

# Acts 19:8-20

## True Spirituality is Relational Not Just Ritual

### Verses 8-10

### Paul's Ministry in Ephesus Focused on the "Preaching" of the Gospel and the "Teaching" of the Word

#### Phase 1: Evangelism in the Synagogue (3 Months)

Paul was "persuading them (that is attempting to do so) about the Kingdom of God" Persuasion is "the process of creating, reinforcing or changing other's peoples beliefs and/or behavior." Christians can't just whistle "Amazing Grace" and expect unbelievers to trust in Christ, we must live/share the Gospel in a ways that are consistent and persuasive (1 Pet 3:15) we could call it

#### Phase 2: Edification at the School of Tyrannus (2 Years)

A footnote in one Greek manuscript copy of this text, which was later included in the "Western" family of manuscripts says Paul did this from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day.

The students here were "disciples" i.e. believers. Paul's ministry to them in this setting involved "reasoning" (from the Scriptures) i.e. showing what the Scripture meant, how that meaning related to the Person/work of Christ so that the disciples could believe (convictions) and behave (conduct) in a way pleasing to God. The teaching ministry of the Word to believers is emphasized throughout the Book of Acts (2:42; 6:2-4; 11:26; 18:11; 19:9-11 and for foundational truth see 1 Peter 2:1-3/2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Acts 2:42 they continued in the Apostles' teaching/doctrine

Acts 6:2-4 (The Apostles said) It is not desirable for us to neglect the Word of God to

serve food...will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word

Acts 11:26 (Barnabas and Paul) taught considerable numbers and the disciples were first called "Christians" in Antioch

Acts 18:11 Paul settled there (in Corinth) teaching the Word of God among them

Acts 19:9-11 (Paul) took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the School of Tyrannus

1 Peter 2:1-3 ...long for the pure milk of the Word so that you may grow in respect to your salvation

## **Verses 11-20**

### **Three Key Things Happened in Concert with Paul's Ministry In the Gospel and the Word**

#### **1: The Holy Spirit Validated Paul's Message in Unusual Ways v11-12**

The Apostles were given unique spiritual authority and power; but here this is ramped up such that Paul's ministry was accompanied by "extraordinary" miracles.

#### **2: Spiritual Opponents Were Put in Their Place v13-16**

As wonderful as the name "Jesus" is (the name above all names) it isn't a "magic word." Its power can be accessed only by believers expressing their faith in active ways.

#### **3: Many Believers Advanced Spiritually/Made Needed Changes v17-20**

Many also of those who HAD believed (who were ALREADY regenerate Christians) kept coming (this is not confrontation/intervention...but voluntary confession) and they were acknowledging their "practices" (in black magic/the occult)....and began burning (their occultic books/scrolls) in the sight of everyone: This was not a forced/repressive book burning imposed on these believers against their will, it was a voluntary destruction of material that could cause spiritual injury to anyone who might read it/take it seriously.

Bottom Line v20

So, the Word of God was growing mightily and prevailing.

## **Take This To Heart**

As our Lord Jesus said: If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. Salvation and spiritual growth are relational not mechanical. The ministry of the Word calls for personal reception of truth in a way that is transformational (from the inside: priorities/convictions) not just informational (rote knowledge of facts about God).

The name of Jesus, literally His name "Iesous" (Greek) or "Jeshua" (Hebrew) or "Issa" (Arabic) or "Jesus" (Spanish) or "Jesus" (English) is what His name represents: His Person/Work. It is not a magic word that anyone can use to promote his/her personal agenda...and yet even the smallest child who truly believes can rest in Jesus; name for time and eternity. "Whom have I in Heaven but You? "I am the resurrection and the life, the one who believes in Me will never (really) die, do you believe this?"