscription on it—“**To the Unknown God.**” **PAUL SEES AN OPPORTUNITY**

OF HOW TO APPROACH.... You have been worshiping him without knowing who he is, and now I wish to tell you about him.

Act 17:24 “He made the world and everything in it, and since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples;

Act 17:25 and human hands can’t minister to his needs—for he has no needs! He himself gives life and breath to everything, and satisfies every need there is.

Act 17:26 He created all the people of the world from one man, Adam, and scattered the nations across the face of the earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and when. He determined their boundaries.

Act 17:27 “His purpose in all of this is that they should seek after God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us.

Act 17:28 For in him we live and move and are! **As one of your own poets says it, ‘We are the sons of God.’ OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A CONNECTION**

Act 17:29 If this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol made by men from gold or silver or chipped from stone.

Act 17:30 God tolerated man’s past ignorance about these things, but now he commands everyone to put away idols and worship only him.

Act 17:31 For he has set a day for justly judging the world by the man he has appointed, and has pointed him out by bringing him back to life again.”

Act 17:32 When they heard Paul speak of the resurrection of a person who had been dead, **some laughed, but others said, “We want to hear more about this later.” EVEN PAUL DID NOT HAVE A 100% SUCCESS RATE....**

Act 17:33 That ended Paul’s discussion with them,

Act 17:34 **but a few joined him and became believers.** Among them was Dionysius, a member of the City Council, and a woman named Damaris, and others.

Paul in Corinth

Act 18:1 Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

Act 18:2 (2-3) There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had been expelled from Italy as a result of Claudius Caesar's order to deport all Jews from Rome. Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was.

Act 18:4 Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike.

Act 18:5 And after the arrival of Silas and Timothy from Macedonia, Paul spent his full time preaching and testifying to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah.

Act 18:6 But when the Jews opposed him and blasphemed, hurling abuse at Jesus, **Paul shook off the dust from his robe and said**, "Your blood be upon your own heads—I am innocent—from now on I will preach to the Gentiles."

JESUS ALSO GAVE THIS SAME MESSAGE TO THE DISCIPLES

Mat 10:12 When you ask permission to stay, be friendly,

Mat 10:13 and if it turns out to be a godly home, give it your blessing; if not, keep the blessing.

Mat 10:14 Any city or home that doesn't welcome you—shake off the dust of that place from your feet as you leave.

Mat 10:15 Truly, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah will be better off at Judgment Day than they

Act 18:7 After that he stayed with Titus Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue.

Act 18:8 However, **Crispus, the leader of the synagogue**, and all his household believed in the Lord and were baptized—as were many others in Corinth.

Act 18:9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, “Don’t be afraid! Speak out! Don’t quit!”

Act 18:10 For I am with you and no one can harm you. Many people here in this city belong to me.”

AFTER THE VERY DISCOURAGING EVENTS AT THE SYNAGOGUE...THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERVENED AND JESUS GAVE HIM A PERSONAL MESSAGE

Act 18:11 So Paul stayed there the next year and a half, teaching the truths of God.

Act 18:12 But when Gallio became governor of Achaia, the Jews rose in concerted action against Paul and brought him before the governor for judgment.

Act 18:13 They accused Paul of “persuading men to worship God in ways that are contrary to Roman law.”

Act 18:14 But just as Paul started to make his defence, Gallio turned to his accusers and said, “Listen, you Jews, if this were a case involving some crime, I would be obliged to listen to you,

Act 18:15 but since it is merely a bunch of questions of semantics and personalities and your silly Jewish laws, you take care of it. I’m not interested and I’m not touching it.”

Act 18:16 And he drove them out of the courtroom.

Act 18:17 Then the mob grabbed Sosthenes, the new leader of the synagogue, and beat him outside the courtroom. But Gallio couldn’t have cared less.

Paul Returns to Antioch

Act 18:18 Paul stayed in the city several days after that and then said good-bye to the Christians and sailed for the coast of Syria, taking Priscilla and Aquila with him. At Cenchreae Paul had his head shaved according to Jewish custom, for he had taken a vow.

Act 18:19 Arriving at the port of Ephesus, he left us aboard ship while he went over to the synagogue for a discussion with the Jews.

