

Acts 19:1-5

From Fuzzy to Focused

Verse 1: Introduction to Paul's Three Years in Ephesus

After Apollos moved from Ephesus to Corinth; Paul (in the midst of his 3rd Mission Trip) arrives in Ephesus and meets with some unique believers

Verse 2-3: Paul Asks Unique Believers Two Distinct Diagnostic Questions

Q1: Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? A: No...

Reason for Q1: Church Age believers receive the HS at the moment of faith in Christ

Q2: Into what/whom were you baptized? A: John (the Baptizing Jew's) baptism

Reason for Q2: Church Age believers are to be baptized in the name of Jesus (that is based on who/what He is/what He had done and will do)

Verse 4: Paul Then Helps Them Move from OT Faith to a Full Focused NT Faith

Paul connects the dots between John the Baptizing Jew and Jesus and emphasizes the fact that "saving repentance" is of the very essence of "saving faith"

John preached a baptism (as a sign) of repentance (metanoeo) = as he told people to believe (pisteuo) in the coming Messiah who in fact is Jesus of Nazareth

Saving Faith is ART (John 1:12/Mk 1:40): Active Receptive Trust in Jesus (SAS/LBSR)

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him (Jesus) who justifies the ungodly, his (the ungodly person who believes) faith is reckoned as +R." Romans 4:5

Saving Repentance // ART = Changing One's Mind about One's Sin, Self, and Savior

Sin = I've got it/done it and it's my fault

Self = I can't fix it/I can't save myself

Savior = Jesus (You alone) can save me...and I want You to

Verse 5: The Reality of Their Faith in Christ is Proclaimed by NT Water Baptism

These "new" (New Testament) believers were then baptized "in the name of" Jesus

Take This To Heart

Faith is ART and it is Only as Good as Its Object. True Saving Faith is the Person/Work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30-31; 4:10-12; 10:43; 13:38-39; 18:28; John 20:30-31)