

WHEN THE GOSPEL TAKES ROOT

LARRY CHAPPELL | JULY 20, 2025

Text: Acts 18:23–28 | Acts 19:8–20

And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples. 24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. 27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: 28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:23–28)

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. 9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. 10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. 11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. 13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 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. 17 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. 18 And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. 19 Many of them also which used curious arts 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. 20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." (Acts 19:8–20)

- When Jesus' gospel planted in person's life, their life changes

INTRODUCTION

- Ephesus major city of Asia Minor (current day Turkey)
- Aquila & Priscilla at Ephesus when Apollos arrived
- Paul finally arrived at Ephesus (Acts 19:1)

1. Disciples ARE STRENGTHENED

- Paul Strengthened the Churches in Galatia (v. 23)
- Aquila & Priscilla Strengthened Apollo in Corinth (v. 24-28)
- A. Through exposition (v. 26) *preaching thru book*
"For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:27) whole counsel of God
- B. Through encouragement (v. 27)
Quote: "One of the highest of human duties is the duty of encouragement."—William Barclay
- C. Through example
"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1)
Quote: "You teach what you know, but you reproduce what you are."—Howard Hendricks

2. Doors ARE OPENED

"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me..." (1 Corinthians 16:9a)

- Paul Reasoned Boldly in the Synagogue (v. 8)
- Paul Reasoned Daily in the School of Tyrannus (v. 9-10)

A. God Opens Doors in His time

Holy Spirit can close doors

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, after they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not." (Acts 16:6-7)

B. Open Doors Require Greater effort

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." (1 Corinthians 15:10)

- Acts 16:8-10 Paul has vision (dream) to go into Macedonia (west into Europe)

Acts 16:8-10 open door westward
into Europe (Macedonia in Greece)

C. Open Doors Showcase God's power

"And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: 12 So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them." (Acts 19:11-12)

D. Open Doors Attract opposition

"...and there are many adversaries." (1 Corinthians 16:9b)

3. Darkness **IS DEFEATED**

A. Jesus is magnified (v. 17) - made greater

Quote: "When Christ is great in our lives, sin will be small."

—John Owen

B. Repentance was demonstrated (v. 18-19)

Quote: "Repentance is not when you cry; it's when you change."—D.L. Moody

C. The Word prevails (v. 20) - wins

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

Quote: "God's Word doesn't return void — it returns victorious."

CONCLUSION

- Kingdom of darkness ruled by Satan & his evil spirits
- faith toward God means:
 - * repentance from sin
 - * life changes to holy living



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