Act 18:20 They asked him to stay for a few days, but he felt that he had no time to lose.

Act 18:21 “I must by all means be at Jerusalem for the holiday,” he said. But he promised to return to Ephesus later if God permitted; and so he set sail again.

Act 18:22 The next stop was at the port of Caesarea from where he visited the church at Jerusalem and then sailed on to Antioch.

Act 18:23 After spending some time there, he left for Turkey again, going through Galatia and Phrygia visiting all the believers, encouraging them and helping them grow in the Lord.

Apollos Speaks Boldly in Ephesus

Act 18:24 As it happened, a Jew named Apollos, a wonderful Bible teacher and preacher, had just arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt.

Act 18:25 (25-26) While he was in Egypt, someone had told him about John the Baptist and what John had said about Jesus, but that is all he knew. He had never heard the rest of the story! So he was preaching boldly and enthusiastically in the synagogue, “The Messiah is coming! Get ready to receive him!” Priscilla and Aquila were there and heard him—and it was a powerful sermon. Afterwards they met with him and explained what had happened to Jesus since the time of John, and all that it meant!

Act 18:27 Apollos had been thinking about going to Greece, and the believers encouraged him in this. They wrote to their fellow-believers there, telling them to welcome him. And upon his arrival in Greece, he was greatly used of God to strengthen the church,

Act 18:28 for he powerfully refuted all the Jewish arguments in public debate, showing by the Scriptures that Jesus is indeed the Messiah.

Paul in Ephesus

Act 19:1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul travelled through Turkey and arrived in Ephesus, where he found several disciples.

Act 19:2 “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we don’t know what you mean. What is the Holy Spirit?”

Act 19:3 “Then what beliefs did you acknowledge at your baptism?” he asked. And they replied, “What John the Baptist taught.”

Act 19:4 Then Paul pointed out to them that John’s baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin to God and that those receiving his baptism must then go on to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later.

Act 19:5 As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

EXPLANATION OF BAPTISM. IT IS CLEAR BAPTISM DOES NOT SAVE...FAITH SAVES. BAPTISM IS A DECLARATION OF TURNING AWAY FROM THE OLD LIVE AND TURNING TO JESUS. IT FURTHER SYMBOLISES THE DEATH OF THE OLD SINFUL MAN AND BIRTH OF THE NEW CREATION

Act 19:6 Then, when Paul laid his hands upon their heads, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other languages and prophesied.

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REAL...SOME CHURCHES TODAY DO NOT BELIEVE IN IT, BUT IT IS RIGHT HERE IN THE BIBLE. WHY DO THEY “CUT” IT OUT OF THEIR DOCTRINE?

BY THE WAY, ANY CHURCH THAT DOES NOT TEACH AND TRAIN THE PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE TRUTH, WILL DIE. TRADITIONAL AND EVANGELICAL CHURCHES ALIKE. THE CHURCH MUST TRAIN THE BODY OF CHRIST THE WHOLE BIBLICAL TRUTH AND ALL DOCTRINES, NOT JUST SELECT

WHICH ONES ARE COMFORTABLE

Act 19:7 The men involved were about twelve in number.

Act 19:8 Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly each Sabbath day for three months, telling what he believed and why, and persuading many to believe in Jesus.

Act 19:9 But some rejected his message and publicly spoke against Christ, so he left, refusing to preach to them again. Pulling out the believers, he began a separate meeting at the lecture hall of Tyrannus and preached there daily.

GET AWAY FROM ANYTHING AND ANYONE WHO CORRUPTS YOUR FAITH

Act 19:10 This went on for the next two years, so that everyone in the Turkish province of Asia Minor—both Jews and Greeks—heard the Lord’s message.

The Sons of Sceva

Act 19:11 And God gave Paul the power to do unusual miracles,

Act 19:12 so that even when his handkerchiefs or parts of his clothing were placed upon sick people, they were healed, and any demons within them came out.

Act 19:13 A team of itinerant Jews who were traveling from town to town casting out demons planned to experiment by using the name of the Lord Jesus. The incantation they decided on was this: “I adjure you by Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!”

