

Acts 19:13-20 *Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists [Jews who cast out demons], took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits [tried to cast out demons by calling on...] the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "We adjure [command] you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth." <sup>14</sup>And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so [that tried this]. <sup>15</sup>And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" <sup>16</sup>And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. <sup>17</sup>And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified [highly respected]. <sup>18</sup>And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. <sup>19</sup>Many of them also which used curious arts [used demonic powers] brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. <sup>20</sup>So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.*

## I. Introduction

### A. God's church

1. Jesus said that the gates of hell will not overpower His church

Matthew 16:18 *And I [Jesus] say also unto thee, That thou art Peter [Peter means 'small stone'], and upon this rock [boulder] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

2. Christians to labor in the work of the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my [Paul] beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

### B. Church at Ephesus

1. Paul met with some of John the Baptist's disciples, telling them about the difference between John's baptism and believer's baptism
2. Paul labored for 2 years in Ephesus, preaching in the Jewish synagogue & in the school of Tyrannus (famous school of that day)

### C. Secular society in Ephesus

1. Ephesus is major ancient city in present-day Turkey
2. In Paul's day there was a large temple for the cult of Diana of Ephesus (an idol) & a pilgrimage center with festival day celebrated on May 25

3. A sharp contrast resulted between the conflicting values of the society and the new Christians

Matthew 10:32-34 *Whosoever therefore shall confess me [Jesus] before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. <sup>34</sup>Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.*

4. Confusing time for new converts in Ephesus & wherever the gospel was preached

Acts 19:29 *And the whole city [Ephesus] was filled with confusion: and having caught [arrested] Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre [to accuse them of inciting a riot].*

## II. Confusion of the City

### A. Satanic presence

1. Seven sons of a Jewish priest named Sceva had been paid to perform exorcisms (witchcraft) of demons

Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest [shown in many ways], which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness [sensuality], <sup>20</sup>Idolatry, **witchcraft**, hatred, variance [arguments], emulations [jealousy], wrath, strife, seditions [always arguing], heresies [dividing Christians over unimportant religious issues], <sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings [orgies], and such like: of the which I [Paul] tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

2. The sons of Sceva decided to copy Paul by using the name of Jesus to cast out demons
3. Demons challenged them: “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?”
4. Demon beat them up with superhuman strength. The demons were helpless at the name of Christ, but were not affected by an unbeliever who used Jesus’ name.

### B. Economic Problems

1. Big business in Ephesus over sale of silver statues (idols), witchcraft, and the occult.
2. Tradesmen saw new Christians as threat to their businesses

1 Timothy 6:10 *For **the love of money** is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

3. An Ephesian citizen named Demetrius and other tradesmen started a mob and were shouting around the city

C. God wants order in the church

1 Corinthians 14:33 *For **God is not the author of confusion**, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

III. Clarity of the Problem

A. Name begins with Jesus

1. Demonic worlds know Jesus (including demon in Ephesus)

Mark 3:11 *And **unclean spirits**, when they saw him [Jesus], **fell down before him**, and cried, saying, *Thou art the Son of God.**

2. Demonic world believe one God

James 2:19 *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: **the devils also believe, and tremble.***

B. Name brings awe & reverence

1. Jesus name magnified (raised up high)
2. Fear fell on the city because of what happened to the seven sons of Sceva
3. Church in awe of God results in revival

Proverbs 1:7 ***The fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Acts 2:42-43 *And they [new believers in Jesus] continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. <sup>43</sup>And **fear came upon every soul**: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*

4. Church shares gospel of Christ in the power of God

Romans 1:16 *For I [Paul] am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek [gentile].*

IV. Conversions

A. Satan desires to build his kingdom

1. Satan wants a silent and fearful church
2. Satan wants to blind people's minds

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost [unsaved]: <sup>4</sup>In whom **the god of this world** [Satan] **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.*

B. But many believed

1. In the name of Jesus

Acts 4:10, 12 <sup>10</sup> *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man [a beggar who couldn't walk since he was born] stand here before you whole [no longer crippled]. ...* <sup>12</sup> *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name [only Jesus] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

2. Message of Christ

- a. The consequences of sin are earned; eternal life is given freely by God

Romans 6:23 *For **the wages of sin** is death; but **the gift of God** is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

- b. Become children of God

John 1:12 *But as many as received him [the Word of God, also called Jesus], to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

- c. Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead

Romans 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead**, thou shalt be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

- d. Call upon the name of the Lord

Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

C. Many came

1. To gather together with other Christians
2. To learn about their Savior

D. Many confessed

1. Many spoke of their conversion to become Christians
2. We should be eager to tell others of our experience meeting Jesus

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**: for it is **the power of God unto salvation** to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

E. Many forsook (left) sin

1. Many previously practiced magic arts & sorcery
2. They burned their books of spells & oracles
3. They replaced their old books with the Word of God

Psalm 119:11 <sup>11</sup> ***Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.***

V. Conclusion

A. Stay steady in the Scriptures – the Word of God

B. Stay steady on the promises of God

Ephesians 3:20-21 *Now unto him [God the Father] that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, <sup>21</sup>Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*