

ACTS

THE TRIUMPHS OF CHRIST BY HIS SPIRIT THROUGH HIS CHURCH

Sunday Morning, June 12, 2022 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Christ's Word Changes Culture

Message Text: Acts 19:21-41

Introduction:

During his third missions tour, Paul served Christ in the commercial seaport City of Ephesus. That season of ministry among the Jews and the Gentiles was marked with the demonstration of the power of God's Word. As Paul preached, both the hearts of the religious and the heathen were changed and many received Christ by faith. The effects of the ministry there reverberated throughout all of Asia. The new believers in Jesus Christ were determined in their commitment as followers of Jesus Christ. They wholeheartedly separated themselves from their old sinful lifestyles so much so that it literally impacted the economy. The idol shops were on the verge of going out of business and the Temple of Artemas was losing worshippers. It is exciting to see how that God's Word had the power to change culture. It is even more exciting to realize that God's Word has not lost its power!

1. Continuing _____ (21-22)

Acts 19:21-22 After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome. 22 So he sent into Macedonia two of them that ministered unto him, Timotheus and Erastus; but he himself stayed in Asia for a season.

DEFINITION—PURPOSED IN THE SPIRIT: to set in the mind; to fix conclusively

Macedonia—Achaia—Jerusalem—Rome

THE FOCUS OF PAUL'S COMMITMENT

_____: Edifying the Churches (*Timothy and Erastus Prepared*)

scan for
sermon notes



1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (See also 4:18–19)

_____ : Advancing the Gospel Message

Romans 1:15–16 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

2. _____ Change (23-28)

Acts 19:23–28 And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. 24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; 25 Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. 26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: 27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. 28 And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

DEFINITION—PURSUADED: *convinced*

DEFINITION—TURNED AWAY: *to change beliefs; transfer; to change someone's beliefs, conceived of as moving someone from one place to another.*

CULTURAL IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL

_____ the idol business

_____ the worship of Diana

DEFINITION—DESTROYED: *to be unseated; be taken down*

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

QUOTE: When he landed, in 1848, there were no Christians. When he left, in 1872, there were no heathen. (*Said of Dr. John Geddie, missionary to Aneityum*)

3. City-Wide _____ (29-34)

Acts 19:29–34 And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre. 30 And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. 31 And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre. 32 Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together. 33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people. 34 But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

THEATRE IN EPHEBUS *able to hold 24,000 people*

DEFINITION—CHIEFS OF ASIA: local authorities

NOTE: Paul made friends of the local officials in Ephesus. So much so, that in the midst of a riot, they protected Paul from their own citizens!

TWO HOURS OF SHOUTING *see Psalm 2*

Matthew 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

4. Clear-Thinking _____ (35-41)

Acts 19:35–41 And when the townclerk had appeased the people, he said, Ye men of Ephesus, what man is there that knoweth not how that the city of the Ephesians is a worshipper of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Jupiter? 36 Seeing then that these things cannot be spoken against, ye ought to be quiet, and to do nothing rashly. 37 For ye have brought hither these men, which are neither robbers of churches, nor yet blasphemers of your goddess. 38 Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another. 39 But if ye inquire any thing concerning other matters, it shall be determined in a lawful assembly. 40 For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse. 41 And when he had thus spoken, he dismissed the assembly.

DEFINITION—TOWNCLERK: the chief executive officer of the city

Acts 18:9–10 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; And every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

Conclusion

2 Corinthians 5:17–21 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Questions to Ask for This Week

Will I participate in the ministry of the Word with my church family this week through Adventure Camp?

Will I have have tracts ready to give to people as I am out in the community this week?

Will I reach out to my prospects and seek an appointment to continue the conversation about Christ?

Will I commit my whole life to the ministry of the Word as a preacher, pastor, evangelists or foreign missionary?



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