Act 19:14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish priest, were doing this.

Act 19:15 But when they tried it on a man possessed by a demon, the demon replied, “I know Jesus and I know Paul, but who are you?”

Act 19:16 And he leaped on two of them and beat them up, so that they fled out of his house naked and badly injured.

Act 19:17 The story of what happened spread quickly all through Ephesus, to

Jews and Greeks alike; and a solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honoured.

Act 19:18 (18-19) Many of the believers who had been practicing black magic confessed their deeds and brought their incantation books and charms and burned them at a public bonfire. (Someone estimated the value of the books at \$10,000.)

Act 19:20 This indicates how deeply the whole area was stirred by God's message.

A Riot at Ephesus

Act 19:21 Afterwards Paul felt impelled by the Holy Spirit to go across to Greece before returning to Jerusalem. "And after that," he said, "I must go on to Rome!"

Act 19:22 He sent his two assistants, Timothy and Erastus, on ahead to Greece while he stayed awhile longer in Asia Minor.

Act 19:23 But about that time, a big blow up developed in Ephesus concerning the Christians.

Act 19:24 It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who employed many craftsmen to manufacture silver shrines of the Greek goddess Diana.

Act 19:25 He called a meeting of his men, together with others employed in related trades, and addressed them as follows: "Gentlemen, this business is our income.

Act 19:26 As you know so well from what you've seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many, many people that handmade gods aren't gods at all. As a result, our sales volume is going down! And this trend is evident not only here in Ephesus, but throughout the entire province!

Act 19:27 Of course, I am not only talking about the business aspects of this situation and our loss of income, but also of the possibility that the temple of the great goddess Diana will lose its influence, and that Diana—this magnificent goddess worshiped not only throughout this part of Turkey but all around the world—will be forgotten!"

Act 19:28 At this their anger boiled and they began shouting, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

Act 19:29 A crowd began to gather, and soon the city was filled with confusion.

Everyone rushed to the amphitheatre, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions, for trial.

AGAIN...MAMON VS CHRIST. MONEY CONTROLS THE SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD. IF WAS LIKE THAT, IT IS STILL LIKE THAT

Act 19:30 Paul wanted to go in, but the disciples wouldn't let him.

Act 19:31 Some of the Roman officers of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering.

Act 19:32 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.

Act 19:33 Alexander was spotted among the crowd by some of the Jews and dragged forward. He motioned for silence and tried to speak.

Act 19:34 But when the crowd realized he was a Jew, they started shouting again and kept it up for two hours: "Great is Diana of the Ephesians! Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

Act 19:35 At last the mayor was able to quiet them down enough to speak. "Men of Ephesus," he said, "everyone knows that Ephesus is the centre of the religion of the great Diana, whose image fell down to us from heaven.

Act 19:36 Since this is an indisputable fact, you shouldn't be disturbed no matter what is said, and should do nothing rash.

Act 19:37 Yet you have brought these men here who have stolen nothing from her temple and have not defamed her.

Act 19:38 If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are currently in session and the judges can take the case at once. Let them go through legal channels.

Act 19:39 And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled at the regular City Council meetings;

Act 19:40 for we are in danger of being called to account by the Roman government for today's riot, since there is no cause for it. And if Rome demands

an explanation, I won't know what to say.”

[Act 19:41](#) Then he dismissed them, and they dispersed.

GOOD EXAMPLE OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN WITH AUTHORITY ACTING IN THE RIGHT WAY. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NOT A BELIEVER, HE IS A RIGHTEOUS MAN. THAT IS WHAT IS NEEDED IN GOVERNMENT, RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE.

REMEMBER GOD IS THE ONE WHO PUTS GOVERNANCE IN PLACE SO THAT PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN PEACE.

Pray for All People

[1Ti 2:1](#) FIRST OF all, then, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men,

[1Ti 2:2](#) For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet and undisturbed life [and inwardly] a peaceable one in all godliness and reverence and seriousness in every way.

Submission to the Authorities

[Rom 13:1](#) LET EVERY person be loyally subject to the governing (civil) authorities. For there is no authority except from God [by His permission, His sanction], and those that exist do so by God's appointment. [[Pro_8:15](#)]