

Paul's Ministry in Ephesus

Acts 19

June 5, 2022

Ephesus, with its 300,000 inhabitants, was the capital city of the Roman province of Asia and its most important commercial center. Thanks to a large harbor, Ephesus grew wealthy on trade; and thanks to the temple of Diana, it attracted hosts of visitors who wanted to see this building that was one of the 7 wonders of the world.¹

Apollos was teaching, but teaching only the part of Jesus that came up to and thru the ministry of John the Baptist.

They were on the right side of pardon, but on the wrong side of power.

It is important to note that God's pattern for today is given in Acts 10:43-48; sinners hear the Word, they believe on Jesus Christ, they immediately receive the Holy Spirit, and then they are baptized. The Gentiles in Acts 10 did not receive the Spirit by means of water baptism or by the laying on of the Apostles' hands (Acts 8:14-17).

It's important we get and tell the whole Gospel (vs. 18:25-28)

"I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God."

—The Apostle Paul to the Ephesian elders, (**Acts 20:27**)

"When Paul attests that this is what he proclaimed to the believers in Ephesus, the Ephesian elders to whom he makes this bold asseveration know full well that he had managed this remarkable feat in only two and a half years. In other words, whatever else Paul did, he certainly did not manage to go through every verse of the Old Testament, line by line, with full-bore explanation. He simply did not have time. What he must mean is that he taught the burden of the whole of God's revelation, the balance of things, leaving nothing out that was of primary importance, never ducking the hard bits, helping believers to grasp the whole counsel of God that they themselves would become better equipped to read their Bibles intelligently, comprehensively. It embraced:

God's purposes in the history of redemption (*truths* to be believed and a God to be worshiped).

An unpacking of human origin, fall, redemption, and destiny (a *worldview* that shapes all human understanding and a *Savior* without whom there is no hope).

Conduct expected of God's people (*commandments* to be obeyed and *wisdom* to be pursued, both in our individual existence and in the community of the people of God), and The pledges of transforming power both in this life and in the life to come (*promises* to be trusted and *hope* to be anticipated)."

— **D.A. Carson**

¹ Warren Wiersbe

Apollos knew of the baptism of John the Baptist, but not that of Jesus. This was a “transition” time if you will. He was zealous for what he knew but needed to be further instructed.

Context is key:

For instance, when we read Romans 10:9, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” it was speaking specifically to Israel and what was surrounding them at the time.

Jesus came to save sinners; of which I am the worst. In coming to save sinners He came to save me from the effects of my sin and sin itself. If there is no desire to be saved from my sin (conviction and the act of sinning) then something is terribly wrong.

The Holy Spirit is essential in the Believer’s life. (vs. 19:1-10)

When you trusted Christ you received the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit:

Leads and guides

Convicts

Confronts

Enables

The Gospel changes you and me. (vs. 16-20)

You can’t meet Jesus and not be changed.

In fact, if one has claimed to meet Jesus and nothing has changed, something is bad off.

Look at our account, those who met and trusted Jesus gave up their ungodly lifestyle.

The Gospel is offensive and dangerous. (vs. 28-34)

Being “called out” for sin whether thru conviction, the Word, or others will either humble you and lead to repentance or it will make you mad. Which is it for you?

With that said, there are four types of people here this morning:

- Lost and know it.
- Lost and know it, convicted of sin and ready to trust in Christ.
- Saved but not walking with Jesus, not under the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Saved and under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Which are you and I?

Prayer Focus:

- **I would obey.**