

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THE ONGOING WORK OF JESUS BY THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The Book of Acts - Part 38

INTO THE DARKNESS

Welcome to the Present Evil Age with All Its Corruption

(Acts 19:8-20; 1 Corinthians 16:5-9)

INTRODUCTION:

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,⁵ to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.”

—Galatians 1:3-5

“For I do not wish to see you now just in passing; for I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits.⁸ But I will remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; ⁹for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

—1 Corinthians 16:7-9

- In Ephesus, Paul faced opposition from _____ (v.8-10), _____ (v. 11-20), and _____ (v. 21-41).

THE WORD OF THE LORD IN EPHESUS & ASIA...

1A. THE WORD OF THE LORD AND ITS _____ : (V. 8-10)

“And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.⁹ But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.¹⁰ This took place for two years,...”

1B. The _____ of Paul’s Ministry in Ephesus:

2B. The _____ of Paul’s Ministry Ephesus:

“Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.”

— Acts 20:31

3B. The _____ of Paul’s Ministry Ephesus:

“...so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.”

2A. THE WORD OF THE LORD AND ITS _____ : (V. 11-19)

1B. Paul and His _____ : (v. 11, 12)

"God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out."

2B. Sceva and His _____ : (v. 13-16)

"But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, **attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus**, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches." ¹⁴ Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said to them, **'I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?'** ¹⁶ And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded."

3B. Jesus and His _____ : (v. 17)

"This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and **the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.**"

4B. Believers and Their _____ : (v. 18, 19)

"**Many also of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices.** ¹⁹ And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver."

3A. THE WORD OF THE LORD AND ITS _____ : (V. 20)

"So **the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.**"

THREE OBSERVATIONS AND EXHORTATIONS REGARDING OPPOSITION:

"...a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

1. An open door doesn't mean that _____
Don't be _____.

2. Opposition doesn't mean that _____
Don't be _____.

3. The One Who opened the door is _____
Don't be _____.